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Plymouth District

AG Cox: Save our auto industry - Opinion, A7

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PLYMOUTH

District expects more snow days

BY TONY BRUSCATO OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton school officials say people shouldn't be surprised if the district uses more of its five emergency days this winter than in the past.

That possibility became more likely because Wayne County, like the Michigan Department of Transportation, is cutting overtime for snow plow and salt truck drivers this winter to save money.

"They aren't going to be cleaning and salting anything but the very main roads," said Superintendent Craig Fiegel. "That's probably going to impact our ability to move buses and put people out on the roads on inclement weather days. I hate to call (cancel) school ... but I think it's going to be an issue for us.'

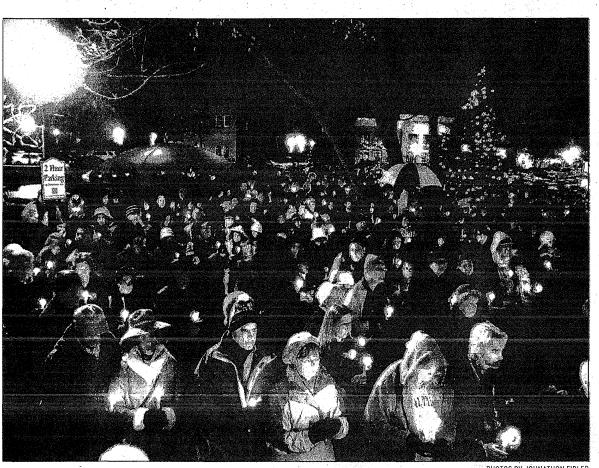
Deputy Superintendent Ken Jacobs said the roads around Plymouth-Canton schools won't be plowed or salted as much because of the budget constraints.

"You won't see the same wet conditions the county has typically provided us in the past," said Jacobs. "There isn't a shortage of salt ... everybody has been held to last year's allocation. They are cutting back substantially on the amount of salt they put down, so you'll notice a big difference.

"The only place you'll see wet are the freeways," he said. "Their commitment — on roads like Ann Arbor Road · is to open them to the status of a two-track during normal working hours. When you get into some of the tertiary roads, it will be the same conditions but it will be more difficult for them to meet the time lines."

Jacobs said the district has met with bus drivers to notify them of the changes.

"Where we will feel it the most is on back-to-back snowstorms," Jacobs said. "(Wayne County) is not going to use overtime. Traffic around some of our schools will be affected."



Hundreds of people lit up Kellogg Park during the annual Compassionate Friends Candlelight Vigil to honor children who've died too soon.

Shining the light

Vigil helps mourners grapple with grief

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jamie DeWitt of Livonia just nnished her third year being the sign-language interpreter for the Compassionate Friends' candlelight vigil, the event held every year in Plymouth's Kellogg Park to honor those who've died too soon.

And it's not getting any easier. DeWitt struggled again Sunday, particularly as she signed her way through Josh Grobin's To Where You Are at the end, after the hundreds of names had been read, and hundreds of tears had been shed. But she fought her way through her own grief and helped make the event successful.

DeWitt, who got involved with the candlelight vigil after the death of the man she was dating, Andy Imielowski, in August 2005, said it's important for her to con-

tinue to support Andy's family. "I could be nowhere else but here with this group, interpreting for them," DeWitt said. "It's very difficult, thinking about not only



The Compassionate Friends used candles to produce a worldwide ring of light during the ceremony in Kellogg Park, which went on along with similar events around the world.

(Andy) but about all the families here. I feel their grief, and it makes it difficult for me."

The event is part of a worldwide candle-lighting ceremony, designed to take place at the same time in every time zone, theoretically forming a worldwide ring of light honoring children who have died too soon.

Hundreds of parents, siblings, family members, friends and loved ones braved intermittent

rain to light their candles in a show of love and support — for their children and for each other.

"It's gratifying, but it's sad, too, newcomers," said Gail Lafferty, one of the organizers of the event. "They've all lost children, and that's sad. We're all in this group we don't want to be in, but we're glad we found each other."

The crowd huddled together and listened to poems and songs, lighting their candles during the traditional reading of hundreds of children's names.

Judy Dever of Trenton has been part of the event since 1992, when her son, Josh, died of cancer. She also honors her son-in-law, John Strasser, who also died of cancer in June 2003. Dever read one of the poems Sunday night.

'I picked a poem that says what I'd like to say to my son, if he were here, and to the other parents," said Dever, who read a poem titled "To Honor You." "Our children are still with us. We carry their memory and live for them."

Plymouth police seek ID thieves

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Rose Buda of Plymouth has worked hard over the years to build up her credit rating. The 43year-old knows how important her FICO score is to obtain low interest rates for a mortgage, credi cards and to purchase a car.

So, when she received a telephone call from a credit card company telling her she was behind on her first payment, it took her by surprise.

"I told her I didn't buy a 50-inch plasma television, a DVD player and perfume," Buda said. "When she mentioned my maiden name, which I hadn't used in 16 years, I knew something was

It didn't take long for Buda to figure out somehow her identity had been stolen. Police figure at least \$10,000 in goods and cash have been spent or accessed with her name. And, there's at least one account with her maiden name that's still peing used. Buda said her FICO score dr 104 points in a short amount of time.

"At first I was really upset, wanting to cry about it," Buda said. "Then I got mad. There's no question I want to prosecute. If they used half their energy and found their own jobs ...

Buda's case is one of two that are being investigated by Plymouth police Detective Lt. Al Cox, who said this time of year is prime for identity thefts as thieves purchase holiday gifts with your money. The other involves an 87-year-old wheelchair-bound woman whose credit card numbers and identity may have been stolen by an in-home nurse to the tune of about \$2,000.

Cox takes identity theft cases personally. He remembers March 1999 when his driver's license and Social Security card were stolen from a gym locker at a fitness center in Plymouth Township. He didn't know the ramifications until he applied for a credit card eight months later and was denied.

"The information showed they racked up \$16,000 and I was livid," said Cox. "It took five years before I was able to get it off my credit

"Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in this country," he said. "You might have a face, but you have no name. Or, you have a name but it's three layers false and you've got nothing."

Cox said you can't completely protect yourself from identity theft, but especially warned about purchasing goods on the Internet.

"Never, ever, use your debit card because it's tied to your bank account, which can be wiped out," Cox said. "It's better to use a credit card where you can challenge any charges. And, never leave your wallet in your automobile. It's amazing how many are stolen, and they have all your identification and credit cards."

Buda said it's been a nightmare trying to repair her credit, and is concerned she'll have problems when she tries to purchase her car when the lease is up.

"I don't understand how they can wake up in the morning and look in the mirror and know they are messing with people's lives," Buda said. "It's very discouraging and frustrating. I work too hard for my money. It's just going to take time."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2637

New eatery slides into Compuware space

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

The restaurant space inside Plymouth Township's Compuware Arena that used to be occupied by Ginopolis didn't stay on ice too

C.J.'s Brewing Company served lunch Tuesday, the first time a restaurant had operated inside Compuware since Ginopolis on the Ice closed in July. The new franchise is owned by Compuware Arena and is considered an essential part of the entertainment

value the arena wants to offer fans. "It's an integral part of what we

do," Compuware Vice President Dennis Moore said of opening the restaurant. "We've had a restaurant in here since the year after it opened. It's always been part of what we do."

Compuware opened in September 1996, and Ginopolis opened in September 1997. C.J'. s Brewing Company, according to Moore, satisfies Compuware's desire to bring in the kind of res-

Please see EATERY, A3



Company employee Amber Bookie and a freshly poured Golden Ale.

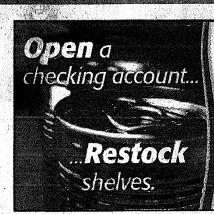
C.J.'s Brewing

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'O little town of Bethlehem'

"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.

New Morning options

New Morning School is accepting applications for several current openings in their successful early childhood program. Students are eligible to begin classes in January 2009.

There is one spot available in the Monday-Wednesday morning preschool program, as well as one spot in the Tuesday-Thursday morning program.

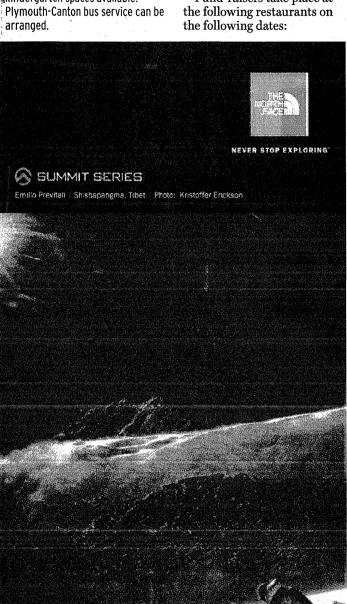
New Morning School also announced they have afternoon or full-day kindergarten spaces available. Plymouth-Canton bus service can be

New Morning School is a state-certified, non-sectarian, non-profit school for students in preschool through grade eight. To find out more, call (734) 420-3331 or visit the school's Web site at www.newmorningschool.

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

Fund-raisers take place at the following restaurants on



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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-seniorparty@comcast.net

Luminaria sale

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

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

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

Ornament sale

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

The ornaments are hand crafted in Poland with a portrait of the OLGC Mother and Child mosaic. The ornaments symbolize the true spirit of Christmas and make wonderful holiday gifts.

For further information contact either Mark Coulter,

In the studio

Under the direction of Jennifer Kopp, the Plymouth-Canton **Educational Park Select Choir traveled to Detroit Public Television** studios to perform in a new public television special titled 'Tim Janis, Celebrate America.'; Tim Janis, who has worked on many philanthropic projects with artists such as Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Ray Charles, and The New York Philharmonic, has teamed up with DPTV and 'Do Something.org' to create the new special, which gives youth the opportunity to be in their own musical special. The P-CEP choir is one of 14 schools that were chosen to partake in the program, which will air on DPTV in March of 2009. They will be performing a song written by Samuel A. Ward titled 'America the Beautiful.'

(734) 453-5423, or Mary Vangieson, (734) 737-9942.

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 information, call (734) 207-8807 or see www.villagepottersguild.org.

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.

Museum exhibits

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

Allsburg. The special exhibit will be open through Jan. 4. Santa is now visiting the Museum to meet good little girls and boys. Santa Claus will be at the Museum every Saturday until Christmas. and will be at the Museum 9-5 p.m. Dec. 6 during the Annual Craft Bazaar and Open House. This year's Craft Bazaar will have free admission, with more crafters and a craft

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

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

Prison Family Support

Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss? Now, there's a place for help, for understanding of what you are going through. Hope-4-Healing is a free on-going support group providing a safe place to talk, share with and learn from others. The group meets the second Monday of every month beginning 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

CORRECTION

The annual Women's Resource Center Spaghetti Dinner at Schoolcraft College will be Tuesday, March 10. The wine glow will be at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and the program at 8 p.m.

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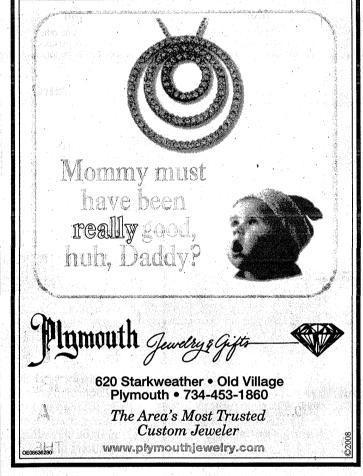
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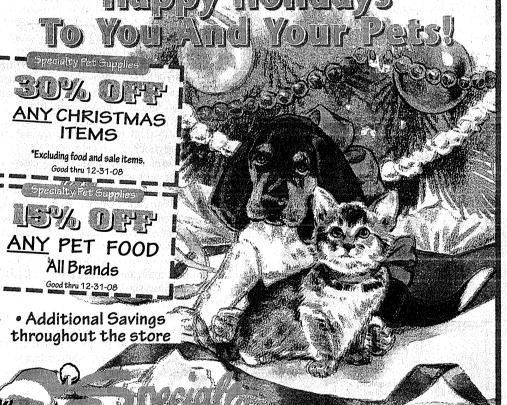
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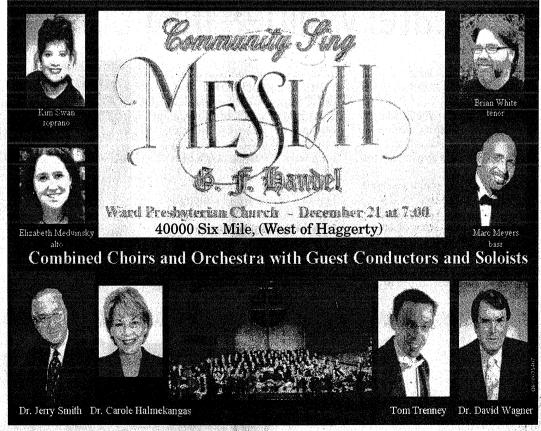
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Community Foundation grant aids day camp programs **EATERY**

New Morning School has been awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Plymouth.

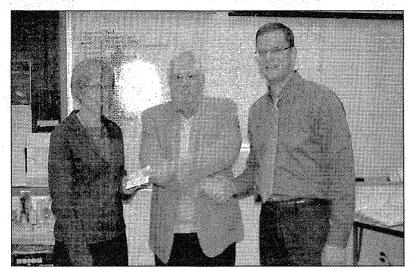
The Community Foundation of Plymouth's grant ensures funds will be available for one-week scholarships for full-day summer day camp, along with before- and after-camp

Since 1973, New Morning School has been creating future leaders by promoting small class size, a low student/teacher ratio, and strong parental involvement to ensure an individualized approach for every child.

For over 18 years, New Morning School has been providing summer enhancement programs that advance achievement in science, math and engineering. These Science & Engineering Summer Fun (SESF) camps are designed to naturally stimulate the student's curiosity about math, science and engineering technology by using fun tools and projects to introduce concepts, build technical

skills and create knowledge The program aims to stimulate excitement and curiosity about math and sciences, decrease summer learning loss and thereby improve the educational achievement for local children. Recipients will be able to choose from popular hands-on themes such as Robots & Roller Coasters, Super Sleuth, and Let's Build.

The camps will be held during July



Community Foundation Plymouth Advisory Member Walter Menard presents \$1,000 grant check to New Morning School Head of School Elaine Kennedy and Board President Ray Krawczyk.

and August 2009. The camp scholarships are based on financial need and are open to anyone in the Plymouth community. Applications are currently being accepted. Please call (734) 420-3331 for an application form.

President elect

John J. Hiltz has a lot on his mind these days.

He's about to take on role of president of the regional engineering company founded by his great-uncle



John Hiltz

almost 50 years ago. The company's **Board of Directors** recently approved a strategic plan to double the economic value of this Michigan-based firm over the next five years. And he's

taking on these challenges on the brink of what's been described as worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Despite the economy, Hiltz is confident in OHM's chances. Since 1962, when former city engineers, John E. Hiltz and Melvin Ernie Orchard joined to found the company now known as Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc., OHM has worked for government organizations.

"As a consulting engineering firm, we've done a little bit of private development work in the past, but about fifteen years ago we asked ourselves what really made us excited to go to work every day and what we thought we could be best in the world doing," Hiltz said. "And for us, it's all about working with communities: large and small, developing and redeveloping. We think of the entire state as a community. All the residents of Michigan share similar hopes and common challenges. We're here because we love Michigan and we know that it can be an economic engine for the country again."

Hiltz, the former vice president of operations, will be the fifth person to lead OHM when current president Russell Gronevelt steps down at the end of 2008. Gronevelt, who is also chairman of Michigan Technological University's Board of Control, will continue to work for OHM through 2009 in a part-time

taurant that fits with the arena's atmosphere.

C.J.'s offers a full range of burgers, pizzas, salads, wraps and sandwiches. Entrées include steaks, ribs, walleye and salmon. Beer drinkers

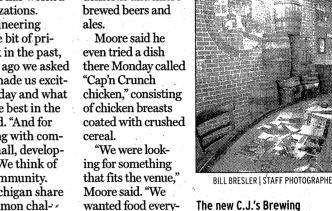
can enjoy a variety of imported, domestic and micro-

"We were lookwanted food everyone eats rather than specialty type food."

has a sports and brewery CJ's was designed theme. especially for arena visitors as the best

place to eat and meet with friends before and after Plymouth Whalers and Detroit Ignition games and most events at Compuware Arena - or at any

"We're committed to giving everyone who comes here an affordable, high-quality and fun game-night experience," said Compuware Arena President Mike Vellucci. "CJ's fits right in to that model. It's exactly what our fans were asking for."



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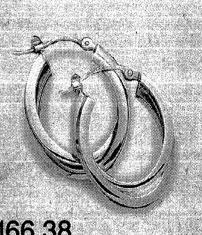
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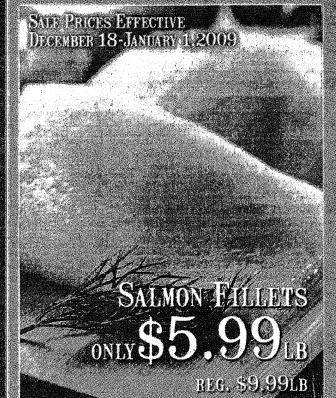
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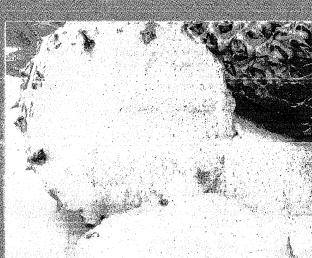




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CDs, fixed annuities have pros, cons

his year has been brutal for investors. Nearly every investment — stocks or bonds, international or domestic - has suffered. When people talk about risk, they are referring to the principal fluctuation of their portfolio. Unfortunately, principal fluctuation is just one risk to consider. Investors also need to be concerned with taxes and the increased cost of living. The idea behind a diversified



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

For investors who want a portion of their fixed income invested without any princi-

portfolio is

you're dividing

money into a

variety of dif-

with different

ferent areas

pal fluctuation. there are two investments to consider, CDs or fixed annuities. Each has its pros and cons. The key is to select the one that best suits your situation.

It is important to understand what a CD and a fixed annuity are. In selecting the best investment, it is important to understand how the investment works. Although, CDs and annuities have a lot in common, they are quite different.

Certificates of Deposits or CDs are instruments issued by a bank. CDs pay a fixed rate of return for a set period of time. For example, a five-year, 41/2 percent CD will pay 4½ percent interest each year for five years.

The interest that you earn on your CD, whether you have the money reinvested or paid to you, is taxable as ordinary income. During the life of the CD, you typically can withdraw the interest on a periodic basis, but if you need to remove principal, there is a penalty. CDs are insured up to \$250,000 and can be purchased in increments from three months on.

Annuities are a more complex. There are two main types of annuities, fixed and variable. There are many reasons to avoid variable annuities. That said, an investor who is looking for safety should consider the fixed annuity.

The fixed annuity comes in two different types, the traditional fixed and the equity index. The fixed annuity is similar to a CD because you get a guaranteed rate of return for a period of time. Some annuities will guarantee return for one year and some as much as five years or longer. Annuities are generally purchased for five, seven or 10 years. Annuities grow tax deferred. Taxes are only paid when money is withdrawn. Unlike CDs, if you withdraw money or close out the annuity before age 591/2, in addition to the tax consequences, there is a 10 percent penalty. Annuities are insured up to \$100,000.

An equity-indexed annuity also pays a guaranteed rate of return — typically lower than a traditional fixed annuity. The major difference is how your return is calculated. One issue that senior citizens should take into consideration is how their Social Security is taxed. Income from the CD is part of your Social Security tax calculation while income from an annuity that is growing tax deferred is

Whether you decide on an annuity or a CD, the key is to make sure you buy the right product.

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 noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.



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Thursday, December 18, 2008

Change provides new opportunity

Moving to a new home can be exciting. A new place, a new view, new things to do. It also can be sad, saying good-bye to familiar surroundings, familiar faces.

Those of us who work for the Observer Newspapers, we have ridden a roller coaster of emotions these past few weeks as we've packed up our belongings and sorted through files filled with clippings and photographs dating back in some case, more than 30 years. It has been hard to determine what's important and what isn't. What if we left the wrong things behind. We hope we've made wise choices.

The change will be in how

we do that. Thanks to

technology we are now

mobile journalists. Armed

with laptop computers, we

Plymouth. We have not lost

suburbs the way the dailies

Our last day came Friday as we shut down our computers for the last time in the Livonia office. On Monday, we unpacked what we had deemed too important to leave behind and set about getting acclimated to our new offices in will be working in and around downtown Detroit.

After 37 years of serving as the headquarters for sight of our mission. We the Observer & Eccentric will continue to cover the Newspapers, the building is closed. But its closing has opened up new cover the city. opportunities for the staff of the Plymouth Observer.

Technology allows us to remain close to you, our read-

Our base of operations has moved, but we are still in the Plymouth community, providing the same news coverage you've come to expect of the Observer. Our commitment to provide the best coverage of the city, the schools and residents remains firmly in place.

The change will be in how we do that. Thanks to technology we are now mobile journalists. Armed with laptop computers, we will be working in and around Plymouth. We have not lost sight of our mission. We will continue to cover the suburbs the way the dailies cover the city.

Snail mail, phone calls and faxes call for a change in address and phone numbers, but we're still just an electronic click away by e-mail. How you reach us is your choice, but rest assured, we will respond. We can't and won't forget our roots.

A lot has changed with newspapers in the past 30 years. Computers have replaced typewriters, and the Web has become another platform for getting the news to you. You can find the Plymouth Observer at news stands or have home delivery, but you can also find us on the Internet at www.hometownlife.com.

Whatever your choice, take time to find out what's happening in your community by reading your hometown newspaper, the Plymouth Observer.

Hometowns offer unique shopping opportunities

Communication is important in any relationship, but when that dialogue box that says "system is not responding" appears on your computer screen, words can't express your feelings as that great deal you snagged online disappears.

There are better ways to shop for the holidays, and have fun while you do so.

Wandering through local downtowns, like in Farmington, Rochester, Birmingham and Plymouth, lends opportunities for unique gifts from specialty shops that just aren't carried online. Those shops also offer a chance to chat with the owner and learn why she thinks her products are special.

Hence, you carry a tale along with a gift to grandma's

Area shopping malls, such as Somerset, Northland, the Oakland Mall and Laurel Park Place, also offer a wide selection of gifts that you can see, feel and measure to make sure they're just right for that special someone.

Besides the merchandise, there are other benefits to shopping locally. You might meet a friend for a coffee break and drop a coin or greenback in the Salvation

There are decorations galore to ogle that, for many of us, just can't be duplicated at home. And occasionally, local choir groups perform holiday music — and a chance for you to catch your breath.

Speaking of breath, local merchants are holding theirs in hope of a decent shopping season. By shopping locally, you'll breathe life into the economy, as well as the vitality of your hometown.

So talk it up, and ask a neighbor to join you for a day on the town — your hometown.

c) GANNETT

Brad Kadrich Community Editor

Susan Rosiek **Executive Editor** **Jeannie Parent Senior Director of** Sales & Marketing

Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor

Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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



LETTERS

Complimentary parking

Every time I drive through the town of Plymouth I see a parking enforcement officer (boy, is he busy!!) chalking tires or writing parking tickets.

I understand why the town of Plymouth is trying to control the crowds in Plymouth (or what used to be crowds) but wouldn't it be a nice, and very smart, incentive to offer complimentary parking to help surge the shopping in Plymouth rather than deter shoppers with parking

Birmingham did it a few years ago and it was so nice and in these trying economic times, doesn't it just make plain sense? Think about it.

John Lockwood

Preserve the wall

It has come to our attention that the City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Preservation Network are working to save a local landmark — the historic, 161-foot long 1935 WPA stone wall adjacent to the Plymouth Middle School and Veterans Memorial Park.

We at the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, would like to applaud these efforts. Plymouth's efforts highlight the fact that historic preservation isn't just about saving and reutilizing grand old buildings.

Historic preservation is also about preserving other, smaller structures that can contribute much to the unique character of a community, and are meaningful to so many of its residents. The park with its historic stone wall is just such a structure. It is equally deserving of preservation.

The Network and the National Trust support local grassroots efforts, such as this one, which empower citizens to make important and meaningful decisions about their own communities.

The Plymouth Preservation Network has worked tirelessly to raise public awareness and garner support for the preservation of this important historic resource. They embody a spirit of community activism at the local level. They are willing to step forward and say "This is possible if we all work together." They also recognize that hard times call for volunteering time and effort to maintain the things you love about the place you call home.

The 1935 WPA stone wall is clearly important to the history of the Plymouth community, and is an asset that the Plymouth Preservation Network considers worth fighting for. Further, the cost estimates to restore the wall are a fraction of its replacement costs and will have a much higher quality result. We see clear civic, historic, cultural

and economic benefits in saving the stone wall. We will be closely following this issue as fund-raising efforts continue, and look forward to seeing the historic stone wall restored next spring.

Deborah Deacon Odette

Michigan Historic Preservation Network and The National Trust for Historic Preservation

Sick of Congress

I am sick and tired of the pompous posturing by our politicians regarding a 'bailout" for the automotive industry. For heaven's sake, they are asking for a loan, not a gift.

OK, the automotive companies are not perfect (and let's not even talk about the unions), but as businesses their job is to make profits for their shareholders. The way to do that is to build what people want to buy. If people want to buy gas guzzlers because gas is cheap, how is that the companies' fault? If gas prices become totally unpredictable, to the point where no one knows what type of cars people will want tomorrow, who is to blame for that?

It is the task of government to modify behavior by legislation and taxation. If gas was too cheap — which it has been for decades — our leaders should have acted to gradually increase the price to the point where people would demand more fuel-efficient cars, as they have in Europe.

And what about the billions upon billions that have been squandered in Iraq by our Criminal-in-Chief, aided and abetted by his lapdogs in Congress (with the lone exception of the one true hero in politics, Dennis Kucinich)? That is OUR money. Why does no one even talk about the incredible fraud perpetrated by Bush and his cronies that has impoverished us

It is the ultimate irony for politicians to lecture us about how to run a business. Compare the state of this country now with where it was eight years ago. Is General Motors responsible for that, too?

Rachel McCormack

Band director shines

I am writing this letter to highlight the accomplishments of Martin Montoya, band director for the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band.

As you may know, the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Marching Band recently competed in Indianapolis at the Bands of America Grand National championship. The chance to compete on a national stage can be intimidating to many. But our marching band once again achieved the distinction of being one of only 12 grand national finalist bands to perform in finals and finished 11th in the

This is quite an accomplishment of which we are all very proud. But it wasn't exactly a smooth road along the way. Earlier this year, when PCMB's former director stepped down, Martin was handed the reins of the entire marching band program, together with two of the four curricular band ensembles, on an "interim" basis while the district searched for a permanent director.

Martin's prior experience with the program had only been on a more limited basis and, although this program has encountered change before, the timing was a bit challenging as he had already committed to working during most of the summer with Carolina

Crown, a Drum Corps International program.

No worries. Martin quickly assembled a team of clinicians who worked with the kids during the summer. He came back for the weeklong mini-camps in June and July and, upon his permanent return in August, he turned up the intensity

In my five years of association with this program, I have never seen anyone work as hard as Martin in pouring so much into the program and the kids. On top of that, he executed his duties toward the curricular programs with just as much energy and commitment. As is always the case, the marching band show evolved throughout the season with changes and modifications to tweak it here and there. Through it all, he kept driving the kids and believing in them even when, at times, it was difficult to

While many made the trip to Indianapolis with relative uncertainty, Martin never lost faith in the capabilities of the group and kept pushing them to exceed their performance potential. He had them ready and they performed their hearts out in preliminary and semifinal performances and later at finals. He accomplished in just a matter of a few months what most programs and directors have an entire year to do.

But, more than that, Martin provided for our kids lessons that they can take with them wherever life leads them: Stick with your team even when it may be easier to quit; Stay focused on a goal that is worth achieving; and, NEVER

I have had the opportunity to work closely with this young band director this year and have seen him represent this program, this district and this community with utmost integrity and class. He is very talented, hard-working and committed. You would never know he is just the "interim guy."

I am optimistic the district administration recognizes his capabilities and will choose to do the right thing by making him a permanent fixture here at Plymouth-Canton.

Scott Ragland

president, Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters

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

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QUOTABLE

"Right now our plan is still in the evaluation stage ... Like most everybody else we're reading the market. That process is still in progress. Obviously, we own the dirt. We just have to figure it out and, hopefully, in the next few weeks we'll make our final decisions for 2009."

· Jack Riley, senior vice president of marketing, Fifth Third Bank, on the bank's plans to build a branch at the Plymouth Township property it bought at Ann Arbor Road and Lilley

Candlelight vigil gives the grieving a place to reach out and touch someone

ebbie Estep came to the table at the front of the crowd at Sunday's Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil looking for a candle and a program, but mostly she was looking for Gail Lafferty, the woman who is the point person for the vigil, for a pretty simple reason.



Brad Kadrich

She just wanted a hug.
Estep, a Dearborn Heights
resident who lost her daughter to multiple sclerosis four
years ago, was among the hundreds of people gathered in
Kellogg Park on a damp, cold
Sunday night in December as
the Compassionate Friends
honored children who died too
young. Her daughter was just
28 when the MS claimed her,

and Kellogg Park is where Estep has spent the second Sunday of December ever since.

They were there for a common purpose, the folks who defied Mother Nature with their umbrellas and boots, with stiff resolve and,

most importantly, with love. They've all been touched by the same tragedy, and they find a definite comfort in each other's embrace.

"She's another mother who has lost a child," Estep said of her reasons for searching out Lafferty. "We have a bond, even though we've never spoken. Only a mother would know.

It's just very comforting to be among other

parents, especially moms, who've lost their children."

It's a comfort they all not only feel, but relish. Many of these people — in fact, most of them — are repeat attenders, folks who've come to rely on the considerable power of shared love, of knowing there are people out there just like them, folks who've felt a pain so deep it's nearly impossible to grasp, much less

But grasping it, and sharing it, is how they get through it. Cathy Clough, a Plymouth resident who heads the New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville, has long believed — and indeed staked her center's reputation on the idea — people enveloped by grief are best helped out by those who've been there.

Lafferty knows it's true, sad as that may be.

"It's gratifying, but it's sad because a lot of them are newcomers," Lafferty said of the hundreds who braved the weather Sunday. "They've all lost children and that's sad. We're all in this group we don't want to be in, but we're glad we found each other."

Lafferty firmly believes her son and all the other children are grateful for the love, watching from heaven as she's sure they are. In fact, Lafferty attributes the traditionally bearable mid-December weather to her son, Max, whom she believes watches over the vigil, designed to create a worldwide ring of candlelight.

For the most part, the weather isn't bad, often much better than a Michigander comes to expect this time of year. Mother Nature kept doing her damndest to change all that Sunday, dumping occasional rain on the throng. But Max and the others must have been pretty successful in discouraging Mother Nature, because eventually she stopped trying, settling instead for a fairly fine mist.

The crowd wasn't to be deterred. As they gathered before the vigil started, there was a soft buzz of conversation as people greeted each other, doled out a large portion of hugs and kisses and caught up with each other's lives. The crowd noise then softened as the vigil began.

As the traditional reading of the names got under way and candles were being lit, a silence passed over the crowd like a blanket. It's as stirring a moment as there is in this town at any time of the year, hundreds of loved ones gathered as one, tears falling silently as the names are read.

Those gathered seem to snuggle in even closer together, and it becomes obvious why they're there. It couldn't be clearer at that moment that these people, all of whom have suffered terrible losses, have found the one thing they so desperately need to help them go on.

Each other.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth Observer. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (313) 222-8899.

Act now, Mr. President, to save auto industry

resident-elect Barack Obama has indicated that his first priority after being sworn in as our nation's 44th president will be to sign an economic stimulus package. While reports on the size of the stimulus package vary, estimates peg the cost to be

somewhere between \$60 billion and \$100 billion dollars, with the goal of eventually creating 2.5 million jobs.

But there is a much faster way to help America's economy, at a fraction of the cost. President George W. Bush can save 2.5 million jobs right now by releasing some of the money from the bailout of

money from the bailout of Wall Street as a bridge loan to

the auto industry — a loan, not a bailout, as Wall Street has received.

In fact, 2.5 million jobs may be understating the importance of the auto industry. According to the Center for Automotive Research, one out of every 10 jobs across the United States is auto-related — from the plastics, steel and glass industry, to the computer companies that build the chips inside every car, to your hometown car dealer down the

With the economy officially in a recession and retails sales this Christmas season plummeting, now is precisely the wrong time to allow GM, Ford or Chrysler to go under. Remember, the last time America was mired in a recession, following the terrorist attack of 9/11, Michigan's automakers were the first to respond with financial incentives, providing a jumpstart to America's economic revival.

Staving off a massive increase in unemployment isn't the only reason to provide a bridge loan. The Big Three spend \$12 billion annually on research and development, most all of it spent here in the United States to develop fuel efficient vehicles. No other industry matches the auto manufacturers in product development spending.

And it's working! In 2009, the Big Three will offer more than 137 models available with highway fuel economy ratings above 30

Cheer for the

hometeam,

read today's

With the economy officially in a recession and retails sales this Christmas season plummeting, now is precisely the wrong time to allow GM, Ford or Chrysler to go under. Remember, the last time America was mired in a recession, following the terrorist attack of 9/11, Michigan's automakers were the first to respond with financial incentives, providing a jumpstart to America's economic revival.

mpg. Next year, domestic automakers will offer 25 hybrid models, eight models of clean diesel and 38 models of flex fuel vehicles. The new Chevy Malibu gets 33 miles per gallon, and both the new Ford Fusion Hybrid and Mercury Milan Hybrid beat Toyota's Camry Hybrid in fuel efficiency.

It would be foolhardy, while U.S. forces are putting their lives on the line in Iraq and Afghanistan, to do anything that would harm our national security. Chrysler CEO Bob Nardelli has already testified before Congress that crippling the auto industry "would undermine our nation's ability to respond to military challenges."

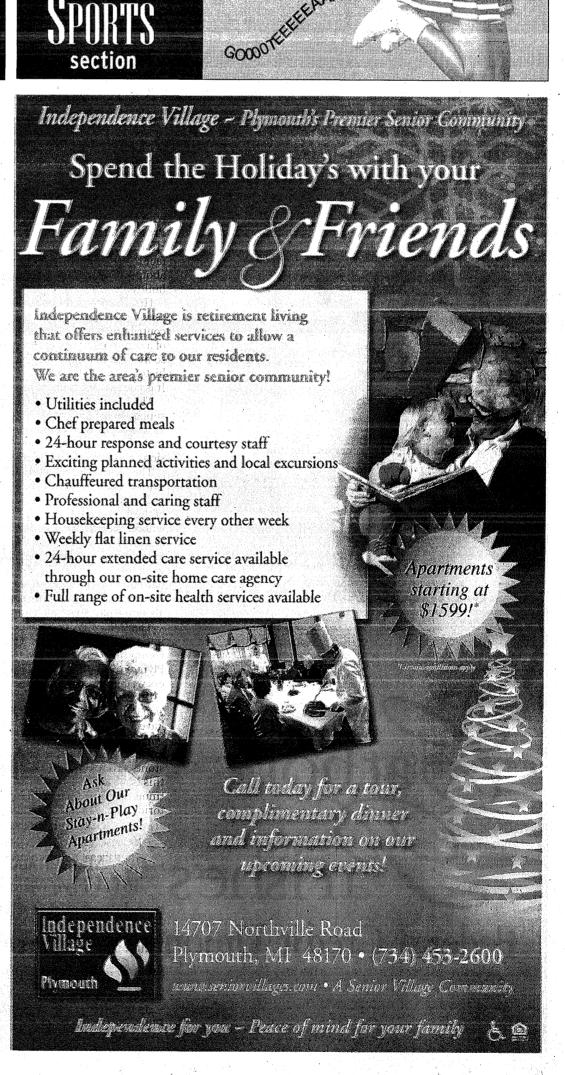
Congress has previously agreed to bail out farmers through agricultural subsidies totaling more than \$95 billion over the last five years — they even pay farmers not to grow certain crops! The U.S. government has also bailed out the government of Mexico during the '90s, as well as the International Monetary Fund. And now Wall Street! Why can we bail out the world, but not provide a loan to the men and women who put the world on wheels?

Now is the time for the president to act. I urge President Bush to do the right thing, release the funds for a bridge loan to the auto industry and keep our industrial and manufacturing base strong.

Attorney General Mike Cox is a resident of Livonia.

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Thursday, December 18, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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RU's 'D' stifles Rocks in season opener

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

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

Redford Union's lock-down defense locked up Salem's shooters and threw away the keys during Tuesday night's non-conference encounter in

the Rocks' gym. The Panthers pestered the Rocks into a 9-for-33 (27 percent) shooting night on the way to a 46-24 victory.

RU improved to 2-1. The contest was the season opener for the Rocks.

We pride ourselves on defense," said RU coach Brett Steele. "That's been the staple here since I've been here. We've won a lot of games over the past seven-plus years and most of them have been predicated on defense."

Offensively, the Panthers relied on a deliberate, pass-

PREP BASKETBALL

and-cut scheme that earned high-percentage shots most trips down the court.

'That's the way we play basketball," said Steele. "We space the floor and move the ball until we break down the defense.

"The key tonight was we made our shots. The other

night against Berkley, we were 2-of-11 from threes. Tonight, we hit eight threes. If we continue to make eight threes, we're going to have a chance to be in most games."

Seven of the Panthers' eight threes were launched by the dynamic duo of Matt Macek, who finished with a team-high 16 points, and Anthony Wash, who netted 13.

Quinten Peterson chipped in

with 10 points for the winners. Senior guard Heath Parling led Salem with eight points. Jimmy Dexter and Blake Hayes both contributed six.

Sparked by Walsh, the Panthers raced to a 12-8 firstquarter lead. The speedy point guard poured in eight points in

the first eight minutes. "Anthony's always going to

Please see HOOPS, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andrew Plagens hones his advanced climbing skills on a specially built wall in his Canton basement. The 16-year-old Canton High School student recently placed 12th in his age division at the North American Climbing Championships.

Canton teen gets a grip on competitive climbing

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Armed with the agility of Spider-Man, the flexibility of a top-flight gymnast and the fearlessness of a world-class mountain climber, Canton teenager Andrew Plagens is rising to great heights in the sport of competitive rock climbing.

And the 16-year-old Canton High School student is doing it at a rapid rate that even Peter Parker would admire.

Competing in an activity that demands incredible strength and balance, unrelenting mental concentration and a passion for scaling tall, jagged formations, Plagens

has already made a name for himself in U.S. climbing circles even though he picked up the sport less than two years

Late last month, Plagens placed 12th in his age division at the North American Continental Championships in Montreal, Quebec.

Plagens qualified for the North American event by faring well at the U.S. Nationals held in the fall in San Francisco, Calif.

"My dad's friend owns Planet Rock, a climbing facility in Ann Arbor," said Plagens, explaining how he was intro-

Please see **CLIMBING**, **B2**



Andrew Plagens ascends one of the routes at last month's North American Continental Championships in Montreal, Quebec.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marlan Glenn drains one of his three triples during Canton's season-opening victory over Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

Chiefs dial long distance in victory

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Far out, man!

The popular late-1960s phrase was also the unofficial motto for Canton's boys basketball team in Friday night's season-opening 54-42 victory over visiting Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

From far out is where the Chiefs tossed in most of the three-point daggers that deflated the Chargers during key stretches of the contest.

Senior guards Marlan Glenn and Sherif Hassanien were the primary sharp-shooters for the Chiefs. Glenn buried all three of his triples in the Chiefs' 21-point first quarter.

Hassanien's game-changing bombs both came during key periods of the second half -- the first with 0:01 showing on the scoreboard clock that padded his team's lead to

"We hit four threes in the first quarter that really carried us through after a shaky start," said Canton coach Dan Colligan. "After the first quarter ended with the score 21-19, I looked over at (assistant coach) Jim (Reddy) and said, 'This is going to be fun."

Canton's post-game scorebook reflected the type of balance Colligan preaches to his player. Sophomore point guard Deitrich

Please see CHIEFS, B3

Cezat shines

Former Canton High School basketball standout Katie Cezat registered a triple-double in Hillsdale College's 76-61 victory over Ferris State on Saturday at Jim Wink Arena in Big Rapids.

The senior forward tallied 36 points, 20 rebounds and 13 blocked shots in the Chargers' triumph over the Bulldogs. The 13 blocked shots tied Cezat for the thirdhighest total in the history of NCAA DII women's basketball. It also set GLIAC and school records.

Cezat connected on 12-of-18 field goal attempts and 12-of-14 free throws in 38 minutes of action.

Ex-Chief Becci Houdek dished out three assists and scored one point in the game.

Rolfe selected

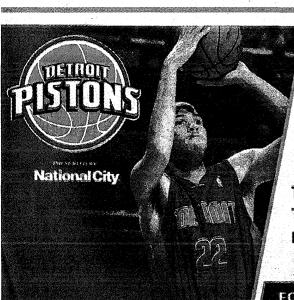
Former Plymouth High School soccer standout Colin Rolfe was selected to attend a prestigious U.S. Under-20 Men's National Team training camp, which is being held this week in Sunrise, Fla. The camp will include a pair of friendly scrimmages against **CONCACAF** foes Haiti on Dec. 20 and Canada on Dec. 22.

Rolfe recently completed a successful freshman season at the University of Louisville, where he was named the Big East's "Rookie of the Year."

SPARQ testing

There will be a free Nike SPARQ Athletic Testing Event at Velocity Sports Performance of Canton on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 3 p.m. Participants will have an opportunity to see their Speed Power **Agility Reaction** Quickness rating and compare their score to other athletes nationwide.

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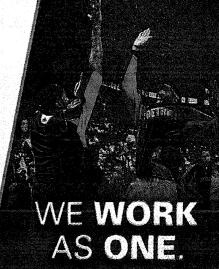
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GLORIA JANSAN





Sexauer's shooting lifts CLIMBING **Chiefs over Highlanders**

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 18, 2008

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton's CarolAnn Sexauer didn't shoot the lights out in the Howell High School gym Monday night, but she certainly dimmed the Highlanders' chances of winning.

The sharp-shooting sophomore poured in a game-high 21 points to lead the Chiefs to a 61-46 road win, Canton's third in three games. Howell

dropped to 2-2. "When CarolAnn gets in a rhythm and sets her feet, she can really score," said Canton coach Brian Samulski, whose unbeaten contingent will travel to Salem on Friday night. "She shot the ball real well tonight."

The hosts were the most early in the contest, building a 17-9 lead early in the second quarter. However, the Chiefs answered with a 14-0 run to seize the game's momentum for good. Sexauer accounted for eight points during the gamechanging streak.

"We were playing a little too

GIRLS PREP HOOP

fast early on," said Samulski. "Once we settled down, we did a better job of catching the ball, reading the defense and making better decisions.

Canton led 41-33 after three quarters

Robyn Mack, playing in her first varsity game, contributed 12 points and five assists for Canton. Kayla Bridges was also stellar, chipping in with 10 points and six rebounds. Sara Schmitt added eight points for the winners, who shot 66 percent (14-of-21) from the freethrow line.

DETROIT COMMUNITY 74, PLYMOUTH 29: On Tuesday at Community, Kelsi Robinson scored 12 points for the Wildcats and Alex Roberts added five.

Nya Jordan led Community with 25 points. Inquia Snell added 13.

Shaakira Haywood hauled down a team-high 11 rebounds for Plymouth.

duced to climbing. "He let us try it free a couple of times (in 2006) and I really liked it."

Fast ascent

After several trips to the 22,000-square-foot facility, Plagens tried out for and made the 15-member Planet Rock climbing team, which practices three days a week for two-and-ahalf hours.

"We usually warm up for the first half hour, stretching and things like that," said Plagens. "Then we'll climb for an hourand-a-half — doing drills and climbing the hardest routes we can find.

"The last half hour we do a lot of exercises, like working on gymnastics rings and more stretching.

"A couple of my friends think it's crazy, but most of them think it's cool. A couple have even come out and climbed with me."

Major indoor climbing competitions are held on 50-foot manmade mountains and stretch out over three days. Routes are formed for the climbers with grips that are strategically placed on the mountain.

"The first round of qualifying is usually pretty easy," said Plagens. "They just want to weed out the climbers that aren't very good.

"The routes get more difficult each round."

'When it gets to the finals," added Glenn Plagens, Andrew's dad, "it's nearly impossible to climb the entire route. They make it real tough. In fact, on a lot of the finals routes, the climbers aren't climbing vertical, they're climbing upside down along the ceiling."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andrew Plagens selects climbing gear for training at his home earlier this week.

Tools of the trade

Plagens is equipped with several pieces of essential equipment during his climbs.

Among the necessities are special climbing shoes, rope, carabiners (rings of solid aluminum with a spring-loaded gate) and a

Altogether, the total package can cost anywhere from \$300 to \$1,000, depending on the qualify of equipment.

When he doesn't have time to squeeze in a trip to Planet Rock, Plagens can refine his skills by visiting the basement of his Canton home, where his dad constructed a make-shift climbing wall.

"My ultimate goal," Plagens said, "is to qualify for the World Championships someday. Next year, they're in Taiwan, so that's where I want to be."

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Andrew Plagens is pictured nearing the top of the route at last month's North American Championships.



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Worthy of a ranking Canton skaters upend mighty Stevenson

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Is Canton's hockey team on the verge of cracking the Division 1 state rankings?

You would think so after the Chiefs registered one of the school's most-impressive victories in history Friday - a 4-1 triumph over No. 9ranked Livonia Stevenson.

The win over the powerful Spartans improved Canton's best-ever start to 7-0-1 overall and 3-0-1 in the **Kensington Lakes Activities** Association's Central Division. Stevenson slipped to 4-2-1 overall and 2-1-1 in the division.

We beat a very good hockey team," said Canton coach Dan Abraham. "For about the

we basically stood around and admired how fast they were. Once the boys realized they had to pick up the pace, we started to skate with them and create opportunities.

Abraham praised the play of senior goalie Zane Birchler, who stopped 35 Spartan

"He made the difference," Abraham asserted. "He's been making the saves he has to make, plus he's been making saves a lot of other goalies wouldn't make. Offensively, we haven't been starting games strong, but Zane has given us time to get going."

Stevenson owned a 1-0 lead thanks to a John Vella goal until Canton senior forward Nick Tomilenko converted his 16th goal of the season 4:07

was assisted by Alex Berlin. Tomilenko cashed in the eventual game-winner with

1:35 left in the period when he lit the lamp thanks to helpers from Mark Barath and Dan Bielak.

Anthony Bonnett (from Tomilenko) and Ryan Lash (from Bryan Davison and A.J. Rosales) tallied insurance goals in the third period.

Tomilenko was named "Player of the Week" for the state of Michigan by the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association.

Canton returns to action Saturday when it travels to Oak Park to square off against Detroit Country Day. The opening tip-off at the Oak Park Ice Arena is set for 2:50 p.m.

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first half of the first period into the second period. He Livonia Ladywood stuns Penguins in thriller, 6-5

BY BRAD EMONS **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

If Livonia Ladywood's Shelby Kucharski continues to put up Gretzky-like numbers, they be calling her "The Great

The senior center scored all six of her team's goals, including the game-winner with only eight seconds remaining off an assist from Julie Bushart, as the Blazers stunned Plymouth-Canton-Salem, 6-5, in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League game Saturday night at the Arctic Pond.

With the victory, Ladywood improved to 3-2 overall and 1-2 in the league.

The loss drops the Penguins to 1-5 and 1-5.

Kucharski, a senior center playing her first year of high

school hockey after a stint in travel hockey, now has 21 of Ladywood's 26 goals this sea-

"She has it all - speed, puck-handling skills, a great shot and a good head for the game," Ladywood coach Bruce Peck said. "We knew about her how good she was. I saw her play last year. We tried to get her four years ago and this year she finally came out. She's only played five or six years. She can definitely play college

The Blazers led 2-1 after one period on Kucharski's two goals - the first from Emann Freij and the second from Erin

Amanda Heisler scored for the Penguins from Katie Rokakis and Jennifer Fedon. In the second period, Ellexus Montova tied it up

for the Penguins from Heisler and Fedon, but Kucharski answered on a goal from Bushart to keep a one-goal

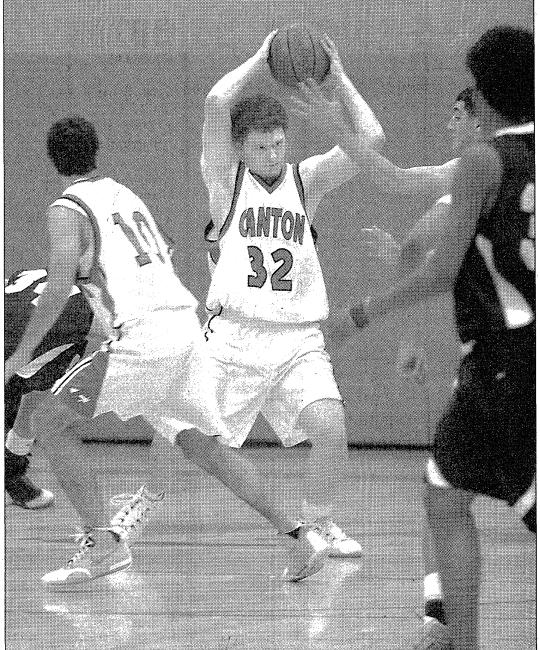
In the final period, Kucharski scored unassisted to make it 4-2, but the Penguins responded with two quick goals - Jennifer Fedon (from Kelsey Nikkila) and Nikkila (from Rhianna Fleischer) to make it 4-all.

Kucharski tallied her second unassisted goal of the game to put the Blazers ahead 5-4, but Nikkila answered to knot the count at 5-all.

Ladywood held a 24-23 edge Jessica Pavela was in goal

for the Blazers, while Emily Bullock was in goal for the Penguins.

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Canton's George Muresan hauls down a rebound during the Chiefs' 54-42 victory over Dearborn Heights Crestwood on Friday.

Lever led all scorers with 15 points while Glenn and Hassanien both twined 13.

"This was a great team effort tonight — from beginning to end," the second-year coach said. "For us to be successful this season, everybody is going to have to step up and fill their roles like they did tonight. We talk to them all the time. about sacrificing individual glory for the sake of

"It's like Sherif coming off the bench like he did tonight and being an energy guy. It's like Deitrich making kick-out passes and Marlan making good decisions on the break.'

The Chiefs' defense locked down in the second quarter and held Crestwood scoreless. Although their offense sputtered, the hosts still carried a 29-19 advantage into the half.

Daniel Stoney's driving banker upped Canton's advantage to 31-19 20 seconds into the second half, however, Crestwood narrowed its deficit to 38-34 with eight seconds left in the third on a Claude Glenn free throw.

Just when it appeared their lead was in peril,

Lever rushed the ball up court and lasered a pass to Hassanien, who spotted up on a wing just outside the three-point arc and hit nothing but twine to extend the score to 41-34.

Crestwood got no closer than six over the final eight minutes.

Glenn led the Chargers with 10 points. Maren Youseff added eight.

Canton swished 4-of-9 free throws. Crestwood was 9-of-15 from the stripe.

The Chiefs will be idle until Dec. 29 when they participate in the John Glenn Holiday

Tournament LUTH. WESTLAND 64, PCA 56: On Saturday, Josh Kruger notched 15 points and Ryan Rakovalis added 13 to propel Lutheran High Westland (2-0) to the non-conference win

over host Plymouth Christian Academy (1-1). The Warriors led 31-28 at halftime and padded their lead by outscoring the Eagles 18-14 in the third period.

"The kids played hard and created a lot of scoring opportunities by stepping in the passing lanes and scoring off turnovers," Lutheran Westland coach Brandon Bekius said. "I thought the second half we played a little more under control, but we have to improve our free throw shooting (19-of-43), especially in the fourth quarter if we're going to close out games in future.'

Spencer Wiard led PCA with 23 points, while Brent Zinn added 12 for the Eagles, who were 12-of-20 from the foul stripe.

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Plymouth icers triple up Western, 6-2

Consider the Plymouth hockey team's 6-2 victory over Walled Lake Western Friday night some last-minute studying before a big test.

The Wildcats outplayed Western in every facet of the game -- including outshooting the visitors 40-16 -- to improve

The victory comes in the shadow of a three-game week that includes games against state-ranked Northville, stateranked Livonia Stevenson and cross-campus rival Salem.

"Next week will be a huge measuring stick for us," said Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender. "Those games will test our mentality and show us where we're at early in the

season.

On Friday, Plymouth skated to a 2-1 first-period advantage before eventually stretching its lead to 6-1 with a three-goal third. Western scored its final goal with one minute left in the game.

John Maurer played a significant role in the Wildcats' early success. After Western seized a 1-0 lead, Maurer netted the equalizer thanks to assists from John Deal and Evan Swieczkowski.

With just six ticks left in the first period, Maurer buried a short-handed break-away shot.

"That was a huge goal as far as giving us momentum," said Fassbender. "Taylor Currier set it up by blocking a shot and

then getting the puck to John. It was nice to see because we've been harping on blocking shots and not giving up any easy shots."

Chris Merrill's power-play goal from Ryan Renault and Luke Merandi upped Plymouth's lead to 3-1 3:10 into the second period.

The 'Cats put the win on ice with three goals in the third off the sticks of Renault (from Pat Smiatacz and Kyle Callahan), Currier (from Deal and Merrill) and Callahan. who was assisted by Deal and Maurer.

Mike Justus earned the win between the pipes for Plymouth, knocking away 14 of the 16 shots he faced.

Whalers cook Kitchener, 5-2

When Plymouth Whalers president, general managerand head coach Mike Vellucci acquired center Matt Caria from Sault Ste. Marie last week for three future draft choices, he was hoping to find a veteran sniper who could play with

Whalers captain Chris Terry. "Anytime you can acquire a talent of Caria's caliber without giving up a player from your lineup, it's a plus," Vellucci said. "I'm really excited to see how Caria and Terry mesh

together." It took a couple of games, but Vellucci and Whaler fans saw the full effect of the deal on

Saturday night. Caria and Terry combined

for six points as the Whalers pulled away from the Kitchener Rangers in the third period en route to a 5-2 victory on Teddy Bear Night in an Ontario Hockey League game played at Compuware Arena.

The Whalers are back at the .500 mark at 14-14-3-0. Kitchener is now 13-15-1-1.

Caria now ranks 10th in OHL scoring with 12 goals and 26 assists for 38 points in 33 games after scoring two goals and adding an assist as the game's first star.

Terry added a goal (15th of the year) and two assists as the game's second star. Terry also moved into ninth place on the Whalers' all-time career scor-

ing list with 90 goals and 136 assists for 226 points in 223 career games.

Christian Steingraber opened the Whalers' scoring and started the rain of stuffed animals on the ice on Teddy Bear Night.

Patrick Lee (7th) also scored for Plymouth. Goaltender Matt Hackett continued his steady play over the last month as the game's third star for the Whalers in stopping 26-of-28 shots while raising his won-loss

record to 11-6-1-0. Julian Cimadamore (2nd) and Scott Timmins (22nd) scored for Kitchener.

Plymouth outshot Kitchener, 31-28.

Ott, Powers lead Rock icers over Grosse lle

Sam Ott netted a goal and an assist, and Adam Powers kicked away 20 shots to lead Salem to a 2-1 victory over Grosse Ile Tuesday night at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The hard-earned win improved the Rocks' record to 4-4-2.

Ott's goal came within the game's first minute. Salem doubled its lead later in the first period on Josh Jarvela's goal from Ott and Mike Hochkins.

Grosse Ile's lone goal came in the third period. The visitors hit the cross-bar with a shot in the final minute of play.

"Adam Powers played well," said Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher. "He stopped a number of quality chances." Jarvela and Mario Macari

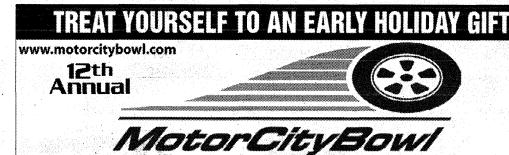
assisted on Ott's ice-breaking net-finder. NOVI 3, SALEM 1: On Monday at Novi, Ott knotted the game at 1-all with a third-period

power-play goal, however, the

Wildcats scored two lamplighters a short time later to secure the win.

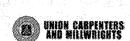
"I thought we outplayed them 70 percent of the game, but they capitalized on the five or six minutes that we didn't play well," said Ossenmacher. 'Novi has a very good team. The fact that we were in the game until the end shows how much we're coming along."

Ott's goal was assisted by David Russell and Jarvela. Powers recorded 25 saves.















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be our catalyst," said Steele. "He got us off to a good start tonight, making some shots. He created shots for Macek off the dribble penetra-

tion and pitch. Anthony played well, but it was a good team effort." RU expanded its lead to 21-9 with 2:49 left

in the first half on Peterson's steal and layup.

The Rocks rebounded by scoring the next

four points on a Hayes drive and a Parling

fast-break layup, but RU's Leonard Wernette-Leff made the halftime score 22-13 when he drained 1-of-2 free throws.

Salem drew to within 25-18 with 6:10 left in the third on a short jumper from Dexter, however, RU finished the game with a 21-6 run.

Led by six boards each from Cortney Frazier and Jake Peterson, Salem outrebounded the

Panthers, 21-17. RU hit 17-of-37 field goals. Both teams were 3-of-6 from the free-throw line.

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Rocks rule at Salem invitational

Salem won the Salem Round Robin Tournament Saturday, racking up 295 points to out-distance

Ypsilanti Lincoln by 17 points. Led by Sam Lepper's championship performance at 189 pounds, the Rocks rolled to an impressive victory.

Lincoln Park placed third with 198.5 points while Macomb Dakota (180) and **Dearborn Heights Crestwood** (161) rounded out the top five

Lepper pinned Sterling Heights' Kyle Alessandrini in 1:05 in the 189-pound final.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 18, 2008

Nick Kim excelled at 103 for the champions, placing second to Crestwood's Joey Golan. Salem's Kyle Middleditch was the runner-up at 112 and Ben DeWitt was second at 125...

Ypsi Lincoln's Dillon Farrell earned MVP honors in the lower weights while Macomb Dakota's Mike Wronosky took top honors in the upper weights.

2008 SALEM ROUND ROBIN TOURNAMENT Dec. 13 at Salem High School FINAL STANDINGS: 1, Salem, 295; 2. Ypsilanti Lincoln, 278; 3. Lincoln Park, 198.5; 4. Macomb Dakota, 180; 5. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 161: 6, Sand Creek, 125: 7. Sterling Heights, 120; 8. Farmington, 102;

103 pounds: 1st-place match: Joey Golan (C) decisioned Nick Kim (Salem), 4-3; 3rd: Kevin Jose Guerrero (F) dec. Jacob Jones (LP), 8-1; 5th: Jimmy Miller (MD) dec. Sam Polocoser (SC), 14-11.

112: 1st: Matt Farrell (L) pinned lan

Phillips (S) in 1:31; **3rd:** Devin Stratton (S) dec. Mo Rahal (C), 10-2; **5th:** Greg Day (MD) pinned Rich Jeirierski (LP) in 46 seconds. **119: 1st:** Anthony Barbour (LP) dec. Kyle Middleditch, 4-2 (OT); **3rd:** Jarred Lilyhorn (L) dec. Dominic Lamusico (C), 14-5; **5th:** Ed Nuttel (L) dec. Dan Hall (SC) 7: 5 Nuttall (L) dec. Dan Hall (SC), 7-3.

DeWitt (S), 9-2; **3rd:** Isaac Hawkins (SC) pinned Joey Polocoser (C) in 3:52; **5th:** Andrew Samoray (AAH) dec. Dominic DeRita (MD), 12-4.

130: 1st: Jason VanWasshenova (LP) dec. Derrick Maudell (C), 13-9; **3rd:** John Bills (S) pinned Adam London (AAH) in 3:51; 5th: Seth LaBombarbe (L) pinned Jeremy 135: 1st: Aaron Barker (SC) dec. James Middleditch, 8-5; 3rd: Munt Al-Hussien (C) pinned C.J. Ward (LP) in 2:22; 5th: Nick Kuzera (MD) pinned Garin Coleman (SH)

140: 1st: Dan Salkowski (MD) dec. Johannes Olind (S), 8-7; **3rd:** Nathan Mullins (L) dec. Drew Pollard (LP), 4-3; **5th:** Sorel Polocoser (C) dec. Rob Williams (F),

145: 1st: Brandon Farrell (L) dec. Robert Schultz (S), 11-6; 3rd: Sean Cruz (AAH) dec. Nick Tomski (F), 9-1; 5th: Rob Kanalos (LP) pinned Kirk Tomski (F) in 2:23.

152: 1st: Eddie Rakotz (L) dec. Jermaine
Williams (SH), 5-2; 3rd: Andrew Valentine
(AAH) dec. Eric Bloomquist (MD), 4-2; 5th:
Chris Sweet (S) pinned Josh Gaskill (F) in

160: 1st: Mike Wronosky (MD) pinned Calvin Sullins (SC) in 1:41; **3rd:** Colin Gross (S) pinned Nathan Sanchez (SH) in 2:14; 5th: Jared Marks (L) pinned Romero Remy

171: 1st: James Walton (LP) pinned Andrew Baker (AAH) in 43 seconds; 3rd: Ryan Benoit (MD) pinned Brian Francover (SC) in 4:11; 5th: Neil Lazarecki (SH) pinned

Chad Colwell in 3:50.

189: 1st: Sam Lepper (S) pinned Kyle Alessandrini (SH) in 1:05; **3rd:** Cory Sanders (L) dec. Justin Roe (F), 4-2; **5th:**

Sanders (L) dec. Justin-Rob (F), 4-2; 3th:
Nick Ziskie (MD) won by injury default over
Josh Schroeder (SC).

215: 1st: William Hartley (L) dec. Buster
Wilson (LP), 5-4; 3rd: Austin Root (S) dec.
Jason Wilks (MD), 5-4; 5th: Chad Gauss (SC)
pinned Joe Tallo (SH) in 4:59.

285: 1st: Terrence Radcliff (L) dec. Justin Tallo (SH), 8-6; **3rd:** Blake Abbey (S) dec. Dylan Wells (F), 11-3; **5th:** Hassau El Sayed (C) pinned Shawn Green (SH) in 39

SALEM 56 WALLED LAKE NORTHERN 22

130 pounds: John Bills (S) won by void; 135: James Middleditch (S) pinned Alex Aninos in 3:32; **140:** Johannes Olind (S) pinned Clayton Hughes in 3:32; **145:** Robbie Schultz (S) pinned Alex Vaninecke in 1:27; **152:** Chris Sweet (S) dec. Sean Savage, 11-3; **160:** Jimmy Gross (S) pinned Mike Stewart in 3:30; **171:** Patrick Roeser (WLN) pinned Matt Kelly in 3:22; **189:** Maren Smallman (WLN) pinned Austin Root in 4:52; **215**: Zach Leichanen (WLN) pinned Blake Abbey in 3:22; **285**: Sam Lepper (S) pinned Billy Card in 1:26; **103**: Nick Kim (S) pinned Jake Helko in 57 seconds; **112**: In Phillips (S) pinned Josh Budey in 2:52; **119**: Karl Allen (S) dec. Erik Erstad, 10-4; **125**: Hunter West (WLN) dec. Kyle Middleditch, 12-4

SALEM 69 ST. MARY'S 4

135 pounds: James Middleditch (S) won by void; 140: Andrew Brebuyck (SM) won by technical fall, 14-0, over Johannes Olind; **145:** Robbie Schultz (S) pinned Austin Crutchfield in 1:49; **152:** Chris Sweet (S) pinned Guadalupe Ortiz in 3:42; **160:** Jimmy Gross (S) pinned Russell Bayne in 3:51; 171: Matt Kelty (S) pinned James Vyscitt in 31 seconds; 189: Austin Root (S) dec. David Anderson, 4-1; 215: Sam Lepper (S) pinned James Huddleston in 2:32; 285: Blake Abbey (S) pinned Geoffrey McCann in 58 seconds; 103: Nick Kim (S) pinned Denolino Cooper in 28 seconds; 112 pounds: Ian Phillips (S) dec. Ernie Stone 11-10; 119: Karl Allen (S) won by technical fall over Bernard Chaires, 17-2: 125: Ben DeWitt (S) dec. Connor Smith, 17-6; **130:** John Bills (S) pinned Mark Stari in 1:10.

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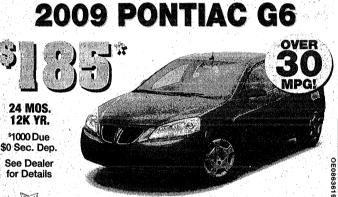
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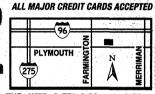
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WEEK #16 GAMES Thursday, December 18, 2008

Indianapolis at Jacksonville Saturday, December 20, 2008 **Baltimore at Dallas** Sunday, December 21, 2008 Arizona at New England San Diego at Tampa Bay San Francisco at St. Louis Pittsburgh at Tennessee Cincinnati at Cleveland Miami at Kansas City **New Orleans at Detroit Houston at Oakland Buffalo at Denver New York Jets at Seattle** Philadelphia at Washington

Atlanta at Minnesota Carolina at New York Giants Monday, December 22, 2008 Green Bay at Chicago

Roll in the New Year

Consider giving local bowling venues a look

hat are you doing New Years

If you are a bowler, the answer is simple.

Just get your reservations in at the local bowling center where each house offers a fun-filled evening with even a bit of bowling thrown

Every locale has is own set-up,



but this might be typical: cost, \$60-75 per couple, free bowling, 9-10 p.m.; dinner served at 8 p.m.; 9-pin notap from 10 p.m. through 1 a.m., cold cuts served at 11 p.m.; champagne served at midnight followed

by a 9-pin no-tap tournament (handicapped) where the top couple wins prize money with optional

jackpots. Entries must be made in advance (no walk-ins). Noisemakers and

party favors are included. Most local bowling centers will offer something similar to the above with some variations.

For more information, call Livonia: Merri Bowl, (734) 427-2900; Wonderland Lanes, (734) 427-1060; Woodland Lanes (734) 522-4515; Cloverlanes (734) 427-6410; Westland: Westland Bowl, (734)722-7570; Oak Lanes, (734) 422-7420; Town 'n Country, (734) 722-5000; Vision Lanes, (734) 641-818; Redford: Mayflower Lanes, (313) 937-8420; Beech Lanes, (313) 531-3800;

Plymouth: Plaza Lanes (734.) 453-4880; Farmington Hills: Drakeshire Lanes, (248) 478-2230; Country Lanes, (248) 476-3201; Norwest Lanes, (248)626-2422;

Garden City: Garden Lanes, (734) 427-2200; Canton: Super Bowl (734) 459-6070:

Southfield: Plum Hollow Lanes (248) 354-6540.Looking for a Christmas present for

your bowling friend? The pro shops are making it a lot easier to do so because many of them now offer gift cards in various

denominations. Different bowlers have a variety of preferences, so with the gift card, the final choice is entirely up to

Once upon a time a fellow bowler received a nice wrist support gadget for a Christmas gart, only it was for

the wrong hand, not the right hand. All I want for Christmas is to

make the 10-pin spare consistently. ■ Many of the local high schools are in the preparation mode for the up-coming bowling season. Bowling is the fastest growing high school sport, surpassing ice hockey a year

or two ago.

It's a great opportunity for some of the kids to experience the excitement of sports team competition who may not be able to make it in football or basketball. Tryouts have been completed and the season is underway.

A good example is the North Farmington High team, which practices at Drakeshire Lanes on

Drakeshire does not charge the schools for the practice time or

competition, they get about \$1,000 worth of bowling, and this is big, as many parents could find it difficult right now to come up with the money.

Drakeshire general manager Laura Burns has been very supportive of the team for many years. If you have ever watched high school varsity bowling competition, you would see first hand how much excitement this sport can generate at the high school level.

■ Ernie Segura, Jr. of Taylor and Eric Krpichak of Livonia recently teamed up to win the 18th annual Steve Cruchon Memorial Tournament at Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights.

The Segura-Krpichak duo defeated the team of Tony Lindemann (Sterling Heights) and Rick Eiermann (Garden City) 413-379.

While the competition was spirited and the camaraderie was outstanding, the main purpose of the event was to raise funds for both the Karamnos Cancer Foundation and the International Bowling Hall of Fame and Museum.

Sixty bowlers participated, each bringing pledges and/or selling raffle tickets in support. Over \$7,000 was raised bringing the 18-year total to over \$240,000.

The event is run by the Metro **Detroit USBC Association which** serves over 70,000 adult and youth bowlers in this area.

Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield, and a member of the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame and the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached by e-mail: tenpinalley710@yahoo.com.

MU earns first win as Sims nets 27

Cedric Sims was the catalyst Saturday with a game-high 27 points as the Madonna University men's basketball team earned its first victory of the year and snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 71-61 triumph Saturday over host Alma College.

MU (1-9) made 57 percent of its shots from the floor in the first half to build a 35-27 lead in the MIAA-WHAC Challenge. The Crusaders finished 28-of-58 from the floor (48.3 percent).

Sims, a 6-foot senior guard from Wayne Memorial, hit 9-of-14 shots from the floor, including a pair of three-pointers, and was a perfect 7-of-7 from the foul line.

Junior center Leroy Allen added 16 points and nine rebounds, while Bryant Slaughter (Westland) chipped in with nine points.

Jordan Redditt led Alma (0-7) with 23 points. Cory Schneider

OLIVET COLLEGE 70, MADONNA 66: The Crusaders, despite shooting 50.9 percent from the field, dropped their ninth straight Friday night to Olivet College (3-4) in the MIAA-WHAC Challenge in a game played at Alma College's Cappaert Gym.

Cedric Sims paced MU with 20 points and eight rebounds, while Leroy Allen and Bryan Slaughter contributed 10 each as MU fell to

MU came out strong in the first half, connecting on 16-of-27 firsthalf shots to build a 36-31 lead.

Slaughter's three-pointer with 1:41 remaining in the game gave MU a 65-64 lead, while teammate Kevin McLoughlin tied the game at 66 when he made the second of two free throws.

But Joel Kerns (11 points) score with 12 seconds remaining to give the Comets (3-4) a lead it would not relinquish.

Michael McClary scored 20 points and grabbed 17 rebounds for Olivet. Brother Brandon McClary added 19 points and four

MACOMB CC 69, SCHOOLCRAFT 61: On Dec. 3, visiting Macomb Community College (9-0, 1-0) remained unbeaten with an MCCAA Eastern Conference victory over Schoolcraft College (4-5,

PREP BOWLING

BOYS BOWLING RESULTS WAYNE MEMORIAL 25 WATERFORD MOTT 5 Dec. 15 at 300 Bowl

Wayne individual scorers: Ryan Gabriel, 227-276-503; Elliot Arnold, 188-256-444; Josh Vojtkofsky, 219-212-431; T.J. Lave, 195-192-387; Mike Wilson-Kellen Collison, 146-169-315 (17 points).

Baker games: Wayne, 223-180-403 (10 points); Mott, 155-180-335 (2 points). Wayne's overall record: 3-0.

WAYNE MEMORIAL 27

WAYNE MEMORIAL 27
WHITE LAKE LAKELAND 3
Dec. 13 at Whitmore Lanes
Wayne individual scorers: Elliot Arnold, 259-203-462;
Josh Vojtkofsky, 198-188-386; Kellen Collison, 181-198379; Ryan Gabriel, 174-201-375; T.J. Lave, 144-149-293 (17

Lakeland scorers: Andrew Hatfield, 211-183-394; Jake Pelc, 157-195-352; Jeremy Davis, 165-160-325; Stephen Palombo, 141-168-309; Cody Demeter, 161-194-305 (3)

points). Baker games: Wayne, 192-206-398 (10 points); Lakeland,



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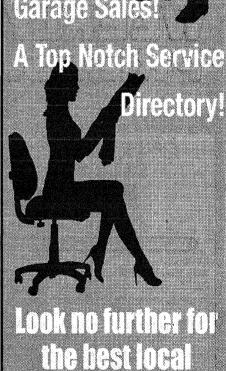
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RELIGION CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING

Caregiver's support group

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

All-you-can-eat pancakes

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its more than 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages

Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

Advent Sunday

The Gift of Love 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0149.

Choir cantata

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church presents Hope Has Hands choir cantata 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at 8828 Wormer, Redford. Everyone is welcome. For information, call (313) 537-7480.

Christmas Eve services

5 p.m. (Children's Service), 7 p.m. (Family Worship and Candlelight), and 11 p.m. (Lessons, Carols, Communion and Candlelight), at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0149. **Christmas services**

9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, two blocks south of Plymouth Road. Call (313) 937-3170. Christmas Eve Candlelight services 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, Family Musical: Angels We Have Heard, a multi-generational choir presents a delightful

story with an important message with lights, drama and lively music, closing service with individual candles (nursery provided for preschool children), and 10 p.m. with adult and hand bell choirs, communion and candle lighting. 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, Blessing

of the children and their toys. Advent worship

11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, worship: Christmas pageant, at First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21200 Southfield Rd., north of 8 Mile, Southfield. Call (248) 569-2972.

Christmas Eve service

Brass Quintet performance at 6:45 p.m., Candlelight Communion Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Christmas Eve service

7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

View Obits On-line@www.hometownlife.com

e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722 **Christmas Eve services**

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

Christmas Eve worship

8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster road in Livonia. The services will include candlelight and communion. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Christmas worship

5:30 p.m. family worship, children's pageant; 7:30 p.m. candlelight communion service (Contemporary Worship Ensemble); 10:30 p.m. Christmas music prelude, and 11 p.m. candlelight community service with Chancel Choir and Trinity Bells Wednesday, Dec. 24, and 10 a.m. Christmas worship Thursday, Dec. 25, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. All are invited.

Candlelight Christmas service

7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21200 Southfield Rd., north of 8 Mile, Southfield. Call (248) 569-2972.

Clothing bank

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.noon on the fourth Saturday of each month (Dec. 27), at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley.

For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

PATRICIA A. JANTOVSKY

Age 82, December 16, 2008. Beloved

wife of Larry. Dear mother of Judy Spehar, Kevin (Barbara), Lawrence M. (Shree) and the late Paul Michael.

Grandmother of nine. Great-grand-

mother of ten. Visitation Friday 3-9pm. Funeral Service Saturday 10am

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heaven to join her dad and baby sister December 3rd, 2008. Brenda is the

loving wife of Dwight Joseph and

Westwood. Brenda's life is being cel-

ebrated by three brothers, five sisters

and their families; also by four step-

brothers, three step-sisters, and their

families and a multitude of aunts

uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends throughout the USA. Brenda

is dearly loved and sadly missed by

her family, friends and little dog,

Poncho. A memorial service is being

planned for late spring of 2009 at Our

Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile Road at Beech Daly, Redford, MI.

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Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill).

Sunday school

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

Wednesday. Call (734) 427-3660. Hall rental

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

UPCOMING

Worship service

The Wayne-Westland Ministerial Association is sponsoring a worship service to remember the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. There will be a combined choir from several churches led by Steve Holbrook. The preacher for the evening will be the Rev. Mike Wilson of the New Beginnings Church in Wayne. The public is invited. If you have any questions, call Neil Cowling at the Kirk of Our Savior, at (734) 728-1088.

Music at St. John's

Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2009, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, 2009, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7) and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

ONGOING

Parkinson Support

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

Overeaters Anonymous

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

Mid-week Service

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

ENDOW

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

Choral rehearsals

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

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

visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Bible study

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

Time change

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

www.livonfaith.org. Wednesday activities

Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt, one block south of Six Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebraic Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore. For information, visit www. 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 ccrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.

Worship Service

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

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

Worship service

10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

F.I.R.E. ministries

With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-

6360. New worship schedule

Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.

holycrosslivonia.org. Sunday worship

11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland.

For information, call (734) 721-0800. Worship services 10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy fol-

lowed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www.orthodoxlivonia.org.

Men's breakfast

Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food. Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

MOPS meetings The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of

Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Leverne, Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248) 470-5202 or send e-mail to nikki. tiernan@gmail.com.

MOPS groups

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomensministries@hotmail.com.

LOGOS Youth Club

Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join

Please see CALENDAR, B7

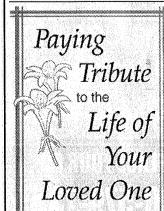
EVELYN M. ALTAFFER Age 76. Of Livonia, MI. December 13, 2008. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.



FREDERICK KIPP CODY, JR.

Age 60, died December 11, 2008 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac after a brief illness. Fred was born October 5, 1948, in Detroit. He was a longtime resident of Birmingham with strong childhood ties to the Grosse Pointe area. Fred graduated in 1966 from Austin High School in Detroit attended Michigan University, where he received a degree in business and marketing in 1970. Fred traveled the world in his role as director of marketing for Chrysler International and was instrumental in launching the "Jeep" brand in China, Egypt and throughout all of Europe. After leaving Chrysler, Fred joined Jucy, Inc. as a partner, Jucy, headquartered in Palm Springs California, is a pioneer in "Green" advertising for major corporations. Fred was a member of Holy Name Church in Birmingham and was an avid art collector who loved gardening. As a loyal friend of Bill W., he reached out to numerous people. Fred is survived by his siblings, Mary Lou and Daniel A. Miller of Olympia, Washington, Fredericka Cody of Atlanta, Georgia and Angela and Thomas Gonzales of Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy R. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Gerard F. Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Sokolik, five great-nephews, two great-nieces and cherished cousins, friends and business associates too numerous to list. Mr. Cody is preceded in death by his parents, Frederick K. Cody, Sr., Nancy Ryan Cody and Rosemary Brennan Cody. He loved you all. Memorial Mass at Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon St., Birmingham, Saturday 12:30pm. Friends may gathering at church beginning at, 12 noon. Interment in St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Farms. Memorials may be made to the charity of donor's

choice. Condolences at www.lynchfuneraldirectors.com



JOHN N. EASTERBROOK

HELEN CHEKLICH

Age 82, of Bloomfield Hills. Passed

away on December 12, 2008. A. J.

Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500.

Age 98, died on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at Autumn Woods Health (Margarita), Joan and Robert. Cristina and Vincent. John was prede-January 2009. In lieu of flowers, Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Michigan. Please share memories at



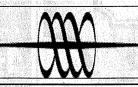
DAVID R. GOODE

Age 57, died December 11, 2008, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. David was born September 27, 1951, Pontiac. He was a graduate of Seaholm High School and a life long resident of Birmingham. David was owner/broker of Goode Real Estate in Birmingham - a family business since 1964. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, particularly during the summer at his cottage in Central Lake, Michigan. David is survived by his wife, Kathy and son, Jeff. He is also survived by his brothers, Gilbert and Ronald Goode and sisters, Judith Moran and Mary Smith. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Name Church in Birmingham. Interment in White

BRENDA DIAN REOTT Born May 13th, 1959, has gone to

Care Facility in Warren, Michigan. He was born May 14, 1910 in York, Pennsylvania to Norman and Martha Easterbrook. Loving father of Jane, Jack (Eileen), Richard, Don Devoted grandfather of Katie, Allison, ceased by his wife, Connie with whom he shared 56 years of marriage. A memorial service will be held in memorial contributions may be made John's name to: Michigan (c/o Courtney Kennedy), 2101 Commonwealth Blvd., Suite D, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105. Arrangements were entrusted to D.S. Temrowski & Sons Funeral Home in Warren,

Chapel Cemetery, Troy. Arrangements entrusted to Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors, 248-435-0660.



POLICY

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

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday ednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Jennifer Musztuk

586-826-7318 For more information call: Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7115 **Charolette Wilson** 586-826-7082

or toll free

800-579-7355

ask for Jennifer or Charolette

the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Sept. 26. For registration, visit www.fumcnorthville.org or call (248) 349-1144

HeartCry

The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. They use "The Hope of a Homecoming," by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). To register, call (734) 455-0022 Ext. 4.

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road. Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family)

To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbc-

Bible study

Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Focus of study is Romans. Call (248) 626-8253 for more information.

Fellowship Dinners

6 p.m. Thursdays. Dinner catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro. \$6. At St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, Call (313)534-7730.

Thrift Shop

9:30-11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at St. James Presbyterian

Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Registration

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now taking registrations for the fall program at 14175 Farmington Road, north of 1-96, Livonia. It is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Loving and caring programs are offered for toddler, preschool, pre-K, and child care. Call (734) 513-8413.

Morning prayers

7:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, corner of Puritan, Redford. Please join in as participants start day with prayer. Call (313) 255-6330.

J.O.Y. meeting

The J.O.Y. Builders (Just Older Youth, ages 50 plus) meet 11:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch. fellowship and fun, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. All are welcome to join in. There is no charge, although organizers ask that you bring a luncheon dish to share.

Higher Rock Cafe

Second and fourth Friday of the month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland, 2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer. For information, call (734) 722-3660

or visit www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.

Worship service

10 a.m. Sundays, at The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Sunday School for children. For information, call (734) 728-

Sunday worship

10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland.

For information, call (734) 728-3440. Sunday services

Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster Road on Plymouth Road, Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call (734) 425-6360.

Farmington Women Aglow

Meets the second Monday of each month 7-9:30 p.m. at the Longacre House on Farmington road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call Vikki for more information at (248) 497-7755. A Christian women's group.

Worship services

Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck: Canton, For more information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait.

Worship services

Praise and worship 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 6500 Wayne Road and Hunter, Westland. Contemporary music and casual dress. Children church and nursery. Call (734) 254-0093. Doughnuts and coffee served.

Celebrate Recovery

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville launches Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hangups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts). Child care during Celebrate Recovery is free and available by calling (248) 374-7400.

For information, visit www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.

org/celebrate. Sunday service

All are welcome to attend worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Worship service

At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from I Peter. Call (313) 255-6330.

Adult literacy classes

Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those wishing to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number

and someone will contact you.

Personal ministry

Due Season Christian Church is a nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia.

All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or visit www. DueSeason.org.

Scripture studies

From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford, Call (313) 534-9000.

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

Learner's Bible study

At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-

Church service

Loving God by loving people, meets at 10 a.m. Sunday at Westwood Community Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. Doughnuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093 for information.

Eucharistic adoration

The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. followed by Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

Unity of Livonia

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760

Shabbat services

The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Bet Chaverim

Services open to all in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 or visit www.betchaverim.com.

Detroit World Outreach

A nondenominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, hightech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, for college students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service at 6:15 p.m., Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study at 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner, child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat Rocks

A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit www.adatshalom.org.

English classes

Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.

Sunday school

Congregation Beit Kodesh, at 31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

Your Invitation to Worship

CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH **Immemorial Latin Mass** pproved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121

Fri. 7:00 p.m. Sat. 11:00 a.m. 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. **Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass** Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220

(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church

32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616

MASS: Mon. 8:30 a. Fri. 8:30 a.

Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a

CHURCHES OF

THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Sunday School - 9:45 A.M Sunday 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

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

FAITH COVENANT **CHURCH**

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

Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups **SEVENTH-DAY**

Child Care provided for all services

Cherry Hill Seventh-day

ADVENTIST

Adventist Church 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 Pastor: Eddie Petreaca Meetings on Saturdays for: arly 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

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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

(Nursery Available)

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire

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

UNITED METHODIST

Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. · Livonia

248-474-3444 Pastor Beth Librande Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided

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

Cherry Hill United Methodist 734-495-0035 Rev. Merlin Pratt

Worship 10:30 Prayer Hour Thursday 7:30

ww.cherryhillumc.org

More than Sunday Services' **Worship Services** 9:00 a.m. & 11:30 AM Sunday School & Nursery 9:00, 10:30 & 11:30 AM Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth 45201 North Territorial Road (734) 453-5280 www.pfumc.org

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Casual, Contemporary,

Excellent Children's

Program

Meets at Franklin H.S. in

Livonia on Joy Road en Merriman and Middlebelt Roads

at 10:00 a.m.

734-425-1174

Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!

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

PRESBYTERIAN

(U.S.A.)

ROSEDALE GARDENS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI

WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH

(734) 422-0494

Chapel Worship Service

9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am

St. James Presbyterian

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Staffed Nursery Available

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Sunday School

9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

Nursery Provided

The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pasto

The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor

40000 Six Mile Road

Northville, MI 248-374-7400 **Traditional Worship**

"just west of I-275"

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. **Contemporary Worship** 9:30 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During

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

the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96

734-522-6830

8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional

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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH HOSANNA-TABOR MISSOURI SYNOD LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 13-532-2266 REDFORD TWP

9600 Leverne • So. Redford • 313-937-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

Immanuel Lutheran Church Pastor Milton Schemm

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

Risen Christ Lutheran 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth

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

www.risenchrist.info

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.

SCIENCE

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

25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730

Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday chool - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M. Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm

CHRISTIAN

p.m. Reading Room located at church

734-453-0970

Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m

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

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings -December 9, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Roll Call Members Present: Anthony, Bennett, Caccamo, McLaughlin, Taj, Williams, Yack Staff Present: Executive Director Santomauro, Director Eva, Director Conklin, Director Faas Adoption of Agenda Motion by Bennett, supported by Taj to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Approval of Minutes Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2008. Motion carried unanimously. Citizen's Non-Agenda Item Comments: M r Brian Rooney, 48103 West Oxford Ln., stated he and his wife attended the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony last week which was wonderful. Mr. Rooney stated he would like to request and will donate funds for a Nativity Scene to be considered. Payment of Bills Motion by McLaughlin, supported by Williams to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION: Item 1. SENATE TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF TOM YACK'S RETIREMENT. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution in recognition of Tom Yack's retirement. Motion carried unanimously. Item 2. TURKEY TROT CHECK PRESENTATION TO THE EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN. Motion by Bennett, supported by Caccamo to accept the check presentation to the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. Motion carried unanimously. Item 3. PRESENTATION OF DEPUTY CHIEF AND SERGEANT'S BADGES. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin the presentation of Deputy Chief and Sergeant's badges. Motion carried unanimously. Item 4. PRESENTATION OF FIRE BATTALION CHIEF AND CAPTAIN BADGES. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin the presentation of the Fire Battalion Chief and Captain Badges. Motion carried **CONSENT CALENDAR:** Item 1. AUTHORIZATION TO PAY

BILLS THROUGH THE END OF 2008. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to authorize the payment of the Township's bills on December 26, 2008, as normally scheduled, subject to prior review by the Clerk and Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously. Item 2. A REQUEST FROM MAX & ERMA'S RESTAURANT, INC. (A DELAWARE CORPORATION) TO TRANSFER ALL STOCK IN 2008 CLASS C LICENSED BUSINESS, LOCATED AT 2240 N. CANTON CENTER, CANTON, MI 48187, CANTON TOWNSHIP, WAYNE COUNTY, FROM PUBLIC CORPORATION TO NEW STOCKHOLDER, G&R ACQUISITION, INC. (THRU MERGER). (CLERK) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the request from Max & Erma's Restaurants, Inc. (A Delaware Corporation) to transfer all stock in 2008 Class C Licensed Business located at 2240 N. Canton Center, Canton, MI 48187, Canton Township, Wayne County, from public corporation to new stockholder, G & R Acquisition, Inc. (Thru Merger). Motion carried unanimously. Item 3. APPOINTMENTS TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION. (CLERK) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to appoint Supervisor Phil LaJoy, Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin and Clerk Terry Bennett to the Election Commission with term expiring November 20, 2012. unanimously. GENERAL CALENDAR: Item 1. CONSIDER 3RD AMENDMENT TO THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT FOR UPTOWN AND SITE PLAN FOR ALL SEASONS SENIOR APARTMENTS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for the third amendment to Uptown PDD and Site Plan for All Seasons Apartments. Motion carried unanimously. Item 2. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR SUMMIT COMMERCE CENTER PHASE II. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for site plan for Summit Commerce Center Phase II. Motion carried unanimously. Item 3. CONSIDER MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE FINAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT AND SITE PLAN FOR RAVENSFIELD CONDOMINIUMS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for the amendment to PDD and Site Plan for Ravensfield Condominiums. Motion carried unanimously. Item 4. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE CLASSROOM FOR THE WORKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLYARD HABITAT GRANT*. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to authorize payment in the amount of \$5,000.00 (Stormwater Drains - Maintenance and Repair Infrastructure, 101-445-930-0050) to FAS Contemporary Builders. Motion carried unanimously. Item 5. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WATER AND SEWER UTILITY BILLING POLICIES. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve a new MSD Policy #MS:56 entitled ìLate Payment Penalty Waiverî and, further approve the amendments to existing #MS:55 entitled iOne-Time Credit on Sewer Chargesî based on the current unique economic circumstances facing our customers. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Williams, supported by Anthony to table existing # MSD Policy #MS:54 entitled iService Terminationî. Motion carried unanimously. Item 6. CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH WAYNE COUNTY TO PROVIDE WINTER MAINTENANCE ON 17.50 MILES (37.80 LANE MILES) OF COUNTY ROADS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Caccamo to approve the agreement with Wayne County to provide additional winter maintenance for 17.50 miles (37.80 lane miles) of local roads and authorize the payment of \$62,033.93 from Account No. 101-447.03.801_0050 (Wayne County Road Maintenance). Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Anthony, Bennett, Caccamo, McLaughlin, Taj, Yack Nays: Williams Motion carried. Item 7. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT WITH SRJ MORTON TAYLOR LLC FOR GRANTING OF SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT ACROSS PARCEL ID 091-99-0001-712. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to authorize the township Clerk to sign the agreement with SRJ Morton Taylor LLC for the granting of a sanitary sewer easement across parcel ID 091-99-0001-712. Motion carried unanimously. Item 8. CONSIDER APPROVING A PURCHASE ORDER TO CARRIER & GAMBLE, INC. FOR ALL ASSOCIATED TRAFFIC SIGNAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT AT WARREN @ SHELDON AND WARREN @ MORTON TAYLOR. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Anthony to approve a purchase order for all traffic and pedestrian signal equipment from Account #403-506-00_970_0090 for the intersections of Warren @ Sheldon and Warren @ Morton Taylor in the amount of \$137,587 plus a 5% contingency of \$6,879 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$144,466 from Carrier & Cable, Incorporated.. Motion carried unanimously. Item. 9. BUDGET AMENDMENT - AMBULANCE FEES. (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Taj to approve the following budget amendment in Fire FY 2008 Increase Revenues Fire Rescue and Ambulance Fees 206-000.637, \$24,000 Increase Expenditures Professional & Contracted Service 206-336-50.801_0050, \$24,000. This budget amendment will increase Fire FY from \$9,850,245 to \$9,874,245. Motion carried unanimously. Item 10. GROUND LESSOR'S SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT ON ARTIC EDGE ICE ARENA. (CLS) Motion by Bennett, supported by Williams to approve the Ground Lessor's Subordination Agreement on the Arctic Edge Arena Project, and further authorize the Clerk to execute the necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously. Item 11. APPROVE CONTRACT FOR COMMUNITY SURVEY AND BENCHMARK ANALYSIS. (CLD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to authorize the Community Needs Assessment Survey and Benchmark of Citizen Survey Data from Leisure Vision, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, Kansas, 66061 in the amount of \$15,000 to be taken from Account No. 101-750.801_0050. Motion carried unanimously. Item 12. 2008 BUDGET AMENDMENTS. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the following budget amendment to the 2008 budget. Motion carried unanimously. Item 13. CONSIDER PURCHASE OF 2009 AUTOMARK SERVICE WARRANTY AND MAINTENANCE OF ELECTION EQUIPMENT. (CLERK) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the 2009 Maintenance Agreement for 29 AutoMarks with Election Systems and Software, Inc. (ES&S), 11208 John Galt Blvd. Omaha, NE in the amount of \$8,990.00 from account 101-191.930_0030, Maintenance and Repair of Equipment. Motion carried unanimously. OTHER: Supervisor Yack stated the next Board Study Session will be January 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, First Floor, Board Room, 1150 Canton

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after

Center S., Canton, Michigan. ADJOURN: Motion by Bennett,

supported by McLaughlin to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried

unanimously. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett,

Publish: December 18, 2008

Chiefs primed for another stellar season

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Canton girls gymnastics team's status as one of the steadiest program in the state won't change this winter based on the Chiefs' experience-coated roster.

"I lost one really good gymnast, but I'm returning five of our top six gymnasts," said veteran Canton coach John Cunningham. "I have four new freshmen with club experience, so that's nice.

"This is one of those teams that may not have a great gymnast, but we have a lot of really good gymnasts. I estimate we should be a 140-point team to start. We'll beat some good teams, but some very good teams will probably beat us."

The Chiefs' top returning performer is sophomore Robyn Piwowar, who earned All-State status as a freshman.

"She was top five in the state in Division 1 in the vault and she was eighth in the allaround," said Cunningham. "She was just one of two freshPREP GYMNASTICS PREVIEW

men in the top 10 last year." The team's trio of captains

will be seniors Sam O'Flynn and Olivia Stephens, and junior Mallory Hudak.

"All three of them have excellent leadership qualities," said Cunningham. "And Sam has taken over the role of ordering the clothes and making sure the leotards are set.

Hudak was the Chiefs' lone D2 state qualifier last season. "She's improved so much on

floor already, so I'm looking forward to seeing what she can do this season," said Cunningham. Sophomore Cathy Huang was one of the Chiefs' trio of high-

"She suffered an ankle injury early last year that nagged her most of the season," said Cunningham. "Even though she wasn't 100 percent, she was a

achieving freshmen last year.

The team's third returning super freshman is Kali Pierce. "She's improved a lot after working hard all summer," said

Regional qualifier."

The Chiefs' top juniors are Kylie Hakala and Katelyn Rutherford.

Sam Buford and Brittany Granowicz are promising sophomores while a quintet of freshmen - Marina Milad, Lauren Martin, Alex Hamric, Alison Butala and Leigh Collins - are expected to contribute immediately.

Cunningham is also counting on seniors Cathy Marion, Kate Carroll and Amanda Smith for points.

SALEM

Although three of the Rocks' top four performers from last year's squad graduated, hopes are high for the Rocks thanks to the one that returns - senior Katie Koetting. The four-year performer is not only the team's top all-around gymnast, she was also voted captain.

"Katie brings a lot of leadership to this team," said Salem coach Dana Driscoll. "She always works hard and sets a good example for everyone else. very hard," Driscoll concluded.

normally is at this time of the year, so I'm expecting another

great year out of Katie." The Rocks' top new-comer is freshman Nicole Jacobs, whose

future is bright, in Driscoll's estimation. "Nicole is a good all-around gymnast," said Driscoll. "She

has club experience and she has a positive personality." Salem's second senior captain is Jennifer Rice, who Driscoll labeled as "one of the hardest

workers in the gym. "She put in a lot of time this summer to get better, and it

shows." Junior Kasey Winczehowski is another top-notch all-

arounder. Another senior captain is Allison Reitzel, a four-year ath-

Driscoll also had high praise for seniors Katherine Negele, who excels on the uneven bars and in the floor exercise, and Chrissy Smudski, who shines on the vault and the beam.

"The girls have been working

Chief gymnasts vault over Vasser

Despite being short-handed, Canton's gymnastics team got off to a rousing start to its season by upending Vasser 132.45-113.60 Saturday at Vasser.

The Chiefs were competing without four girls who stayed home to participate in a choral

"Because we were shorthanded, a lot of new girls

- some freshmen and sophomores - got involved," said Canton coach John Cunningham. "While I wasn't immensely pleased with our score, it was a good meet and we got a couple of nines out of Robyn (Piwowar)."

Piwowar, a sophomore, placed first in the all-around with a 35.35. She also won the

uneven bars (8.3), the balance beam (9.5) and the floor exercise (9.1) while finishing third on the vault with an 8.45.

Canton junior Mallory Hudak captured the vault with an 8.7. Hudak was second in the all-around with a solid

Other Chief standouts included Miranda Milad (sec-

ond on the vault, 8.60, Lauren Martin (fourth on the floor and beam), Alex Hamric (second on the bars, 7.55) and Brittany Granowicz, who was fifth in the all-around.

Canton's "B" team also turned in a stellar effort in Vasser. Leigh Collins, Alison Butala, Kathy Marion and Sam O'Flynn led the way.

VISIT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

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

2009 FALL FESTIVAL CARNIVAL ATTRACTIONS

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

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: December 18, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

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

TRAIL/ PARK UTILITY VEHICLE

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

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: December 18, 2008

313.224.7772

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 18, chapter IV, Act 283 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended, seven or more freeholders have Petitioned the County of Wayne to absolutely abandon and discontinue:

All of that portion of the alley, 20 feet wide, as dedicated to the use of the public, abutting lots 821 through 852 and the Northerly portion of Lot 822, North of the Easterly extension of the South line of Lot 746 along the East line of said alley, also that portion abutting Lots 732 through 746 along the West line of said alley, inclusive, in MCINTYRE GARDENS SUBDIVISION NO. 1, lying South of Crescent Ave. (60 feet wide) and West of Morton-Taylor Rd., being a part of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 15, T.2 S., R.8 E., Canton Twp, Wayne Co., Michigan, recorded in Liber 61 of Plats on Page 74, Wayne County Records.

Therefore, it has been decided a Hearing be held on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2009 at, 2:30 p.m., at Wayne County Department of Public Services, 415 Clifford Street, 3rd Floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226, and that a Hearing Examiner of the County shall hold said hearing and obtain all necessary facts and information concerning the advisability of either granting or denying said Petition, and shall report all findings of fact to the Board of Wayne County Commissioners.

True copies of this notice are to be served, posted and published in accordance with the provisions of said Act No. 283 of 1909, as amended.

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES Real Estate, 3rd Floor Attention: Sandra M. Martin 415 Clifford Street Detroit, Michigan 48226

Ignition short-circuited by Wave

The Detroit Ignition dropped an 11-4 decision to the Milwaukee Wave Saturday night in the inaugural game of the Xtreme Soccer League.

Ignition forward Mike Apple scored the first goal in XSL history at 3:44 of the first quarter, a two-point score with an assist from defender Josh Rife. The Ignition held onto the lead until midfielder Marcelo Fontana put the Wave on the board with 12 seconds left in the half, tying the game at two-all.

Vahid Assadpour scored another two points for the Ignition under a minute into the third quarter, but Jacek Przednowek scored a hat trick to give the home team a 9-4 lead half-way through the

Nathan Sabich scored on Detroit's open net to bring the final score to 11-4.

The Ignition will open their home schedule on Saturday, Dec. 20 against the New Jersey Ironmen. Kick off is at 7:35 pm at Compuware Arena.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 18Canton Agape at Mt. Carmel, 7:30 p.m.
Livonia Stevenson at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 PCA at Franklin Road., 8 p.m. GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL Canton Agape at Mt. Carmel, 6 p.m.
Plymouth at Livonia Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19
Canton at Salem, 7 p.m.
PCA at Franklin Road, 6 p.m.

BOYS PREP HOCKEY Friday, Dec. 19 Plymouth at Salem at

Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 Canton at Detroit Country Day at Oak Park Arena, 2 p.m. GIRLS PREP HOCKEY Thursday, Dec. 18
PCS at Grosse Pointe South, 7:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING Saturday, Dec. 20 Canton at Woodhaven Invitational, 8 a.m. Plymouth at Ida Team

Tournament, TBA
BOYS SWIMMING Wildcat Swim Invitational at Salem pool, 6:30 p.m.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a Bid for Site-work at Bentley and Tonda Elementary Schools, East Middle School, Transportation Building, E.J. McClendon Educational Center, and Tanger Center. Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335 or (248) 427-8400; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; and the Builders Exchange, Lansing.

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at the East Middle School Construction Trailer located at 1042 S. Mill Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the bidding requirements, schedule, project scopes of work, and to answer any question that bidders may have. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. This Bid Package will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions:

> - 101:Earthwork / Site Utilities - 102:Asphalt Paving / Exterior Concrete - 143:Electrical - 148:Landscaping

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract. Bid securities may be in the form of a Bid Bond or Certified Check.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 1 original and 1 copy and the Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. Bids are due to the PCCS E.J McClendon Educational Center on or before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2008 where they will be opened and read publicly. These projects are to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school

Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Thomas Wysocki, Secretary

Publish: December 11 and 18, 2008

STIGUE BUSINGS

BUSINESS MILESTONES

Wii promotion

Citizens Bank announced a check card promotion where clients can win one of 50 Nintendo Wii gaming systems.

The promotion runs through Dec. 31. Citizens Bank's Plymouth branch is located at 186 S. Main.

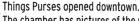
The promotion encourages clients to make at least 12 on-line or signaturebased Citizens Bank retail VISA Check Card purchases through Dec. 31. Clients who make at least 12 such purchases will be automatically

entered into a drawing to win a Wii valued at \$320. Official rules are available on www.citizensbanking.com/ wii. Winners will be drawn Jan. 9. Citizens Bank and F&M Bank (Citizens' affiliate in lowa) are sponsors of the promotion and will award 50 Wiis in total.

Grand openings The Plymouth Community Chamber

of Commerce helped cut ribbons on two businesses

Opening in Old Village was Blue Sky Insurance, while Vic's Mart, All



The chamber has pictures of the ribbon cuttings and information about the businesses on its Web site at http://plymouthmich.org/business_news.html Ice sculpture deadlines

The deadline for purchasing Plymouth Ice Spectacular sculptures has been extended to end of the month. To reserve an ice sculpture for this year's Plymouth Ice Spectacular, which runs Jan. 23-25, call (734) 459-6969 or download an application from their Web site at http://www. plymouthice.com/current_events/plymouth_ice/index.php **Business update**

- Kitchen & Bath Gallery by DeGiulio, a new kitchen and bath showroom, is expected to open in the space formerly occupied by the Discovery Shop on Ann Arbor Trail by the end of January. The gallery's Web site is www.degiulio.com Lynn's Corner Shop is closing, effective Dec. 31, and Cold
- Stone Creamery closed their doors late last month. ■ A candy shop is expected to open in the space formerly occupied by The Muse on the ground floor of the Mayflower
- Development on Main Street.



Plymouth photographer goes to dogs (and other pets)

Observer: Tell about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

Jill Andra Young: I am a full service photography studio. Portrait, commercial, industrial and families, with the pet portraits being my specialty. I also have added more retail products in the last few years, mostly dog related, like paw print purses and accessories. Plus I offer a full line of custom made photo merchandise, like mouse pads, key chains, dry erase boards, mugs and travel mugs all custom made with your dog on it. One of the other things we do is all of my photo merchandise I make, I can make it from your snapshots as well as the images from your sitting with me. So you can literally put any image on the things I offer, cars, kids, etc. Observer: What makes your business unique? Do you serve a

special niche? Jill Andra Young: The fact that I specialize in Pet Photography makes my business unique, there are not that many studios across the country that offer the type of work I do. I truly have a gift, I am fully trained as a commercial photographer, but that is only the technical part of what I do. I think we all have a gift for something special, and mine is a true love of animals and the ability to understand them and be able to work with them. I don't have any expectations of them, but I believe that they can participate in the photo sittings and that my gift is to capture their personality in that split second of stopped time that is photography. I also photograph many of the pets with the owners and the bond



Annie, who will be 14 on Christmas Eve and whose owner is Jill Andra Young of Jill Andra Young Photography, visits with Santa. Jill Andra Young special izes in pet photography.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?

Jill Andra Young: I had worked as a photography assistant and worked in a professional photo lab before I opened my studio in 1989. I opened as a pet photography studio and we niche marketed it to all the pet people, it was the beginning of the pet industry as we know it now. I guess it was the right time right place right niche.

Observer: How did you decide to locate in the Plymouth community?

Jill Andra Young: I lived in Plymouth and loved all the interesting shops and thought it was the perfect spot to open my business. I have been on Penniman in downtown since

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with readers about your experience as a small business owner?

Jill Andra Young: Photographing pets is a dream job, it combines my love of photography with

my love of animals. Most of the pets I photograph are dogs, they are so funny and cute. Dogs are so real, I have learned so much from dogs. Dogs don't put up a facade they are who they are all the time, it is a real joy at each sitting to get to know these lovely creature for an hour at a time. They are so eager to please even if they don't understand the concept of being photographed. They try to do all the commands we ask of them and some run and play between the shots, I try to make the sittings fun for the dogs. When you come to the studio for a dog sitting I lock the door and then I let the dogs off leash. Most owners are a little leery of this practice at first but it allows the dogs to explore the studio and then I start the photo session. I have many tricks to perk the dogs ears up and get them to tilt their heads, the sittings are quite fun and entertaining. Some dogs are real hams. I absolutely love

CHAMBER CHAT

ome 80 people turned out to hear the economic forecast at last week's chamber breakfast.

that people have with their

pets is overwhelming.

The Chamber would like to thank TDS Metrocom for sponsoring our most successful Good Morning Breakfast this



Bob Krupka, President, New Liberty Bank; Mark Savitskie, Allegro Home Loans; Patrick O'Neill,

our speakers

Morgan Stanley and Jim Schebil, President, Fox Hills Chrysler Jeep, for doing a

great job. While everyone acknowledged that 2009 will be a difficult year they felt the second half of the year would improve as the stimulus packages began to put more liquidity in the economy. Jim Schebil also felt that by 2010 the auto industry has many great new products being launched

and they will have readjusted their production levels to return to profitability.

A great gift to purchase for your staff, clients or friends are Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Gift Certificates. They can be purchased in any denomination and can be used at 73 local establishments.

These gift certificates are fantastic gifts because the person receiving the gift can get exactly what they choose and you will also be supporting the local economy by keeping dollars in the Plymouth Community.

There are no additional handling fees when purchasing these gift certificates.

Gift certificates can be picked up at the Chamber building at 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

When ordering more than five certificates, please call in advance at (734) 453-1540 in order for our staff to get them prepared.

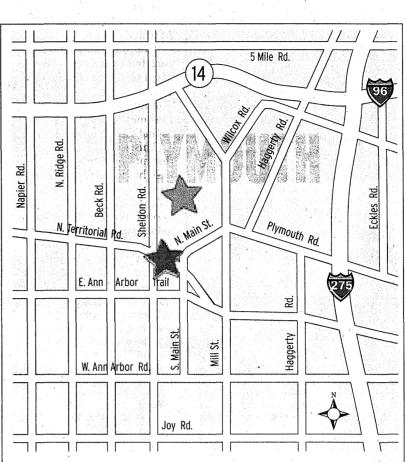
■ Plymouth Community Chamber night at the Piston's game is set for Friday, Dec. 19, at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Members can take advantage of special pricing when the Pistons play the Utah Jazz. Seats are discounted from \$40 to \$32 or lower level seats are discounted from \$65 to \$60.

what I do, and it shows!

Each chamber attendee will also receive a free duffle bag and they can take a shot on the court after the game. Chamber members will be seated together in specific sections.

If you are interested in attending please call Cassie Wilkinson of the Pistons at (248) 371-2030 or e-mail her at cwilkinson@ palacenet.com.

■ The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is seeking the donation of two computer monitors. One monitor is for use at our front desk and we are seeking a flat panel monitor to use for displaying information at events and in our office. If you have additional monitors and are interested in donating, please call the chamber at (734)



SEND IT

Get in on the new **Strictly Business** page of the Plymouth Observer by sending us your business news, promotions, events or milestones.

It's simple: Just e-mail all of the details to editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife. com and he'll take care of the rest.

Our new local business page runs each Thursday in your Plymouth Observer. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Dr. Douglas A. Miller recently received the Annual Alumni Award from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia Alumni Association. The award, presented since 1954, is given to an alumnus who has "been distinguished by having contributed in outstanding fashion to the professions, to science, and/or to mankind." Miller received his doctor of pharmacy degree from the university in 1976 and is a professor at Wayne State University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, where he teaches pharmacy practice and patient care. Miller is the recipient of several awards and honors, including the Pharmacist of the Year Award from the Michigan Pharmacists Association. He is a fellow of the American Pharmacists Association and on several occasions has been voted "Teacher of the Year" by pharmacy students at Wayne State. Miller resides in Plymouth.



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

Realtors focus on yule season, look to 2009

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

Local Realtors were glad to gather for some holiday revelry this month. Members of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors held their "Holiday Magic III" reception/fund-raiser Wednesday, Dec. 3, at the Toll Brothers Club House in Novi. Proceeds supported the Homes Coalition, started five-six years ago by a Realtor to benefit needy people.

"They've found homes for needy people," said Dale E. Smith, executive vice president for Farmington-based WWOCAR. "We concentrate on children. It's really a fantastic thing. There's so many people doing nice things."

The Homes Coalition helps to provides housing for people in our communities who are struggling with disabilities. They have helped numerous families over the years and will continue to do so with the help and support of various organizations, according to WWOCAR.

Incoming WWOCAR President, Gary J. Reggish of Remerica United Realty, was officially sworn in to serve as the 2009-10 president. Reggish has already been hard at work forming plans for the years to come to help with both the real estate industry as well as Michigan's economy.

Organizers of the gala gave a hearty thank you to Toll Brothers Inc., a local builder and long time member of WWOCAR, for donating the use of the Island Lakes Boat House to host this gala event, as well as Volare Ristorante of Wixom for providing tasty food and beverages.

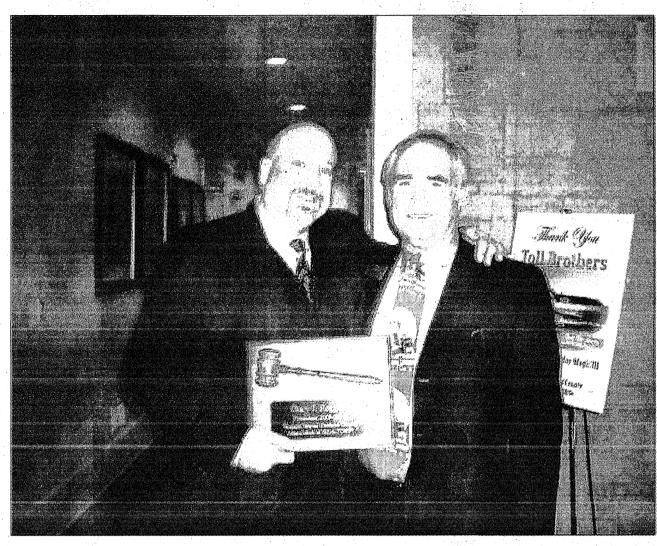
In the past year, WWOCAR has lost members and those who remain face tough times in their field. The association is focusing on basics, with so many efforts in Washington, D.C., to improve the housing situation.

"Everybody is in a flux," said Smith. "Everybody is working from day to

The Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors didn't hold a holiday party this month. That association, serving Oakland and Macomb counties, drew some 350 pros to its annual business meeting Nov. 12.

The speaker, Karel Murray, was excellent, said Walt Baczkowski Jr., MCAR'S CEO.

"It's all about getting the Realtors together and trying to keep on a positive," Baczkowski said. The focus is on helping customers.



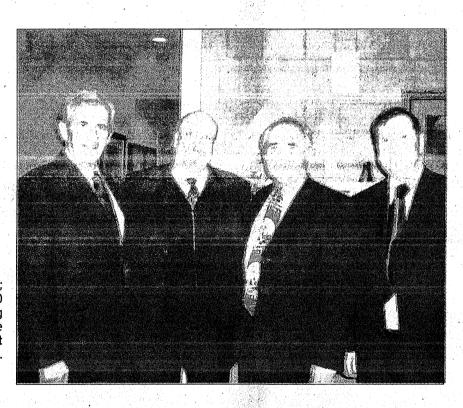
Gary Reggish (left), outgoing president, welcomes WWOCAR's incoming president, Gordon McCann.

"We needed some way to keep our members positive and moving forward," he said.

"Real estate does traditionally dip somewhat" this time of year. Baczkowski noted the mortgage market is good for those with decent

"It's an opportunity to get out there," he said. "There are so many properties. You're going to be able to get a great deal. It's just a superb time to be out there in the market."

> Paul Scott, installing officer (from left); Gary J. Reggish, installed as 2009-10 president; Gordon McCann, outgoing president; and Dale E. Smith, executive vice president of WWOCAR, share a chat at the holiday gathering.



BRIEFS

Serving MCAR

ball in his spare time.

Al Block, with RE/MAX First, was elected as director of Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors in November. MCAR supports Realtors across southeastern Michigan through real estate services, sales training, political representation, and more. He will begin his term in January 2009.

Block has been working in the real estate industry for more than 19 years and has extensive residential experience in foreclosure properties, lake/beach properties, condominiums and

luxury homes. He also has experience working with military and relocation clients, residential acreages and buyer brokerages. Block's is Quality Service Certified, an Accredited Buyer representative and a graduate of the Realtor Institute. He has also received several RE/MAX awards including: Hall of Fame, 2007 Executive

Club, and the 2005-06 100 percent Club. "Al has been an integral member of our team and is more than deserving of this position. We are so proud of him," said Sandra Gault, director of operations for RE/MAX First.

"Being awarded as the MCAR director is a great accomplishment. Al continues to raise the bar in real estate, making us and

this community proud." In addition to excelling in the real estate industry, Block actively supports Children's Miracle Network and Habitat for Humanity. He also enjoys hiking, camping, snow sports and soft-

These are the Observer & Eccentricarea residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 25-29, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County.

Listed below are cities, addresses,

a sales prices.	
Canton	
1055 Ashton Woods Dr Unit	1\$326,000
40689 Bluesprings Ct	\$290,000
716 Buchanan St	\$250,000
42008 Cherry Hill Rd	\$85,000
48047 E Oxford Ct	\$429,000
7615 Embassy Dr	\$236,000
48107 Hanford Rd.	\$155,000
837 Morning Dove Ct	\$231,000
6843 New Providence Way	\$104,000
Farmington	
23076 Hayden	\$121,000
Farmington Hill	ls
242422 (11112	4470.000

6843 New Providence Way	\$104,000
Farmington	
23076 Hayden	\$121,000
Farmington Hill	S
34863 Bunker Hill Dr	\$172,000
38362 Churchill Ln	\$155,000
34239 Commons Dr	\$385,000
24867 Creekside Dr	\$165,000
29897 Deer Run	\$327,000
29900 Deer Run Ct	\$338,000
31949 Farmersville Rd	\$162,000
28109 Farmington Rd	\$110,000
35190 Gary St	\$140,000
25031 Lyncastle St	\$215,000

HOMES SOLD 29612 Nova Woods Dr \$129,000 23027 Potomac Cir

17067 Carriage Way

19378 Malvern Ct

19143 Surrey Ln

48049 Four Seasons Blvd

Northville

\$345,000

\$288,000

\$225,000

\$102,000

ZSUZI FULUINAC CII	\$155,000	NOVI	
23241 Purdue Ave	\$139,000	22282 Chase Dr	\$470,000
30964 Ridgeway Dr	\$285,000	44512 Copland Ln	\$375,000
31972 Rocky Crst	\$140,000	41478 Cypress Way	\$185,000
22644 Shadowglen Dr	\$319,000	24948 Hadlock Dr	\$590,000
30811 Sudbury Ct	\$250,000	24584 Thatcher Dr	\$140,000
Garden Ci	ity	216 Wainwright St	\$150,000
31543 Alvin St	\$71,000	Plymouth	
31465 Bock St	\$140,000	41020 Micol Dr	\$125,000
6418 Golfview St	\$115,000	679 N Sheldon Rd	\$178,000
Livonia		51355 Plymouth Valley Dr	\$445,000
14083 Ellen Dr	\$160,000	Redford	
9632 Farmington Rd	\$133,000	26317 Clarita	\$106,000
19620 Flamingo Blvd	\$155,000	9572 Inkster Rd	\$52,000
33101 Hampshire Rd	\$248,000	11353 Leverne	\$81,000
28780 Minton Ct	\$150,000	18773 Macarthur	\$103,000
15525 Norwich St	\$248,000	15066 Salem	\$100,000
18005 Ventura Ct	\$235,000	26806 Wadsworth	\$110,000
19451 Westmore St	\$124,000	South Lyon	
Milford		825 Brick Ln	\$162,000
333 Crystal St	\$143,000	24023 Lyon Ridge Dr	\$61,000
2395 Haven Trl	\$209,000	58256 McCormick Ct	\$65,000
940 Manderly Dr	\$260,000	Westland	
582 Napa Valley Dr	\$75,000	31012 Beechnut St	\$124,000
935 S Duck Lake Rd	\$75,000	8063 Bristol St	\$76,000
3958 S Milford Rd	\$85,000	159 Fischer Dr	\$185,000

7705 Lear Ct

631 N Wildwood St

34617 Sansburn St

2341 Treadwell St

866 Summerfield Dr

39446 Village Run Dr

\$234,000

\$129,000

\$38,000

\$86,000

\$125,000

\$65,000

Salaries generally privileged information

Q: I live in a large condo project and we have a property manager and office staff. As a co-owner am I entitled to know the salaries of each employee as opposed to a gross amount of salaries listed on the budget?

A: That is a difficult question because salary information may be deemed confidential and privileged under the nature of employer/employee relations. Therefore, it may be understandable that the



Robert Meisner

reluctant to provide you with that information. Whether or not a judge would order it is another question. Generally

speaking,

board is

salary and employee information is deemed privileged.

Q: One of our board members decided to personally speak to one of the co-owners about a code violation and bylaw violation and has been met with a civil rights complaint. How can we avoid this type of situation?

A: Each board should have a bylaw enforcement policy which they have implemented which makes it clear that individual directors or officers will not get involved in direct confrontations with co-owners. That is why you hire a professional management company and/or an attorney. There are a myriad of reasons why getting directly involved with a co-owner with a bylaw infraction could be deleterious to the best interests of the association including safety, civil rights violations and a disagreement as to what was discussed and no record to support it. The best advice is to sit down with your association attorney and work out a bylaw enforcement policy which keeps the board members out of direct confrontation.

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.



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DFCU Financial	(800) 739-2770	4.75	2.25	4.375	2.25	J/Á
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	5.25	0	4.875	0	JWF
Gold Star Mortgage	(800) 784-1074	5.125	0	5	0	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991 9922	5.125	0	5	. 0	J/A/V/F
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Michigan United Mortgage	(810) 844-2222	5	0.375	4.875	0.375	J/A
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Northlawn Financial	(248) 988-8488	5	0	4.875	0	J/A/V/F
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Above Information available as of 12/12/08 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.rmcreport.com. Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders.

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wndws, open flr plan, hwd t/o, updated kit & DR w/ doorwall to deck, Ig pvt yard, part fin bsmt. 248-347-3050 MLS #28195123





remod kitchen, fin bsmt, LR & DR w/columns & crown molding, fresh paint, 3 car garage. 248-347-3050 MLS# 28182439



3 BR Ranch w/ HW firs in all bdrms & under carpet in LR. Oak cabinet kit. FP in FR. nice deck in fenced backvard. Home warranty. MLS# 28190263



bar, deck w/payer patio, c/a, ext, use of recess, lights. fin. II w/rec. rm., 2 car att, garage. MLS# 28193037 248-347-3050



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bath. Partially fin bsmt. 1 yr home warranty. MLS # 28191582 734-453-6800



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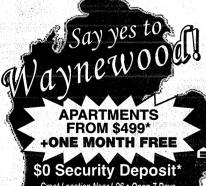
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REAL-ESTATE at it's best! at it's best!

Westland VENOY PINES APTS. **Rent Starting** at \$499

• 1 & 2 bdrm apts. with fireplace.

(734) 261-7394 Westland-LIVONIA SCHOOLS 1 & 2 bdrm, 2 baths. Washer & dryer. Private entrance & balcony (734) 459-1711 EHO

Ypsilanti - Reduced Rent Plus \$99 Sec Dep* Section 8 Welcome 734-434-0576 EHO

*Some restrictions apply

4010

CANTON A country setting furnished 1 bdrm, non-smok ing, incl. util., heat, & cable. \$700/mo. + 1st. mo. & sec. dep. No pets. Avail Now. 734-495-3000, 734-644-3104

Condos/Townhouses 4020

BELLEVILLE-\$100 of 1st 3 mo 2 bdrm, 2 bath, appli, laundr rm, 1st floor, sec entrance. \$800/mo, (734) 788-8440

BIRMINGHAM - DOWNTOWN 2 bdrm townhouse, 1.5 bath hardwood floors, a/c, bsmt washer/dryer. No pets, non-smoking. \$1100/mo. 248-901-0425

CANTON 2 bdrm Condo, 3 baths, garage, central air, pool. 1500 sq. ft. \$1090. 734-717-7808

CANTON, Haggerty/Palmer Rd area. 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 800 sq. ft. condo. All appliances incl washer & dryer, doorwall to private patio. Window treat ments & vertical blinds, \$525 248-425-4853. See pics:

www.bekamanagement.com FARMINGTON HILLS 2 bdrm wooded view. Pool, patio, al appliances, a/c. \$825/mo. incl eat + water. 248-539-0534

LIVONIA Gorgeous 2 bdrm updated condo, w/2 full baths Open floor plan. Great neigh borhood. Furnished option w/Pottery Barn \$975/mo or negotiable 734-466-4276

..805 E. Maple, Birmingham

..36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia

.8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

Observer & Eccentric

Classified HOMETOWN / B.com

4 easy ways to place your ad: PHONE.4...... 1-800-579-SELL (7355) ... 734-953-2232

Deadlines: Sunday edition 4:30 p.m. Friday Thursday editio

Offices and Hours:

Eccentric office.

Observer office ...

heat. No dogs. 734-455-2635 PLYMOUTH 1 bdrm duplex,

in a 4 unit bldg., appliances, c/a \$595/mo, plus sec.

PLYMOUTH 1 Bdrm: \$607/mo \$300 Sec Dep 1st Month Free

Private entry/patio Full size laundry room w/ washer/dryer hook-ups. ingle story, attic storage (734) 459-6640 EHO

LIMITED

Contact Lauren or Jamie at 🚊 **Academy West Point**





ONLINE...... www.hometownlife.com EMAIL oeads@hometownlife.com

washer/dryer, \$595/mo. Canton 1 bdrm, \$575/mo., heat incl. Lease. 734-455-0391

PLYMOUTH 1 bdrm, in a 4 unit his

(231) 392-6373

All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 36251, Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 591-0900. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer and Eccentric Newspaper sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The basis. (FH Doc., 124983 3-31-12) Classified aos may be piaced according to the deadnines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) their first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III.- Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

TIME OFFER

FREE HOMES Security Deposit equal to one month's rent

888-268-7434



Even in these trying times, we still have the best prices!

<u>Carriage</u>

Parkcrest Designed with Apts. ROOMATES in MIND!

Westland

Livonia Across from Meijers
Schools 522 20 777 (734) 522-3013

specials today!

Livonia

Livonia S Schools S

<u>House</u>

Wilderness 2 Bdrms, 1000 sq. ft. CARPORTS/POOL

Garden City Luna Move-In Specials! Apts. Near Westland mall

Plymouth

Move-In

Specials!

CENTRAL AIR

Corner of Haggerty & Joy

(734) 425-0930

(734) 425-5731 Take advantage of one of these great

WASHER & DRYER

inside unit

SPACIOUS!!

Village

HUGE Bathrooms Apts. Bordering Westland (734) 425-0930

(734) 425-0930

734-451-521C

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Best possible6 Cleaned house
- 11 Many August kids
- 13 Ballpark event 14 Neighbor of KY 15 Well output
- 16 Groovy 17 Pharaoh's god 18 Pixie
- 20 Tips one's hat
- 22 Bro's sibling 23 Muddy up
- 25 Quilting social 26 Fix potatoes
- 27 Half-moon tide 29 December
- 31 Woof 33 Snowmobile part 34 Kind of card
- 37 Party-tray cheese
- 40 Fox's abode 41 Familiar digit

- 43 Pillow cove
- 56 Mysterious 58 Herd follower 59 Verse
- DOWN 1 Wall climbers 2 Arness role

45 Venomous

48 Yes, to Rob Roy 49 Polynesian

plant 50 Hotel freebie

51 Arapaho foe

53 That man

54 Hardened

snake 46 Quarks' homes

- 911 destination
- 4 Historian's word 5 Burglar's "key"
- 6 Sauna sites 7 eBay milieu
- 8 Type size 9 Vanish forever
- 10 Foolish talk
- 12 Neatnik oppo-
- 13 Volunteers 19 Hamlet's oath 21 Smattering 22 Took a break 24 Coat of paint 26 Damsels

A R G O D A R E

Answer to Previous Puzzle

HAUNTALS

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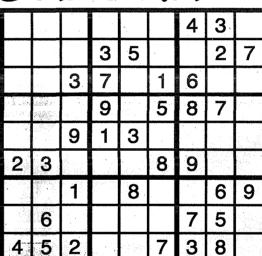
I D A P O D

12-6 © 2007 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

- 28 Waterlily leaf 30 Be very frugal 32 Damaged by
- 34 Gambling den
- 35 Jag 36 Overly 38 I knew it!
- 39 Rowdiness 40 Caesar's tongue 42 Big birds
- 44 Is introduced 46 Zipped through 47 Ladder rung 50 Keogh relative 52 Kind of system

55 Uh cousin

57 Scale note



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 snarpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

PARALLEL

BELL

DWELL

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!

Level: Beginne

HOTEL PASTEL EXCEL JAIL CELL **SMELL FAREWELL** NUTSHELL YELL

GAZELLE

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

THESE WORDS IN THE PUZ

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



Flats

Homes For Rent

lomes For Rent

Observer & Eccentric HOMETOWN/ile.com

4020 Condos/Townhouses

LYON TWP \$499* per mo. 2 Bedroom, 1.5 baths, Immediate Occupancy Call 248-290-5300 ext 306 *First 3 months

SOUTHFIELD All new! 2 bdrm. bath ranch condo. Carport, c/a, appliances, pool, 1300 sq. ft. \$1099/mo. 248-346-6108. TROY - Northfield Hills 2 hedroom, 1.5 bath condo yr. lease. 248-745-5815 \$1000/mo.

WESTLAND CONDO 1 bdrm loft, washer/dryer in unit, \$650/mo. + dep, incl heat & water. (734) 658-9267

Duplexes

CANTON 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, move-in mid December, 1741 Elmhurst \$900/mo. + security deposit. (734) 455-1215.

LIVONIA - 2 bdrm. fireplace, all appli-ances, bsmt, fenced yard. \$775/mo. 231-392-6373

Observer & Eccentric Classifieds Just a guick call away..... 1-800-579-SELL@

LIVONIA 2 bdrm, w/bsmt, 1 car garage, fenced, yard, appli ances, no pets, non-smoker,

PLYMOUTH TWP-FREE HEAT! Roomy upper studio flat, includes attached garage. Pets welcome, \$595, 248-735-5464

4050

4040

Homes For Rent

BIRMINGHAM 2 bdrm, bath, garage. Avail. end of December. \$925/mo + utili-ties. Call: 248-417-3544

CANTON 4 bdrm., 2010 sq. ft., 2 1/2 bath, fireplace, 2 car attached garage, appliances, \$1450/mo. 248-344-8999 ties. 313-929-8595

CANTON 41004 Westfield Circle. 2000 sq. ft., 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car attached garage, family rm & fireplace. Avail... now! \$1795/mo

Avail. now! \$1795/mo. Showing Wed. & Sun. at 4pm. 734-444-5212, 313-920-5966 CANTON Executive Home RENT WITH OPTION

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY Large, newer built, open floor plan features 4 bdrms; loft overlooking 2 story family room w/ fireplace. Master bdrm suite w/ full bath includ-ing Jacuzzi. 1st floor laundry Large island kitchen Formal dining room & living room Full finished basement. Backs to nature preserve. \$1700/mo. CALL DAN MULLAN Re/Max Classic 248-348-3000 Cell: 313-300-0462

CANTON Remodeled 1100 sq ft, 2 bdrm bungalow. Water all annliances & outside maint incl. \$795/mo. 734-776-2222

4050

DETROIT Telegraph & Plymouth. 2-3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, a/c, finished bsmt, all appliances, 2 car, fenced. \$895 + sec. + utili-

FARMINGTON HILLS - 21603 Roosevelt Ave. 2 bdrm, new carpet, avail now, 1st & last mo rent, \$750, 248-684-1713 FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm,

2 baths, new carpet & paint, bsmt, a/c, deck, no pets. Must See! \$875/mo. 248-214-7857

FREE RENT TIL FEBRUARY! 3 bedroom / 2 bathroom Home **\$729** Includes washer/dryer & central air HURRY WON'T LAST Call Sun Homes College Park Estates APPLY ONLINE www.4collegepark.com some restrictions apply

Homes For Rent

GARDEN CITY 3 bdrm. brick ranch, bsmt, garage, \$900; bdrm ranch, garage, \$700 opt. 248-788-1823

HOMES FOR RENT Located In Canton Starting at \$699/mo

Sharp 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath homes from 924 sq. ft. Appliances included. Pets welcome.

No rent until February 1 on select homes \$199 Moves You In! **Call Lauren at**

Sun Homes

888-264-5842 vww.academywestpoint.com *Offer expires 12/31/08

INKSTER - Sharp 3 bdrm brick ranch, bsmt, 2 car garage, dining room, option, bad cred-it okay, \$650. (248) 788-1823



Homes For Rent

LIVONIA

2700sq.ft. 1+ acre, 3 bdrm, 3 baths, 3 fireplaces, attach

gar. Avail. Dec 1. \$1300/mo. 248-486-4157

Observer & Eccentric Classifieds

LIVONIA 3 Bdrm, 2 LIVONIA 3 Bdrm, 2 full baths, hardwood floors, new kitchen, 2 car garage, fenced

2 car garage, fenced

\$1250/mo. (248) 442-9769

PLYMOUTH - 1250 sq. ft

Clean 2 bdrm, library, utility room, carpeted, \$825/mo +

security. Call: (734) 453-2032

PLYMOUTH CITY - Charming

2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt, deck, 2.5 garage. Walk to town.

\$1095 + util. (734) 453-8153

Plymouth Lg. dining rm, living rm, bsmt, 2 bdrm, 2

norch lo lot near nark no

pets. \$800/mo. 734-453-7962

REDFORD - Remodeled 3

bdrm, finished bsmt, garage, option, bad credit okay, \$800. Call: (248) 788-1823

Just a quick

call away.....

1-800-579-SELL



LIVONIA Beautiful 3 bdrm 1500 sq ft. Ranc w/master bdrm suite. \$1395 www.birdsallproperties.cor 248-943-2963

LIVONIA Stevenson High School. Beautiful 3 bdrm ranch w/neutral decore, 1 ½ baths, 3 season sunroom, hardwood floors throughout, full bsmt loads of storage. \$1400/mo. or for other rentals call:
Linda Magar (734) 673-3434 Century 21 Row

LIVONIA - 2 bdrm, appli ances, fireplace, garage, large yard, no pets, \$850/mo + sec. Call: 734-425-7355

LIVONIA - Small 3 bdrm, bath, section 8 okay, nea Stevenson High School \$725/mo. 734-788-5640

A word to the wise when looking for a great deal check the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

lomes For Rent



SOUTHFIELD- Section 8 OK 3-4 bdrm, non-furnished \$975-1100 Newly renovated excellent condition, new appli ances, no pets. 248-521-7581

TROY FREE 2nd Month! House newly Month! House newly updated 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage, appliances, family bsmt, A/C, appliances, family rm. w/fireplace. \$1295/mo. 248-640-1611

WARREN - Remodeled 3 bdrm brick ranch, fin bsmt, 2 car deck, option to buy/LC, bac credit ok, \$750. 248-788-1823 WAYNE - 4611 GLORIA

3 bdrm., 1.5 bath, 2.5 cal garage, fenced, newly remodled Avail immed \$795/mo. Showing Wed. & Sun. 5pm. 734-444-5212, 313-920-5966 WAYNE - 3 bdrm ranch, new

vinyl windows & furnace, 2 car garage, option/LC avail, bad credit ok, \$800. 248-788-1823 WESTLAND - 3 bdrm ranch, 2 car garage, freshly painted, C/A, newer carpet, \$895 or

WESTLAND 2 bdrm duplex. New paint, hardwood floors small court, near schools, exc landlord. \$600. 313-418-9905

less. Call: (734) 837-7355

4050

Mobile Home Rentals **FARMINGTON HILLS**

MOBILE MANOR
1-2-3 Bedrooms, appliances, no pets, from \$350/mo. 8
Mile & Merriman area. (248) 477-2080

4110 Resort/Rentals

BONITA BEACH, FL CONDO Gulf front, 2 bdrm, 2 bath. See www.VRBO.com #47376 \$3500/mo. 248-224-1580.



Rooms For Rent 4140

NORTHVII LE or PLYMOUTH Downtown. 1st week with full deposit. Furnished sleeping rooms. Newly decorated. \$85 weekly. Security deposit. 734-355-6453, 248-305-9944

QUALITY SUITES Low weekly rates. Livonia 734-261-6800

REAL-ESTATE at it's best! Observer & Accentric

Observer & Eccentric

HOMETOWN *ise*

1640

Rooms For Rent

SUNRISE STUDIOS \$159/wk Brand NEW A/C Rooms TV/Phone / HRO/CARLE LOW RATES 734-427-1300

Livonia TRIPLE A DELUXE MOTEL

A/C. Jacuzzi in rooms, maid service, HBO. Low daily/wkly rates. 734-427-1300 Sunrise Inn Royal Inn

248-544-1575 248-347-9999 Fairlane Comfort Suites 248-504-5080

Office/Retail Space For 4220 Rent/Lease

GARDEN CITY - Single room offices from \$150 & office suites from \$575. Utilities incl, 1st & 2nd floor. Ford & Middlebelt. (734) 422-1195

WESTLAND - Dental clinic for lease-operating rooms, private office, lab, receptionist area, employee's dining area & large waiting area. All operating rooms fully plumbed 1st 2 months free rent. Call Mon-Fri, 9-5pm. (313) 561-1212

4230

Commercial/Industrial For Rent/Lease

DOWNTOWN NORTHVILLE Prime location on Main St avail for lease. 2800 sq ft, full bsmt, C/A, excellent parking, front & rear entrances. Great opportunity! \$2,875/month. Call Jim at 734-416-1201





FINISH CARPENTER Crowns, Doors, Oak Railings NO JOB TOO SMALL!

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Brick, Block & Cement (0290 ALL BLOCK, BRICK WORK Concrete + Foundations

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(0690)

COMPLETE DRYWALL SERV. Plaster repair, All jobs wel-comed! Lic/Ins. Free est. 26 yrs. exp. Mark 313-363-6738

Drywall • DRYWALL FINISHING •

TEXTURES • PATCHWORK • Free Est.- Reasonable Prices John: 734-740-4072 Handyman M/F (1020)

Complete Service Handyman Any size job. Licensed & Insured. 734-453-9818 or 734-259-9326

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SMALL OR LARGE JOBS Quick Response Time Free Estimates Tim Shelton: 248-721-5094

A-1 HAULING Move scrap metal, clean base ments, garages, stores, etc. Lowest prices in town. Quick service. Free est. Wayne/

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Hauling/Clean Up

1020

Clean-up/Hauling Service Cheapest Prices! Garages bsmts, attics, free estimate www.lacoureservices.com

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Local Events

Online

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Landscaping

1030

COMPLETE LANDSCAPING BY LACOURE SERVICES Spring clean-ups, landscap ing, grading, sodding, hydro-seeding, all types retaining walls, brick walks & patios. Drainage & lawn irrigation systems, low foundations systems, low foundations built up. Weekly lawn mainte-nance. Haul away unwanted items. Comm. Res. 35 years exp. Lic & Ins. Free Est.

1210

www.lacoureservices.com 248-489-5955, 248-521-8818

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• PAINTING BY MICHAEL • HIGHEST QUALITY Interior • Staining • Textured Ceilings • Faux Finish • Plaster/ Drywall Repair • Wallpaper Removal • Senior Rates • Holiday Rates • Free Est • 248-349-7499 734-464-8147

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Roofing **APEX ROOFING**

1420

Quality work completed with pride. Family owned: Lic. Ins. For honesty & integrity: 248-476-6984; 248-855-7223 **LEAK SPECIALIST** Flashings Valleys, Chimneys, etc. Warr. Member BBB. 30 yrs. exp. Lic / Ins. Call: (248) 827-3233 LEAK SPECIALIST Flashings

Valleys, Chimneys, etc. Warr. Member BBB. 30 yrs. exp. Lic / Ins. Call: (248) 827-3233 Call to place your ad a 1-800-579-SELL(7355

Classifieds!



Res. & Comm. - Lic. & Ins

Gall Anytime, 248-478-2602



740 (0) 22 7 7 7 3 (0)

(7110)

Observer & Eccentric

Miniature Pinschers-AKC

6 wks. old, female & male,



Personals

PRAYER Pray 9 hail Marys for 9 days. On the 9th day make 3 wishes & publish this prayer Your wishes will be granted.M

i am offering airport trans-portation to/from Detroit Metro Airport, I have competitive rates. If you need to



7000

6000 **Absolutely Free KITTENS**

6400 Transportation/Travel You pick up. (734) 453-2032

go to the airport, call or email me: 248-752-6768



1 calico and 4 tiger colored, looking for good homes. Please call: (248) 348-3776 PLAYER PIANO FRAME ONLY W/ harp cords. Werner Piano Company. Perfect for art piece!

Antiques/Collectibles 7020 ANNUAL ANTIQUE

15%-30% OFF Nov. 13 th-Dec. 31st. \$100 Gift Cerficate Drawing Town & Country Antique, 31630 Plymouth, Livonia (behind East Side Mario's) 734-425-4344

Over 10,000 listings online







7060

We all join in saying Thank You For Your Continued Friendship and Trust

Auction Sales

Wishing all a Blessed Holiday Season

Joe Carli and Family

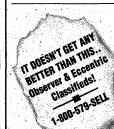
734-451-7444 icauctionservices.com



7100 Estate Sales

"Holiday Greetings"

JC Auction Services



ANOTHER ESTATE SALE

BY IRIS

Dec. 19-20, 10-4pm. 5056 Mirror Lake Court W. Bloomfield, 48323 Off Pontiac Trail, 1 1/4 mile N.' of Orchard Lake to Hil

Point Wood Cliff Sub Enter and go to address. "Fabulous Estate Sale!" Baker, Labarge, Heritage, & Henredon furniture in perfect condition Dining table w/6 Chippen dale chairs & breakfront Gorgeous sofas 8 chairs . Several orienta type area rugs • Lots of framed art • 2 bronze large whippet dogs Baker chest & chairs

Silver tea set . Decorato

accessories • Full exer

cise room w/the bes

stuff! • Great outdoor fur-niture • Jewelry & watch-es! • COLLECTORS DREAM!- New & antique

auto parts, new & old tools, tons of locksmith equip., machines & keys collectible toys, & col ctibles galore.
IRIS KAUFMAN 248-626-6335

248-240-3269

Appraisers & Liquidators for 45 Yrs in

Metro Area.

Garage Sales

7100

FARMINGTON HILLS Estate Sale Beautiful breakfront. sideboard, dining room table w/leaves & 6 chairs, 3 chan daliers, safe, silver & sterling, vintage clothes, jewelry, & cool stuff. Fri.-Sat., 10-4pm. 30205 Summit Dr., Apt. 101 Off Northerwestern btwn. 13 & 14 Mile Rds

across from Buddy's Pizza. TONS OF FURNITURE, Items & gowns. Everything in storage must go! This SAT. 12/20, 10am - 1pm. 28423 Orchard Lake Rd, Farmington Hills 48334 (NW 12 Mile) glass

block building-front.

Moving Sales 7130 **BLOWOUT SALE BY** BMI

Sunday, December 21 10am-4pm. 1471 Treyborne Cir., Commerce 48390. Just arrived - new toys in boxes, art, crystal, housewares, fab menswear, Silver Nissan Maxima, 8700 loaded. Details www.estatesales.net

248-225-9556

FARMINGTON HILLS - Buffet

Lg dresser w/ mirror. Antique

secretary cabinet, Ethan Aller

table, 4 chairs, tools, clothes

Pro Compound Bow & arrows, case, brand new, also bear compound bow, 4 shotguns,

cases, etc. Call: 248 477-6353

7200 Bargain Buys Early American Furniture 17 yrs., living rm, dining rm

SOFA Claytor Marcus. Standard size, beige Exc. condition - like new! \$500 or best. 248-673-6615.

Firewood-Merchandise 7440

7160 **Household Goods**

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE (Like New) Computer hutch \$135; Large L shape table unit \$125; desk \$100; futon with exc. futon mattress \$135; 2 bookcase \$50/ea; 1 table w/drawers Oak china cabinet \$50. 248-661-3383 JUKEBOX

MATTRESS - \$150 New gueen pillow-top mattress, can deliver. 734-444-7277

SOFA & TABLE Large navy blue sectional sofa, good cond., you haul, \$250. Metal dinette set w/glass top & 4 chairs, \$30. 734-697-6029.

bdrm set, sofa bed & casua exc cond. Westland 734-837-1803

FIREWOOD Mixed wood, \$75 delivered within 10 miles. Beyond, extra cost. Call: (248) 477-6353

7500

GOODS Treadmill \$100. JAG Dvds Autoharp \$50. 734-459-8914.

1988, 496 Rockola. 200 play, restored near mint. \$700 or best offer. 734-788-1626 REFRIGERATOR,

Oak Table & 8 chairs, ladies Riedell Skates (new), size 7. 313-561-5018, 313-563-1541 7830 Cats KITTENS

9 wks. old, needs loving life-long home, female, black, with

some tan. (248) 660-6604

Siamese Stray Needs permanent home quiet, NEVER gets on counters/ tables, affectionate, very sweet, neutered, no front clawst likes to go out just to sit in the sum. Male 8-10 yrs old, healthy: 734-776-2802

7840 Dogs **GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS**

AKC/OSA Top lines US, shots

dews, wormed, guaranteed chip, breeder, 248-624-3443

Sell it all with

Observer & Eccentric

1-800-579-SELL

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SCHNAUZERS (MINI)

AKC puppies, non shedding, beautiful. 989-738-6734, 989-738-5006 SHIH TZU AKC PUPS Assorted colors, many solids

\$400+ 248.636.5133 ost - Pets

7930 FOUND CAT - Young, fully matured male. Found in area of Walton & Stacey on 12/15/08 Call: (734) 664-0667

FOUND DOG Large male, Chow Mix found on Burwick, at Plymouth Rd in Livonia.

Found Sun., Dec. 7. Call 734

18+, advancement oppty. Call Today (248) 426-4405 Anartment Manager Looking for Couple to manage 72 units in Plymouth, Salary

& apartment. 248-581-1980

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

We offer a clean building, equipment, exc. pay, 401K medical & ownership oppor-tunity. 734-454-4300 Driver 55 New Driver **Trainees Needed** In Michigan!

5000

PT/FT Openings \$17.25 base-appt. We train, great for resume, conditions apply, must be

AUTO MECHANIC

Learn to drive for Swift Transportation!

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Been Downsized? Plant Closed? Unemployed? Need a Paycheck,

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Tow Truck Driver for Detroit based co. No evenings wkends or road service Commission. 313-934-0539 HAIR STYLIST

Call Today (248) 426-4405 "It's All About Results Observer & Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL

great for students/others

EVENT PLANNER

Tech society in Farmington Hills seeks self-starter (begin mid-Jan 2009) to assist with annual conference, and to plan and manage seminars, workshops, and meetings. Enthusiastic candidate must be highly-organized, detail oriented and capable of managing multiple projects simul taneously. Excellent written/ verbal communication skills a must. College graduate with a degree in hospitality management, public relations or a related field. Previous event

experience a plus.

When seeking

deal check out

& Eccentric Classifieds!

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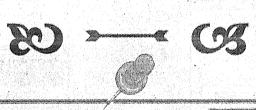
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Flex Already Has Proven Right Ford For The Times

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss



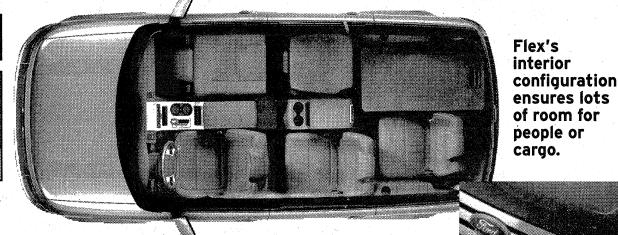
Give the product designers at Ford Motor Co. some credit: When they conceived the new Flex SUV a few years ago, there's no way they could have known the mess of an automotive market that was going to welcome their new vehicle in the summer of 2008. Nobody in the world had forecast a combination of \$4-a-gallon gasoline and the beginnings of a global depression. So they did well to do some really good things

with Flex. Its provocative flat-topped design is one. So are some useful interior innovations including a robust second-row refrigerator and a way of reducing the chances of pant-leg soilage when you get into and out of the vehicle. In many ways, Flex reflects a dramatic rethinking of the SUV category, and Ford deserves kudos for stepping out with it the way that it did. But the best thing of all to befall Flex is

probably a factor that remains beyond the control of anyone at Ford or in the auto industry: Gasoline prices have fallen just as dramatically as they went up during the second quarter. If \$4-a-gallon gasoline had persisted to these days, the large and iconoclastic Flex might have been forgotten before it had a chance to prove itself.

However, with gasoline prices now having plunged to five-year lows – and the prospect that a weak economy likely will keep them down for many months if not some years to come -- comes the possibility that Flex could continue to develop a following.

That's because, while its fuel economy tops out at 24 mpg like the competing Buick Enclave and other new General Motors crossovers, Flex's city mileage of 17 to 19 mpg is a real drawback. It's just not as much of a drawback when gasoline is only one-third the price that it was when Ford



introduced Flex in June.

Stick with the powerplant for a minute. The Flex "crossover wagon" is a large vehicle, a sevenpassenger minivan alternative that also can carry a load of cargo. So Ford had to make sure that its reliable, 3.5-liter, V6 engine and its new vehicle were a good match.

And Ford's engineers did that very capably: The engine generates 262 horsepower and 248 poundfeet of torque. Coupled with a six-speed automatic transmission, Flex's engine does a more than adequate job of powering the vehicle, providing plenty of burst in steady juice in a variety of situations.

Flex also comes in front- or all-wheel drive. The SEL version I drove is all-wheel-drive. And the vehicle did very well in coping with the early December snow-and-ice conditions of metro Detroit. I could always count on sure-footedness with the Flex while others around me were spinning

Another huge plus for Flex is interior room. Somehow, the designers managed to present an exterior profile that is very streamlined, probably because of how dead-flat the roof is. And yet when you open a door to the vehicle, up-and-down space isn't a problem at all. There's very ample headroom. In fact, even in the third row of seats, which are raised "stadium-style," headroom isn't a problem.

There's also the fact that Flex's rocker panels are integrated into the doors. "It's smart engineering that makes getting into and out of the vehicle a lot simpler," said Kate Pearce, Flex's marketing manager. "There's a lot less space that you have to

One thing is for sure: Ford's Flex will never be mistaken for another vehicle!

cross over to get into the car. It keeps your pants legs clean."

Which brings us to the most distinctive aspect of Flex: its exterior design. It represents a new take on a venerable concept that looks incredibly fresh in today's curvaceous marketplace - and is turning plenty of heads all on its own.

"Everyone understands without our having to say a word," said Jim Farley, Ford's executive vice president of marketing and communications. "It speaks for itself."

Most consumers either love it or hate it. But that's exactly the way Ford wants it, because at least the company can count on potential Flex buyers being passionate about the design..

We'd rather have 100,000 people passionately loving it than 10 million people being vaguely aware and bored," said Phil Cowdell, head of the Ford account at Team Detroit, an ad-agency coalition headquartered in Dearborn, Mich., Ford's hometown. "At least, we're trying to provoke that sort of reaction and polarization, which is not very





Ford



Observer Eccentric

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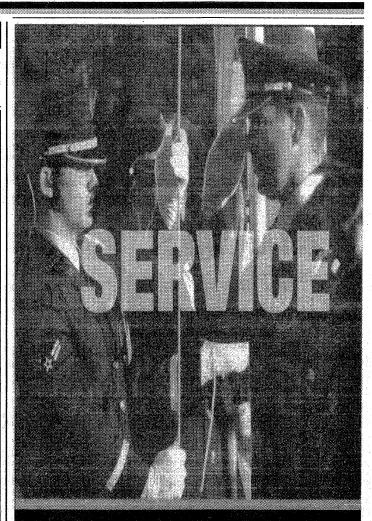
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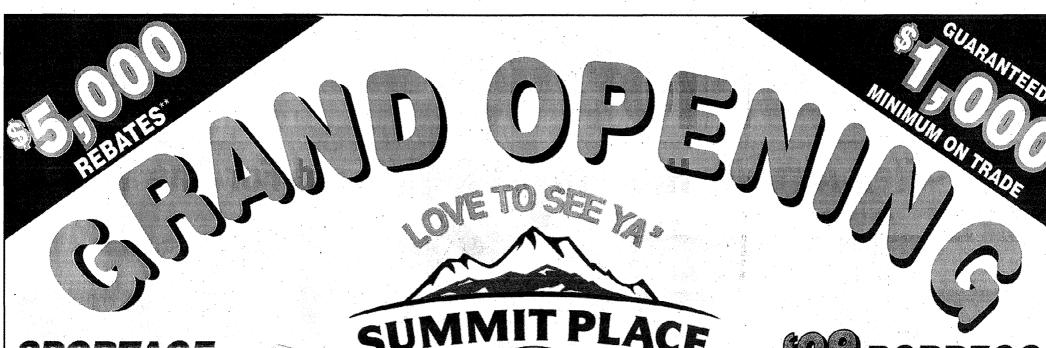
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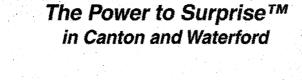
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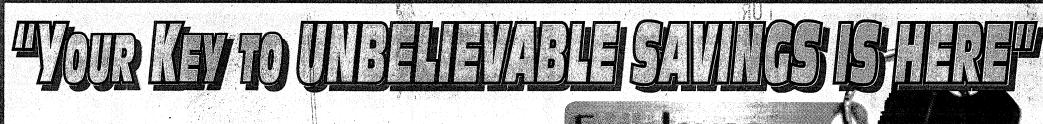
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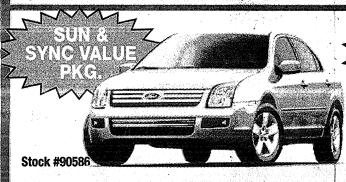


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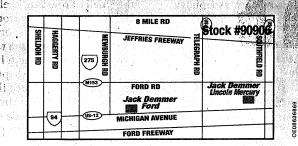
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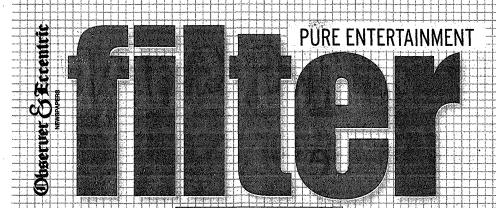
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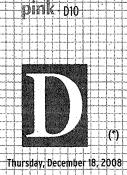
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Check out our picks for this weekend's entertainment.





The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

A Christmas movie

In theaters or at home, holiday films lift your spirits

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

I jumped the Red Ryder BB gun this year and decorated my Christmas tree on Thanksgiving night. Maybe I felt like the act of doing so would spread some holiday cheer that much sooner — when we all seem to desperately need it. But now that temperatures have plummeted and I've scraped the first snow from my car windows, it's time to check the size of the Grinch's heart, hear the Who's harmonizing, and hope that ornament won't tip over

Charlie Brown's bare little tree. Holiday movies are more than a common thread among us. They're a link to the wonder of childhood, a collective symbol of simpler times. When Mickey Mouse stands in Bob Cratchit's shoes, I imagine myself in single-digit years, sporting footie pajamas, and waiting intently for the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future in the glow of the T.V. and twinkling lights. When Ralphie's forced to wear a pink bunny suit, I remember recounting all the lines of A Christmas Story with my sisters. I still make time, after the festivities wind down late on Christmas Eve, to watch It's a Wonderful Life from start to finish in black and white.

In honor of all the these holiday film traditions, FILTER has compiled a list of annual must-see mov-

FOR LAUGHS

Home for the Holidays (1995) - Holly Hunter embodies every uncomfortable situation that might arise on a trip home to see the family. Get out your puffy coat and get ready for some great grin-and-bearit moments.

Home Alone (1990) - Every time someone pulls into the driveway of the McCallister's home, they knock over a metal statue. It always makes me laugh. The film endures because every bit of it feels like Christmas - every song, every red and green accent, scenes in snow and at church. It's chock full of holiday goodness.

National Lampoon's Christmas
Vacation (1989) — From the endless
strings of white lights coating the Griswold's home to the demise of one cat and one toupee, this is a Chevy Chase holiday favorite.

Please see MOVIES, D5

night's visit

tion known

Nights. And

yes, what they

the historical

like stepping

back in time.

The sold-out

event ensured

visitors of all ages would fill the

as Holiday

say is true.

to Greenfield

Village for the

annual celebra-



"A Christmas Story" shares many a cautionary tale.



Debra Messing stars in Overture Pictures' recent release "Nothing Like the Holidays," now in theaters.

GOING TO THE MOVIES

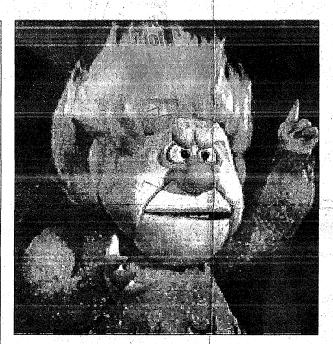
If you're headed out to the theater this season, here are some films – new and old – sure to get you in the holiday spirit:

Nothing Like The Holidays (2008): The Rodriguez family is converging in Chicago for a week of family upheavals and holiday traditions. John Leguizamo, Freddy Rodriguez and Debra Messing star. Rated PG-13 in theaters now.

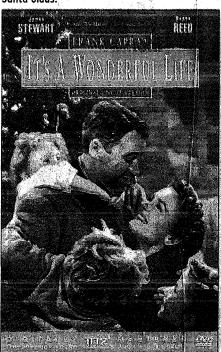
Four Christmases (2008): See what happens when Kate's and Brad's exotic vacation getaway devolves into a familycentric holiday with four hectic stops, each threatening to change their relationship more. Seth Gordon directs and Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon star. Rated PG-13 in

Polar Express (2004): Tom Hanks gives voice to multiple roles in this magical train ride. Rated G. See it 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec, 19-21; 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 or 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 20-21 at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. Tickets \$3. Call (734) 453-0870. Hitch a ride in IMAX by catching this film at The Henry Ford IMAX Theater, showtimes vary through Jan. 4, 2009; visit www.thehenryford.org. Tickets \$8.25-\$10. The Henry Ford is at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Call (313) 271-1570.

White Christmas (1954): You can't go wrong with a musical tribute to snowfall at a quaint Vermont Inn. See it at 8 p.m. Dec. 19-20 or 2 p.m. Dec. 20, at The Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, Detroit. Tickets \$4. Visit redfordtheatre.com.



The Heat Miser gets steamed over Christmas in a "Year Without a



'lt's a Wonderful Life" starring James Stewart, is a holiday classic.

Greenfield Village brings back its joyful 'Nights'

y warmest scarf still smells like burning embers. It's a sort



Noise Patrol

Stephanie Casola

snow-covered streets, dodging the occasional horse-drawn carriage or Model T.

We'd barely made it onto Main Street, three friends and me, before couples in period costume, called Mummers. sauntered by wishing us a Merry Christmas. And soon the smell of roasting beef, being carved directly from a spit, filled the air. Visitors had already queued up for a taste, Wandering into bread-in-hand. Though I regret the decision now, we kept on village does feel moving, wandered past the carousel and the fur-trimmed coats of carolers outside of Town Hall. We couldn't pass

Please see NIGHTS, D8

HOLIDAY NIGHTS

When: 6:30-10 p.m. Friday-Tuesday, Dec. 19-23, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28 Where: Greenfield Village, 20900 Oakwood Blvd.,

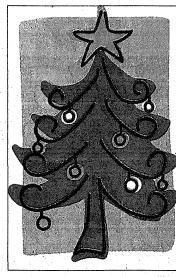
Dearborn Tickets: \$12.75-\$17, call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.thehenryford.com. Event may sell out.

What Else: Plan ahead to enjoy holiday dinner at the Eagle Tavern. Seatings are at 5 p.m. or 8 p.m. and range from \$64.50 to \$68.50, call (313) 982-6001.



Wander the lantern-lit, greens-draped streets during Holiday Nights at

Greenfield Village.



Holiday Happenings

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,

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-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 Blyd, in Dearborn. Visit www.thehenryford.com. With Music

Trans-Siberian Orchestra: Talk about uplifting and reinventing holiday songs. Catch one of these two shows on Dec. 21, at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Call (248) 645-6666.

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

Home for The Holidays: Thomas Wilkins conducts holiday songs and spreads cheer, Dec. 18-21, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitsymphony.com On Film

Penn Theatre: Polar Express is showing at 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 19-21, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 and 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Decar 20-21, at 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. Tickets \$3, call (734) 453-0870.

Redford Theatre: Sing your heart out to White Christmas, 8 p.m. Dec. 19-20 and 2 p.m. Dec. 20, at 17360 Lahser, Detroit; tickets \$4. Visit www. redfordtheatre.com.

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

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

On Stage **Clowny Christmas:**

Director Rob Papineau brings A Christmas Carol, as adapted by Doris Baizley, to life through the antics of a clown trio; show times 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 21, at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6302 or visit www.trinityhouse.org. Home for the Holidays: Join

the DSO's holiday sing-along and stirring annual show, 8 p.m. Dec. 18; 8:30 p.m. Dec. 19-

Please see HAPPENINGS, D8

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 18, 2008



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPH



Professional pastry chef offers holiday recipe for elegant dish

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

Ken Kozma knows times are tough for everyone.

But that doesn't change the way he makes his desserts: his quality ingredients remain the same even though the prices on the pastries were lowered.

Kozma is the pastry chef at Papa Joe's gourmet markets in Rochester and Birmingham and as a holiday gift to the public he offered a recipe:

Caramelized Apples with Eggnog Sabayon.

The dish is one that would impress even the most elite food connoisseurs and, like many great sweets, the ingredients don't overwhelm each other: apples, brown sugar, cinnamon, vanilla, yolks, sugar, nutmeg and rum.

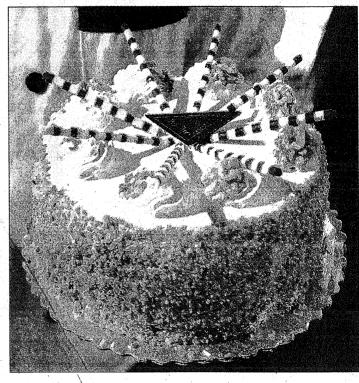
For Kozma, pastries are his life. He and his wife, who are a team at Papa Joe's, constantly experiment with new dishes to entice customers. The ingredients he uses often depends on what's in season.

"If we have too many mangos in the store, I just may make a mango mousse," Kozma said. "The owners of this store have never once asked me to skimp on quality. Never once."

That freedom is why Kozma is allowed so much experimentation and why the bakery counter at the market is packed with so many pastries: from the mango mousse to a coconut mousse in a cup; flourless chocolate cake; carrot cake with chantilly cream or a Mignon Torte, for example.

He also delights in family recipes.

"The fun part of this job is when customers come to us with their grandmother's recipe and tell me that Grandma Mary is too tired to make her



If creating an elegant dessert is too difficult. Papa Joe's is specializing in affordable, yet interesting desserts such as layered Carrot Cake of cream cheese filling decorated with Chantilly cream, white chocolate shavings, cinnamon and praline crunchies.

apple pie," Kozma said. "So they ask me to make it for her. "I love to do that, to see those home recipes."

CARAMELIZED APPLES WITH EGGNOG SABAYON

For the apples:
6 Granny Smith Apples, peel, core, and slice approximately 4-inch thick
2 tablespoons of butter
4 cup brown sugar

½ teaspoon cinnamon 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Melt butter in skillet over medium heat, add apples and cook stirring occasionally for 4 to 5 minutes, add brown sugar, cinnamon and vanilla and continue to cook until tender. Transfer apples to shallow oven proof serving dish.

Eggnog Sabayon

6 egg yolks

½ cup sugar

2 tablespoons of either, bourbon, rum, or brandy

¼ teaspoon nutmeg

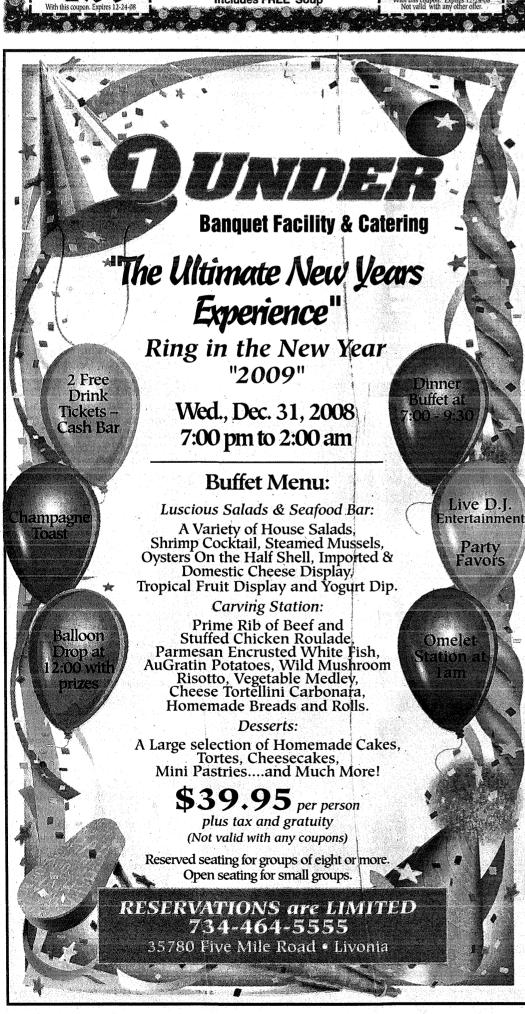
Combine yolks, sugar, and liquor in a heat proof bowl, and place over a pan of simmering water.

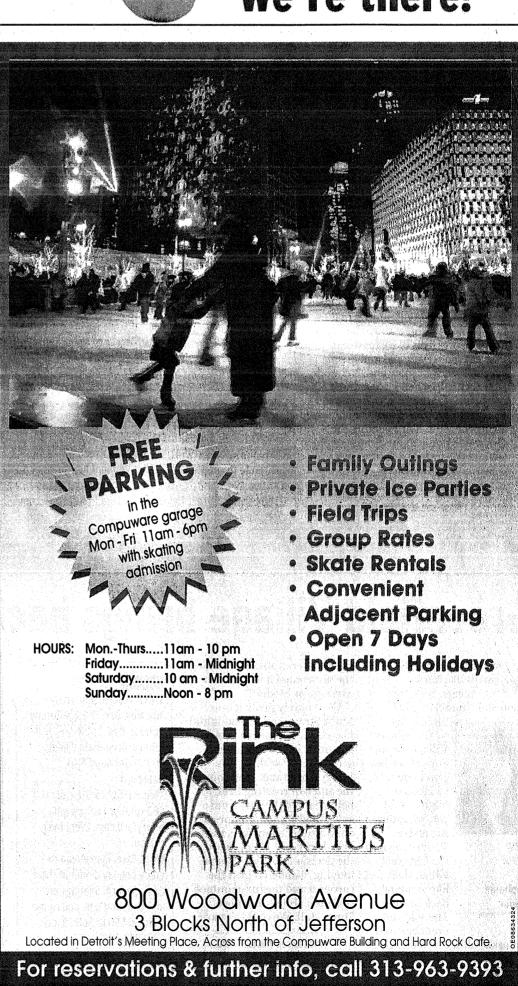
Stir constantly with a wire whip until mixture is light in color and thick.

Pour sauce over apples, sprinkle top with nutmeg. Place apples in pre-heated broiler just until sauce starts to brown one to two minutes.











FILTER

Master Baker Darcy Martin and general manager John Gallis at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in Troy gearing up for the busiest season.

Grand Traverse Pie Company offers more than pie

Think of the popular Grand Traverse Pie Company and what comes to mind?

The Caramel Apple Crumb topped with pecans and drizzled caramel? Or perhaps the sugar-free Splenda Cherry pie, Leelanau Raspberry Apple Crumb, Mocha Cream, Pecan Chocolate Chip and award-winning pumpkin pie.

Pie, pie, pie.

But unknown to many, the company that opened 12 years ago in Traverse City now has 16 franchise locations including Troy, Plymouth, Ann Arbor and Sterling Heights. And it's serving breakfast, lunch and dinner items: pot pies, quiche, salads, sandwiches, soups, muffins and

A weekday afternoon, the Troy location is packed with business people on lunch break and holiday shoppers warming their bodies with thick soups and hot beverages. Kids munch on PB&J and quiches.

Breakfast items include

sandwiches, bagels and cinnamon rolls. There's a large salad and sandwich list including: Mediterranean Veggie which is roasted red pepper, red onion, cucumber, tomato, feta cheese, salt and pepper, romaine and spring mix plus roasted red pepper hummus on freshly baked focaccia bread. Also popular is the Grand Traverse Club with oven-roasted turkey, cherry wood-smoked bacon, Swiss, tomato, romaine and spring mix, salt and pepper, on sourdough with pesto mayo.

In honor of Traverse City and its connection to cherries, the house dressing at Grand Traverse Pie Company is appropriately Berry Cherry Vinaigrette. One interesting salad is Strawberry Fields: romaine and spring mix, fresh apple, Mandarin oranges, fresh strawberries, red onion, toasted pecans and Parmesan cheese. And of course, after lunch, get

a piece of pie. – Lana Mini



The Grand Traverse Pie Co. also serves lunch.

Easy cookie recipes for the holidays

Here is our last installment of the Easy Holiday Cookie recipe request. We received so many responses and thank everyone who submitted recipes to share with

Happy Holidays!

the community.

SCOTTISH SHORTBREAD

by Kathleen McCarroll's from Auto-Com Associates of Bloomfield Hills

2 cups flour

½ cup fine sugar ½ cup rice flour

½ cup cornstarch

½ pound butter, room temperature

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix until crumbly with pastry

Pat into 9- by 13-inch pan. Bake 25-30 minutes or until just barely brown.

CHOCOLATE CHIP BARS

by Kathleen McCarroll

21/2 cups unsifted flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon salt 1 cup soft butter

¾ cup brown sugar 3/4 cup granulated sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 eggs

12 ounces chocolate chips 1 cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix flour, soda and salt in a small bowl.

In mixer, combine sugars, butter and vanilla until creamy. Beat in eggs, then gradually add

into a well-greased 15- by 10- by 1-inch pan. Bake 20-25 minutes. Cool and

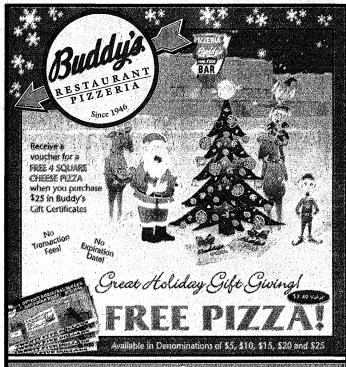
cut into squares.

Stir in chips and nuts. Spread



Express

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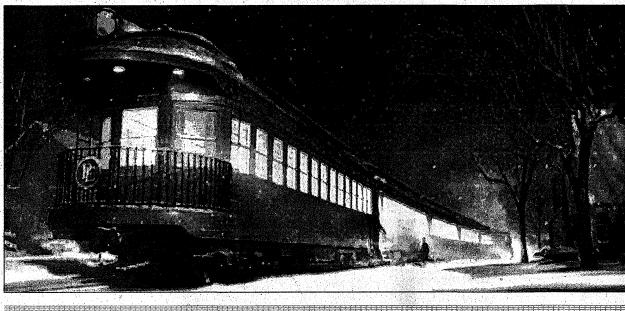
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Pure Picks

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA

0&E STAFF WRITER

Filtering your pre-holiday entertainment picks beginning Thursday, Dec. 18:

Come *Home for the Holidays* with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, as Thomas Wilkins conducts

the symphony for a mix of holiday classics, contemporary carols and music from across the globe, at 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. today at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711

Wilkins

Woodward, Detroit Tickets \$24-\$62, call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.detroitsymphony.com.

Hitch a ride on the *Polar Express* at 7 or 9 p.m. today. It's the final installment in the Penn Theater's holiday features for the month of December. Tickets are \$3 and the Penn is at 760 Penniman, in Plymouth. Call (734) 453-0870.

The Farmington Players take on the trials and tribulations of George Bailey, and his angel second-class named Clarence in a stage rendition of the Frank Capra classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*. This is the last chance to catch the



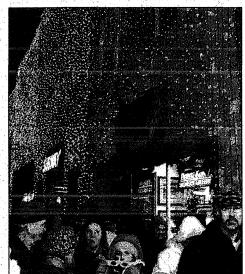
The Farmington Players prove "It's a Wonderful Life."

show, directed by John Boufford, at 8 p.m. The barn theater is at 32332 W. 12 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Tickets \$13-\$15, call (248) 553-2955 or visit www.farmington-players.org.

Meadow Brook Theatre wraps up its annual Scrooge-tastic classic, *A Christmas Carol*, with two final shows, at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. today at the theater, on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Tickets \$32-\$34, call (248) 377-0300 or visit www. mbtheatre.com.

Downtown Rochester sparkles under more than 500,000 lights along Main Street for its annual Big, Bright Light Show. The free event, going on now, will draw more than 1 million visitors into the New Year. Take a stroll or slow drive and expect to be wowed.

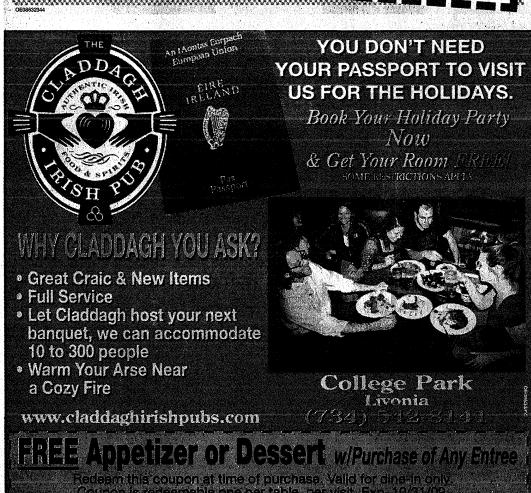
scasola@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2567



JOHN STORMZAND | O&E STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Main Street in Rochester is decked out during "Big, Bright Lights."







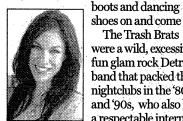


A photo from the early days of the Trash Brats, from left, Toni Romeo, Ricky Rat, Brian O'Blivion and T.T. Barr.

Detroit's wild glam band The Trash Brats reunites

am so excited for the Trash Brats reunion show Tuesday, Dec. 23, at Small's Bar in Hamtramck.

Forget the pre-holiday preparation. Forget that it's a Tuesday. Put your go-go



The Trash Brats were a wild, excessive, fun glam rock Detroit band that packed the nightclubs in the '80s and '90s, who also held a respectable international following.

shoes on and come out.

In 13 years they released five full-length albums, compilations, videos and singles.

Trash Brats shows were legendary. Like many musicians that challenge the mainstream — like Iggy Pop or the New York Dolls — things happened there that aren't fit for newspaper print. But if you're a Detroit music fan over 30, chances are you were there or had friends who begged you to come.

Even if you're under 30, you may have been there 10 years ago. Historically, under age teens find ways to sneak into nightclubs to see worthy bands.

But hey, we've all grown up and what remains is some timeless music.

Hear it at myspace.com/trashbrats. If you're a fan of rock, garage, glam and some glitter get your ticket soon.

I spent years jumping around the dance floor with the Trash Brats at popular night spots like St. Andrew's

TRASH BRATS

bardetroit com

Brats' shows.

What: Trash Brats concert Genre: Glam/punk When: 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23 Where: Small's, 10339 Conant Street, Hamtramck, (313) 873-1117

Tickets: \$10 buy now at www.smalls-

Hall, Lili's, The Ritz and Paycheck's. The crowd was upbeat and varied with fans - both male and female — dressed in pink fishnets, faux leopard fur jackets, sequined police hats or top hats, striped tights, patent leather and tons of black eyeliner. Fans included other Detroit musicians who would often play their own shows at other venues earlier in the evening and then rush over to catch the

See live video on You Tube, keyword search "Trash Brats."

The lineup for this show includes Trash Brats original members including Ricky Rat on guitar, vocalist Brian O'Blivion, bass player Toni Romeo and drummer T.T. (Troy) Barr.

The members are still playing serious music today: Rat has toured the world with bands such as Kevin K and is in reputable bands such as Bootsey X & The Lovemasters and Car City Callgirls. O'Blivion has a solo music career where he performs Americana music and is a prolific singer/songwriter; Romeo is in the critically-acclaimed, largely celebrated, hard-rocking Easy Action. Barr, who left Michigan for the quieter state of Iowa, hones his musician chops in his church band.

The songs are fun with lyrics often about Detroit (3873 Marlboro Street), love (Little Me in You), sex (Smut) and life disillusion (If I Was God). Those four are also my favorites.

The band performs original music except the occasional cover of perhaps Iggy Pop, Kiss, Jayne County or Jim Carroll.

I asked Rat a few questions recently about the reunion: Why the reunion now?

Now seems to be about a good of a time as any. Mike (the owner) of Small's had been wanting to do the show for some time and finally we all felt that the time was right.

How long have you been toying with the idea? It's kinda of funny, within a year of

us breaking up (2002) we had people and clubs asking about a reunion! They didn't even let the blood dry up just yet.

I myself had been thinking on and off for the past year that it would be fun to do a show with the boys again.

When was the last time you played and where? Last show was in December 2002 at

Don Hill's in NYC. We decided to call it a day while sitting in our van in front of a club in Boston the night prior. It was BEYOND time to let it go.

Songs that you will play that night: Everything from Brats history? Or music made when Troy was in the band?

All of the hits for fans of all ages! We are working with a list of 30+ songs. If we don't watch it we will end up doing a Bruce Springsteen-Stones show-length

Will we see the Brats on stage like the old days? The glam clothes in drag? (O'Blivion in a corset, Rat's ratted up hair, Romeo with pink hair and Barr dripping in eyeliner.)

I think it would be a bit silly seeing grown men in their 40s in some of those outfits, huh?! I mean it was silly enough when we were in our 20s...

No worries though, we will still be plenty flashy and 100 percent rock and

To someone who didn't see any of your shows but are curious, what can you tell them to expect?

They can expect to see a FUN rock and roll show - the way that it's meant to be. More then ever, shows have become way too boring with no excitement whatsoever as well as crappy songs. You will not get that at a Trash Brats show!

Is this show a one-time thing?

It was supposed to be, but now it's looking like we may be doing a New Year's Eve show in Indianapolis with our old friends Sloppy Seconds; and a few offers here and there. So, who knows what will happen!? Nothing full-time though that's for sure! But hey if some promoter in Europe or the US wants to do us right — we're there!

(Rat performs Europe often with

CAN'T MISS CLASSICS

White Christmas (1954) - Blame this pick on my college roommate. She used it to convince me that I liked musicals after all. Thanks Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney, for the unbelievably catchy songs. Viewers can count on singing Irving Berlin's Sisters for days.

Miracle on 34th Street (1947) — Just accept it, Edmund Gwenn is Kriss Kringle. No question in my mind. Pen your letters to Santa and watch a young Natalie Wood become a believer.

REPEATS FOR A REASON

A Christmas Story (1983) — This comedy runs continuously on TBS. If you've ever feared a mall Santa or dared to stick your tongue on a frozen light pole, well, it's

required viewing.

It's a Wonderful Life (1946) — The quintessential holiday classic, it's hard to imagine Dec. 24 without Jimmy Stewart, Zoo Zoo's petals and Clarence's wings.

CHILDHOOD-APPROVED

The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993) — Leave it to Tim Burton to give us something sweet as candy canes that's relevant from Halloween through the New Year. See Christmastown through the eyes of Jack Skellington.

Mickey's Christmas Carol (1984) — Scrooge McDuck spends a sleepless night re-living Christmas to learn there are those less fortunate who truly understand the spirit of giving. It may be animated but, for me, this story evokes the same emotions in any format. Sorry George C.

The Year Without a Santa Claus (1974) Rankin and Bass are the grand-daddy's of stop-motion Christmas magic and

- while I've loved many of those cartoons — in my household this holiday fare that reigned supreme. When Santa threatens to take a year off, Mrs. Claus steps in to save the day. Heat Miser and Snow Miser might well be my most-beloved Christmasinspired characters.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966) — He might be a "mean one" but Boris Karloff's take on our favorite grumpy green Christmas thief never grows old. I return to Whoville at least once a year, hoping I'll get to carve the Roast Beast.

Like Heat Miser, Stephanie Angelyn Casola never wants to see a day that's under 60 degrees. She's bundling up and writing about entertainment and pop culture for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and can be reached at (248) 901-2567 or scasola@hometownlife.com.

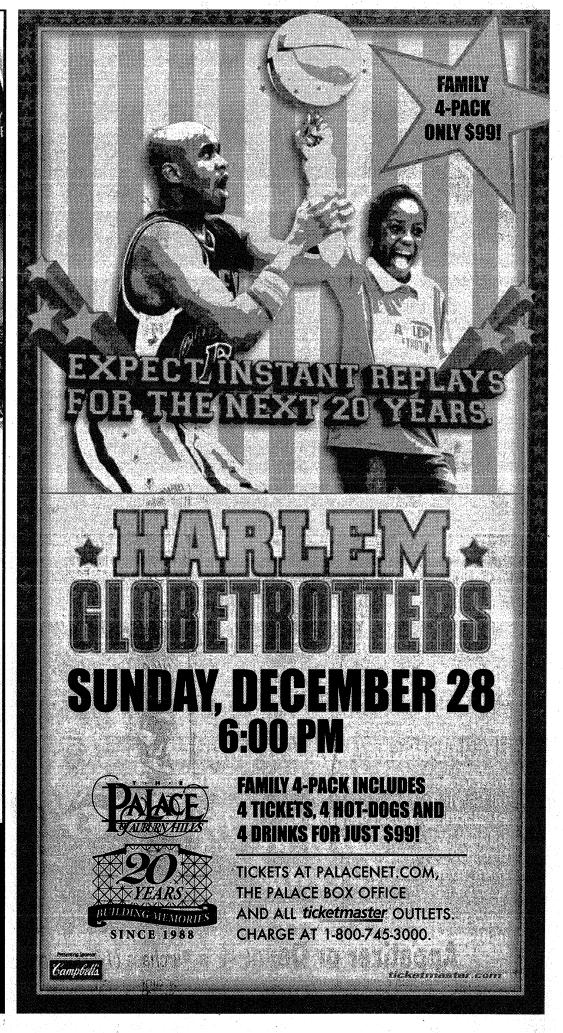


"O little town

Explore a small town that shares a special name and spirit — of the holiday season.







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.artlead-

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: 226 Walnut, Rochester. (248) 651-3656

CPOP: 4160 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9901, www.cpop.com

Detroit Artist Market: Art for the Holidays, through Dec. 21, 4719 Woodward, Detroit D&M Art Studio: Bob Ross-style painting classes, 1-5 p.m. one Sunday per month; free fine art portfolio assessments for college bound students, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453 -3710, www.dmartstudio.com Farmington City Gallery: Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile. (248) 473-1856.

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

Gallery@VT: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater, www.wsg-art.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) 554-0590, www.habatat.com. Janice Charach Gallery: Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (238) 432-5448. Lawrence Street Gallery: Little Things Mean A Lot! Competition, through Dec. 24, 22620

Woodward, Ferndale (248) 544-0394, www. lawrencestreetgallerv.com.

Livonia Arts Commission: Fine Arts Gallery, second floor; Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, (734) 466-2490; Livonia Arts Commissioners, Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, (734) 466-2540. Lotus Arts Gallery: Artists Charles H. Pabst, Thomas Arvid and Sergio Furnari (a life-sized version of the Lunchtime on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusartsgallery.com.

works by Kaiser Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak John Gargano, Susan Beiner and many others, 530 Hilton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www.nextstepstudio.com. Northville Art House: 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-

Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass

0497, www.northvillearts.org. Oakland University Art Gallery: at 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, (248) 370-3005.

Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Holiday Objects Up and Down, through Jan. 3, 2009, 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.

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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. Susanne Hilberry Gallery: 700 Livernois,

Ferndale (248) 541-4700, www.susannehilberrygallery.com. Tangent Gallery: 715 E. Milwaukee St., Detroit. (313) 877-4377, www.tangentgallery.com

The Community House: 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com Visual Arts Association of Livonia: Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Dr., (248) 348-

BOOKS/LITERATURE

(734) 668-7652.

Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council and Center: 2121 Midvale, Birmingham, (248) Borders Ann Arbor: 612 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor.

Borders Dearborn: 5601 Mercury Dr., Dearborn, (313) 271-4441.
Borders Farmington Hills: 30995 Orchard Lake Road, (248) 737.0110. Borders Novi: 43075 Crescent Blvd., (248)

Barnes & Noble Royal Oak: 500 S. Main, Royal

Campus Martius: Saturday Book Club, Campus Martius, next to the Compuware Building, Detroit. http://www2.wsupress.wavne. edu/news.php/

Westland Public Library: 6123 Central City Parkway, (734) 326-6123.

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CHAMBER

Atzinger, April 4, 2009; Charlie Gabriel Quartet with Vocalist Joan Bow, May 2, 2009; 28611 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 788-9338, www.vivaceseries.org. Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings: "Fun and. Games," 3 p.m. Feb. 22, 2009, Birmingham Unitarian Church and 4 p.m. March 1, 2009, Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Detroit: 'String Sundae," 3 p.m. March 29, 2009. Birmingham Unitarian Church and 3 p.m. April 5, 2009, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church; "Schubert and Spice," 3 p.m. April 26, 2009, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Final Concert, 8 p.m June 20, 2009, Seligman Center, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org. Hagopian World of Rugs: Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings presents "Nightnotes," 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 9, 2009, Jan. 30, 2009, March 13, 2009 and May 8, 2009, (248) 559 2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org. Seligman Performing Arts Center: Denyce Graves, mezzo-soprano, Jan. 24, 2009; ATOS Trio, Feb. 7. 2009; Garrick Ohlsson, piano, March 21, 2009; Guarneri String Quartet, April 11, 2009; Pacifica Quartet with Erik Ronmark, saxophone, April 18, 2009; Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio with the Miami String Quartet, May 16, 2009; Yefim Bronfman, piano, May 30, 2009. All concerts 8 p.m.

Birmingham Temple: Pianist Christopher

www.ComeHearCMSD.org. CHORAL BeckRidge Chorale: 45700 Six Mile, Northville,

www.beckridgechorale.org or call (734) Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts: 350 Madison, Detroit. (313) 887-8500, www.

Saturdays, Tickets, \$25-\$75, 22305 West 13

Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 855-6070 or visit

musichall.org. Farmington Community Chorus: Seligman Performing Arts Center of Detroit Country Day High School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, at Lahser, in Beverly Hills, (248) 669-4146. Farmington Hills Youth Choir: Wexford Hall, Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills, (248) 473-1859.

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

ttrenney@comcast.net. Plymouth Oratorio Society: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth, (734) 455-8353. Rackham Choir: "An Affair To Remember," Feb. 14. 2009, Club Venetian, Madison Heights: "Dear Mrs. Parks" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, March 6-8, 2009. Orchestra Hall, Detroit; "The Armed Man: A Concert for Peace" with original film, April 5, 2009, Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Dearborn, www.rackhamchoir.org.

CLASSICAL

Orchestra Canton: "Mozart's Birthday Bash," 8 p.m. Jan. 24, 2009, Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5460.

Chamber Music at the Scarab Club: Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee Ave., Detroit, (248) 474-8930, www.scarabclub. org/chambermusic.

Chamber Music Society of Detroit: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 855-6070, www. ComeHearCMSD.org.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Max M. Fisher Music Center, box office at 3711 Woodward, www.detroitsymphony.com, (313) 576-



Fox Theatre: Andrew Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. May 19, 2009;

Max M. Fisher Music Center: Home for the Holidays, Dec. 18-20; Marvin Hamlisch, Jan 22-24, 2009; All You Need is Love, Feb. 12-15, 2009; Pops Goes Las Vegas, March 19-22, 2009; The Music of Billy Joel, April 16-19, 2009: A John Williams Adventure, March 14-17 2009 3711 Woodward Detroit (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitsymphony.com.

Plymouth Symphony Orchestra: "Mendelssohn, Marimba & More," 8 p.m. Feb. 7, 2009; "Fanfare for Freedom," 8 p.m. March 14, 2009, all at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville; "Pops at the Penn, Home for the Holidays," 7 p.m. Dec. 18; Benefit Concert of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, 8 p.m. April 24, 2009, Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 451-2112, www.plymouthsymphony.

Schoolcraft College: Pianist Anton Nel, Feb. 13, 2009; Avalon String Quartet, March 20, 2009; Cellist Robert de Maine, May 15, 2009; \$10, students, \$20 adults, Presentation Room in the VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, (734) 462-4403. **CLUBS**

The Ark: 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. www.theark.

Bachelor's One: 1967 Cass Lake Rd., Keego Harbor (248) 682-2295. The Belmont: 10215 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck

Berkley Front: 3087 12 Mile, (248) 547-3331. Bosco: NoWax nights at 7 p.m. every Wednesday, no cover, 21 and over only, 22930 Woodward in Ferndale, www.thebosco.com, (248) 541-8818 Bullfrog Bar: 15414 Telegraph, Redford, (313) 533-4477, www.bullfrogrocks.com. Callahan's: 2105 South Blvd., Auburn Hills, (248) 858-9508, www.atcallahans.com.

Crofoot Ballroom: 1 South Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 858-9333, www.thecrofoot.com Corktown Tavern: Home for the Holidaze with Gretchen Wolff, Patrick O'Brien, Jeremiah Hess, Francis Jaramillo, Dec. 19, tickets \$5-\$6, 1716 Michigan Ave., Detroit, (313)

Eden Nightclub & Ultralounge: Friday night party with DJ Ryan Richards, 10 p.m. guest

celebrity hosts and DJs; DJ Urban Chris in the Garden Room, DJ Pannos in the Ultralounge accompanied by percussionist Jared Sykes, 10 p.m. Saturday, 22061 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 541-7674. Edison's: 220 E. Merrill, Birmingham (248) 645-2150.

Lorenz and Jake Reichhart, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 27851 Middlebelt at 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, no cover, (248)

Ginopolis on the Grill: Don Swindell and Shuffle

Play, with Swindell, Sheila Brown. Mike

Four Green Fields: Northwood Shopping Plaza, 13 Mile and Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 506-0531. Magic Bag: Kathleen Edwards, Feb. 4, 2009,

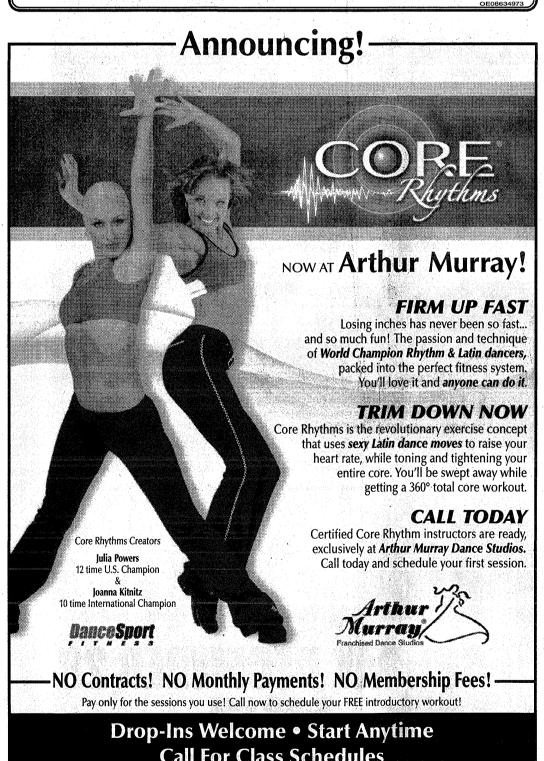
22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com. The Magic Stick: Ekoostik Hookah, Dec. 27. 4140 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9700. Mama's Coffeehouse: All shows 8 p.m. with open mic at 7:30 p.m., \$12, \$10 seniors and students 16 and under, 38651 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 569-0965 Memphis Smoke: 100 S. Main, Royal Oak. (248) 543-4300.

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Plymouth Coffee Bean: Open mic 7:30-10:30 p.m. Mondays, 884 Penniman, Plymouth. myspace.com/plymouthcoffeebean The Shelter: 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (313) 961-MELT.

Sky Club: Tango, salsa, and Latin dancing beginning at 8 p.m., every Wednesday, located above Sangria's Restaurant, 401 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, (248) 543-1964. Traveling Fork: located inside Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, (734) 464-1300, www.radisson.com/livoniami.

Please see GET OUT, D9



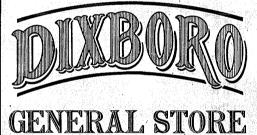
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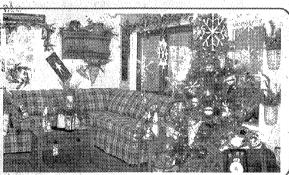
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TSO will again rock house with yuletide show

FILTER

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER **0&E STAFF WRITER**

Last year, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra played its dazzling, symphonic rock interpretation of Christmas music to a sell-out crowd at The Palace of Auburn Hills

That doesn't surprise Jeff Corey, marketing director for The Palace, who expects the same during the rock orchestra's two-show "Winter Tour 2008" stop in Detroit on Sunday, Dec. 21.

He's seen TSO steadily increase in popularity with all ages in the several years the Christmas rock opera has been staged at The

"Their popularity keeps growing a lot of it is word of mouth," he said.

Perhaps it's because the band's music appeals to all ages. It crosses genres, blending metal and progressive rock, the majesty of a full orchestra and narration.

Adding to the appeal are the rock concert-style pyrotechnics.

Whatever the reason, Corey says the Yuletide concert is becoming "a tradition" for many.

"You'll see families coming together for this," he said.

SEAMLESS MOVEMENT

During the show's first half,

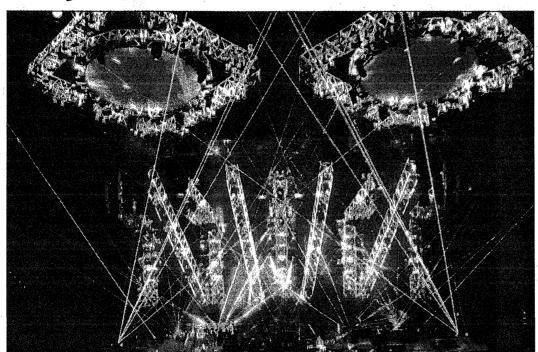
Kids

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The Trans-Siberian Orchestra's unique brand of symphonic rock is enhanced by lights, lasers and pyrotechnics.

TSO will perform its double platinum selling 1996 debut release, Christmas Eve and other Stories, in

its entirety. That means that audiences will get to hear O Come All Ye Faithful and other seasonal classics seamlessly move from crunching metal power chords to the majesty of full orchestra to soft piano and voice

Drive-Thru Open at 7 am

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..for Early Morning

Burgers or

Breakfast!

ballads, all while the narrators and vocalists act out the drama.

The second half will be a full on rock concert including songs from the band's other recordings.

TSO's other CD releases include The Christmas Attic (1998), The

Available

Lost Christmas Eve (2004) and Beethoven's Last Night (2000).

LEWIS LEE

'FANS FIRST'

TSO was founded by Paul O'Neill, Robert Kinkel and Jon Oliva in 1996.



San Francisco Music Boxes, Taggies, Fireside Coffee, Village Candles, Wind & Willow and Crystal World.

The group's name is inspired by the Trans-Siberian Railway in Russia, which Kinkel has said connects cultures, much as music does.

Their first tour was in 1999, playing to smaller venues. Corey recalls that Detroit radio station WRIF - which is presenting The Palace concert — "really helped break the band."

The 2007 Winter Tour, TSO's most successful to date, played to more than one million fans.

The New York-based band's 150-person crew moves from city to city in a caravan of 32 trucks and 16 buses.

"TSO continues to grow because we put the fans first," said founder O'Neill. "For me, the ultimate critic is time."

TSO WINTER TOUR 2008

What: Trans-Siberian Orchestra's Winter Tour 2008 Where: The Palace

of Auburn Hills When: 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21

Tickets: \$49.50 and \$39.50 reserved at Palacenet.com, Livenation.com, The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster loca-

Tickets may also be charged by phone to American Express, Discover, Visa and MasterCard by calling (248) 645-6666.

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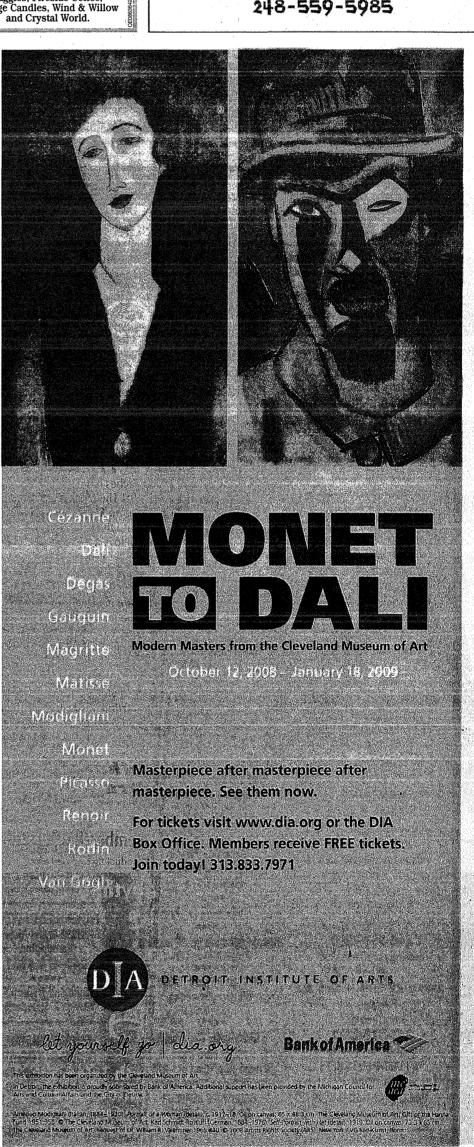


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20 and 3 p.m. Dec. 21, at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 576-5111.

Who Wants Cake: Don't miss the hilarious stage adaptation of writer David Sedaris' The SantaLand Diaries and Seasons Greeting, performed by Ferndale's Joe Plambeck and Joe Bailey.

showtimes Friday-Monday, through Dec. 22, The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Tickets \$10-\$20, (248) 545-5545 or WhoWantsCakeTheatre.com.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 18, 2008

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

Spend Xmas with Ced n Teri: Mikey Brown and Sarah

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

Fox Theatre: Like a Christmas Card set to music, see Irving Berlin's White Christmas, running to Dec.

28, tickets \$20-\$100, 2211 Woodward, Detroit. Visit OlympiaEntertainment.com or call (248) 433-1515.

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

Compiled by Stephanie Angelyn Casola

up a stop at the Hot Chocolate stand for a warm up, before heading into the bustling Pavilion, where my co-revelers imbibed in rum-doused cider and treats.

We could tell we'd need our energy to battle the stirring winds and frigid temperatures that come with any proper Michigan winter. And so we made our way, shuffling in and out of historic homes and across snow-covered landscapes, past the Ackley Covered Bridge, looking for dim lights and open doors. We huddled for warmth and made our way into the boarding house where Thomas Edison's employees lit the first electric light bulb, ogling the holiday decor and displays of celebratory feasts dating back to decades gone by.

A large crowd had gathered outside of the Robert Frost home, and for good reason. From across the street we could see the red and white garb of Santa Claus as he called out good wishes from a second-story balcony. He waved hello-ho-ho and shouted to his visitors by first name, with the aid of an elf stationed on the ground. Two of his fleet, hulking-but-gentle reindeer, curled up in an outdoor pen, greeting their visitors with antlers held high.

Though warming fires were beaming around the village, we rubbed our hands and stepped into the Noah Webster home, two stories decorated in evergreen and ready for a holiday feast. From the sparselyfilled bedrooms to his study, where he penned the first dictionary, copies of Webster's works were encased in glass. It was among the more popular stops on our visit, judging by the slowly moving lines that moved up the narrow stair-

Nearby, a crowd also filled the Sounds of America Gallery, where musical instruments filled the halls of this 1830s home, and the band Picks and Sticks performed inside for all to hear. Though we skipped the Scotch Settlement schoolhouse, with its line lingering

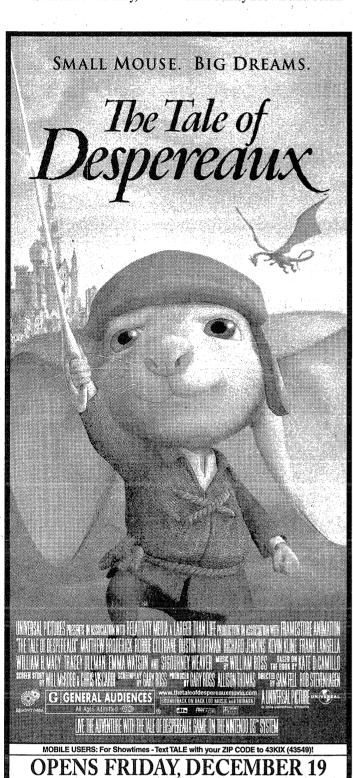
out of the door, my favorite stop had to be the Martha-Mary Chapel, its steeple gleaming in the moonlight. We quietly made our way inside and sat down, soon surrounded by the sounds of an angelic choir in the midst of Silent Night.

Stopping at The Taste of History restaurant just long enough for an eggnog. Then we shuffled past the Eagle Tavern - which was offering its second seating of special dinner menu featuring roasted rib of beef, squash soup, and roasted chicken with a cranberry orange relish. We peered enviably through the wreaths in the window at what appeared to be a Turn of the Century dinner party among friends.

But I was happy enough to take a ride on the Herschell-Spillman Carousel — which dates back to 1913. The sights and sounds can't help but bring back memories of childhood as we spun around slowly on ornately-designed horses, but also zebras, frogs and pigs. And when the ride was over we wandered just across the street, outside of town hall to join a sing-a-long of Angels We Have Heard on High and Joy to the World, as a Fourth-of-July-worthy fireworks display lit up the chilly night sky.

Holiday Nights packs every bit of festive spirit into one event, spread across 80 acres. We surely only experienced a small part of all there is to offer. From ice skating to tastes of roasting chestnuts or pork and apple stew, there is plenty to fill the evening hours. And if you're willing to brave the weather it's a great way to spend time with friends or family at a time of year that's often overshadowed by shopping and stress. Greenfield Village even operates a Christmas tree and greens lot on the premises, so you can take home a freshly-cut slice of the experience when its time to travel back to the future.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola bundled up with two pairs of socks and leg warmers but still had chattering teeth during Holiday Nights. She covers entertainment and pop culture for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact her at (248) 901-2567 or scasola@hometownlife.com.



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or group sales information, log on to www.milkthemovie.com/groupsales or please call 866-617-7175

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Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase: 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 996-9080. The Fillmore: Joel McHale, Jan. 17, 2009, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. (248) 645-6666. Fox Theatre: Ron White, March 14, 2009, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.

JD's House of Comedy: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday: Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield, (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com.

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia: 36071 Plymouth Road, (734) 261-5500, www.kickerscom-

Joe Louis Arena: Steve Harvey and Katt Williams, Dec. 31, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. (248) 645-6666. Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle: 269 E. Fourth. Royal Oak, (248) 542-9900, www.comedy-

castle.com The Second City: 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi, (248) 348-4448, www.secondcity.

Clutch Cargo: 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. (248)

The Fox Theatre: Barenaked Ladies, Dec 31; LaBelle featuring Patti LaBelle, Nona Hendryx and Sarah Dash, Jan. 18, 2009; BB King and Buddy Guy, Feb. 16, 2009; Bill Gaither and his Homecoming Friends. March 12, 2009, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515

Joe Louis Arena: Lil Wayne, Dec. 26; Metallica with Machinehead. The Sword, Jan. 13. 2009, (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster. com, OlympiaEntertainment.com. Masonic Temple Theatre: 500 Temple, Detroit,

(248) 645-6666 Majestic Theatre: Femi Kuti, Jan. 16, 2009, 4140 Woodward, Detroit (313) 833-9700. Michigan Theatre: The Pretenders, Feb. 9. 2009: John Hiatt and Lyle Lovett, Feb.

20, 2009, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (248) 645-6666. The Palace of Auburn Hills: Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Dec. 21; Slipknot with Coheed and Cambria and Trivium, Jan. 31, 2009; Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance, Feb. 15, 2009; Fleetwood Mac, March 8, 2009;

1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills, (248) 645-6666 or Palacenet.com. Royal Oak Music Theatre: Reel Big Fish, Jan. 13, 2009: Tim and Eric's Awesome Show. Jan. 25, 2009; Umphrey's McGee, March 12, 2009; 318 W. Fourth, Royal Oak. (800) 919-6272, www.royaloakmusictheatre.com. St. Andrew's Hall: Trans-Siberian Orchestra. two shows on Dec. 21; The Hard Lessons, Dec. 27; Rusted Root, Dec. 30; Unearth, Jan. 9, 2009; Scott Weiland, Jan. 28, 2009; Sam Roberts, Feb. 28, 2009; Less than Jake, March 21, 2009, 431 E. Congress,

Detroit, (248) 645-6666. DANCE

Detroit Dance Collective: Adray Theatre, Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, (810) 444-4553, www.detroitdancecollective.

Detroit Opera House: Alvin Ailey American

Dance Theatre, Feb. 12-15, 2009; "Aladdin," Grand Rapids Ballet Company, Feb. 28, 2009; "Romeo & Juliet," American Ballet, March 13-15, 2009, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, (313) 237-3426, www.michiganopera.org. Eisenhower Dance Ensemble: Lake Orion Performing Arts Center, (248) 559-2095: "NewDANCEfest VII." 7:30 pm., Jan. 17. 2009. Troy High School Auditorium. (248) 559-2095; "Motown in Motion," 8 p.m. April 4, 2009, Macomb Center for Performing Arts, (586) 286-2222, 2171 Cole, Birmingham, www.ede-dance.org. **MoreDances Contemporary Dance Company:** 20500 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (586)

Tatry Dancers: 26123 McDonald, Dearborn Heights, (313) 274-0183, www.Dance.

PRCUA.org/Tatry. University Musical Society: Batsheva Dance Company "Three," 8 p.m. Feb. 14, 2009, and "Deca Dance" 2 p.m. Feb. 15, 2009; Compagnie Heddy Maalem "Rite," 8 p.m. Oct. 15, 2009; Compagnie Marie Chouinard, "Orpheus and Eurydice," 8 p.m. April 25, 2009 and "Rite of Spring," 2 p.m. April 26, 2009; Rubberdance Group, "Elastic Perspective," 8 p.m. Jan. 9 and "Redux Phase II" 1 and 8 p.m. Jan. 10, 2009. www.

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Canton Cinema: Free matinees 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturdays, 43555 Ford Road, (734)

Detroit Puppet Theatre: "Celebrate Holiday Month," December; "Banana for Turtle," January 2009; "Oh, Ananse," February 2009; "Purim Shpiel," March 2009; Guest Artist Performances, April 2009; "Turtle

Island," May 2009; "Sleeping Beauty," June 2009, all performances at 2 p.m. Saturdays, \$10/adults, \$5/children, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit, (313) 961-7777, www.

Detroit Zoo: (248) 541-5717, www.detroitzoo.

Fox Theatre: Sesame Street Live "When Elmo Grows Up" Jan. 30-Feb. 15, 2009, \$12-\$32; family nights, Jan. 30, Feb. 4 and 12, 2009 \$10; Detroit Public Television benefit performance, Feb. 6, 2009. (248) 433-1515, www.OlympiaEntertainment.com. Palace of Auburn Hills: Harlem Globetrotters

World Tour, Dec. 28, \$15-\$39.50, (248) 645-6666, www.disneyonice.com Max M. Fisher Music Theatre: 3700 Woodward Detroit (313) 576-5111

Meadow Brook Theatre: Children's Series, "Freedom Train," 10 a.m. Feb. 23, 2009; "Nate the Great," 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Feb. 28, 2009; "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere," 10 a.m. March 20, 2009; "Charlotte's Web," 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. May 9, 2009; on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills (248) 377-0300, www.ticketmaster.com, for more information, visit www.mbtheatre.com. Palace of Auburn Hills: 1 Championship Drive,

(248) 645-6666. Starlight Youth Theater: 315 N. Telegraph, north concours of Summit Place Mall,

University Musical Society: Family Series, Rubberdance Group, Jan. 10, 2009; Kodo, Feb. 13, 2009; The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma, March 13, 2009; Dan Zanes & Friends, March 29, 2009; (734) 764-2538. www.ums.org.

FILM

Detroit Film Theatre: Currently in-between seasons, Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. See www.dia.org/dft or (313) 833-7900.

Henry Ford IMAX: "The Polar Express," showing through the holidays, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. (313) 271-1570. Magic Bag: Brew & View doors 8 p.m., film,

9:30 p.m., 21 and over, "Zack & Miri Make a Porno," Dec. 18, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www. themanichan com Penn Theatre: "Polar Express." Dec. 19-21.

760 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 453-0870. Redford Theatre: "White Christmas." Dec. 19-20, all at 17360 Lahser, Detroit. www. redfordtheatre.com.

FUND-RAISERS

Urban Wheel Awards: Fashion Cars and Stars like Sheryl Lee Ralph, Tony Plano of "Ugly automotive industry leaders at this 13th annual event, Green Carpet begins at 4 p.m., event opens to the public at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets \$50-\$1,000, visit www.urbanwheelawardsa.com or call (301) 390-1823.

JAZZ

Arturo's Jazz Theatre and Restaurant: 25333 West 12 Mile, Southfield, (248) 357-6009, arturosiazz.com.

Baker's Keyboard Lounge: Gospel Show 2 p.m. Sundays; The International Detroiters Tuesdays, Jam Session Wednesdays. 20510 Livernois, Detroit, (313) 345-6300. B'Jazz Vespers: First Baptist Church, 300 Willits at Bates, Birmingham (248) 644-

Cliff Bell's: Scott Gwinnell Jazz Orchestra. 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays: Jesse Palter Quartet 9:30 p.m. Thursdays: Social Sundays featuring blues, roots, Americana at 8 p.m., 2030 Park, Detroit

(313) 961-2543 Detroit Golf Club: www.palmerwoods.org,

(313) 892-3848.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Max M. Fisher Music Center, box office at 3711 Woodward, (313) 576-5111, www.detroitsymphony.com. Detroit Windsor Jazz Club: Saturdays at Shield's, (1-4 p.m.), Paul Klinger, Dec. 20; Mike Karoub, Jan. 3, 2009; Paul Keller Ensemble, Jan. 17, 2009; Ray Heitger, Feb. 7, 2008; TBD, Feb. 21, 2009; Ragtime Rick, March 7, 2009; Bill Meyer, March 21, 2009. \$10, 25101 Telegraph, Southfield (248)

Jazz Cafe at Music Hall: 350 Madison, Detroit (313) 887-8501, www.musichall.org/

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

Southfield Public Library: 26300 Evergreen.

(248) 796-4224, www.southfieldlibrary.

Village Theatre at Cherry Hill: All About Jazz Jazz Cafe with the Tony Ruda Quartet, soloists welcome onstage, Jan. 17, 2009, Feb. 14, 2009, March 21, 2009, April 25, 2009; \$17/\$120 for series, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater, (734) 394-5460.

MORE MUSIC

Arab American National Museum: Malika Zarra, Dec. 18, \$8-\$12, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, (313) 582-2266 or www.arabam ericanmuseum.org

Detroit Opera House: A Valentine's Rock of Roll Spectacular featuring The Miracles, The Reflections, Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels, The Contours, The Diamonds and The Drifters, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009; tickets \$37-\$67, at 1526 Broadway, Detroit, call (248) 645-6666

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham: 1669 W. Maple, (248) 540-9124, hsbay@sbcglobal.

Jewish Community Center: 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 661-1000. Kirk in the Hills: 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 626-2515 ext. 108. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts: 350 Madison, Detroit, (313) 887-8500. Nardin Park United Methodist Church: seating at 7:15 p.m., 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 476-8860, www.nardinpark.

Oakland Community College: 739 S. Washington, Royal Oak; (248) 246-2586. St. Aidan Catholic Church: 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia, (734) 425-5950. Trinity House Theatre: 38840 Six Mile, Livonia. (734) 464-6302, (www.trinityhouse.org). Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington: 25301. Halsted, Farmington Hills, (734) 981-

MUSEUMS

Birmingham Historical Museum: Maple and Southfield roads, Birmingham, (248) 642-2817.

9378, www.uufarmington.org.

Charles H. Wright Museum: at 915 E. Warren, Detroit. (313) 494-5800. Cranbrook Art Museum: Grand Slam: Andy Warhol, through Jan. 11, 2009, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (877) GO CRANBROOK, www.cranbrook.edu. Cranbrook Institute of Science: "Bats: Myths and Mysteries" through January 2009, free with museum admission, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 645 3200, http://science.cranbrook.edu. Detroit Institute of Arts: "Jane Hammond: Paper Work," through Jan. 11, 2009; "Monet to Dali, Modern Masters from the Cleveland Museum of Art" through Jan. 18, 2009; Museum will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1 for the holidays; "In the

Company of Artists: Photographs from the DIA's Collection" through Feb. 15. 2009; "Master Pieces: Chess Sets from the Dr. George and Vivian Dean Collection" Dec. 26 to March 22, 2009: "American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell, March 8, 2009 to May 31, 2009; "On Life and Loss: The Polish Photographs of Roman Vishniac and Jeffrey Gusky," April 15, 2009 to July 12, 2009, 5200 Woodward, Detroit, Call (313) 833-7900.

> Detroit Historical Museum: New exhibits are "Hero or Villian? Metro Detroit's Legacy of Leadership," "Fabulous 5: Detroit's Entertainment Venues," Automotive Showplace features the Model T Centennial and "100 Years Ago" uses photographs, newspaper and other memorabilia to showcase live in 1908, 5401 Woodward, Detroit, www.detroithistorical. org, (313) 833-1805

Detroit Science Center: "Leonardo Da Vinci:

Man, Inventor, Genius," tickets \$13.95 to

\$16.95; Senior Mondays offer free general admission to those 60 and older now through Dec. 29, 5020 John R, (313) 577-8400, www.detroitsciencecenter.org. The Henry Ford: 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, (313) 982-6001, www.hfmgv.org. Museum of Contemporary Art-Detroit: "Becoming: Photographs from the Wedge Collection," through Dec. 28, 4454 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 832-6622. Museum of New Art: Annabel Elgar Part II,

through Jan. 24, 2009, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 210-7560 Plymouth Historical Museum: 155 S. Main,

Plymouth, \$2-\$10, (734) 455-8940, www. plymouthhistory.org.

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm: open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 1005 Van Hoosen, Rochester, (248) 565-4663, www. rochesterhills.org.

Troy Museum & Historic Village: Now open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday; at Livernois and Wattles, Troy. Call (248) 524-3570.

OPERA

Detroit Opera House: "The Elixir of Love," March 28, 2009-April 5, 2009; "Pagliacci," April 18-26, 2009; "Carmen," May 9-17, 2009, Michigan Opera Theatre, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, www.michiganopera

Grantland Street Playhouse: 27555 Grantland, Livonia, (313) 535-8962, www.mcyt.org

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

The Palace: Mixed Martial Arts Extreme Cage Fight Ward, Jan. 24, 2009, 1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. Tickets \$10-\$50, www. palacenet.com.

Poetry, Pages & Scribes: Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen, (248) 796-4224, www.southfieldlibrary.org, www.poetrypagescribes.com.

PuppetArt: Shows at 2 p.m. Saturdays, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit, (313) 961-7777. Rock Financial Showplace: 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi, www.rockfinancialshowplace.

StarBright Dinner Theatre: Uptown Eatery, 19701 W. 12 Mile, Southfield, \$39.95 FridaySaturday shows, (248) 423-1452.

THEATER - COMMUNITY

Avon Players: 1185 Washington Road, a mile east of Tienken and Rochester roads, Rochester Hills. Reserve tickets by calling (248) 608-9077.

Barefoot Productions: Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 N. Main, Plymouth, (734)

The Farmington Players: "It's a Wonderful Life," through Dec. 20: The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940, Feb. 20, 2009 to March 7, 2009; Sweet Charity, April 24, 2009 to May 16, 2009; 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 553-2955, www. farmingtonplayers.org.

Grosse Pointe Theatre: 32 Lakeshore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, (313) 881-4004. Jewish Ensemble Theatre: "Two by Two," through Jan. 4, 2009; "Halpen and Johnson," Feb. 17, 2009-March 15, 2009; "Deathtrap," April 21, 2009-May 17, 2009, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 788-2900, www.jettheatre.org. Marquis Theatre: 135 Main, Northville (248)

349-8110, www.northvillemarquistheatre Oakland Theatre Guild: Starlight Theater, Summit Place Mall, 315 N. Telegraph,

Waterford, (248) 335-1788, www.starlight-

theater.net. Planet Ant Theatre: 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck, (313) 365-4948.

St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild: 400 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 737-3587, www. stdunstanstheatre.com.

Sunday

Holiday Hours

Dec. 13- Dec. 24

....9:30-8

.....12-5



4th Annual Men's Night Tuesday, December 16th 6:30 to 9 p.m.

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MOVIE GIFT CARDS

SHOWTIMES 12/12 - 12/18 🔘 No passes LIVE WEDS. 12/17 8:00 PM ENCORE THURS. 12/18 8:00 PM THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

RI/SAT LS 11:40

O PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) RI-TUE 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:55 WED-THUR 12:05, 2:25 FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) 1:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45 **BOLT DISNEY DIGITAL 3D** (PG) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

MANAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) :05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30

FREQUENT MOVIEGOERS Sign up at www.gqti.com for the Frequent Moviegoer Club





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Season provides reason for charming jewelry

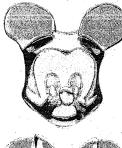
BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER STAFF WRITER

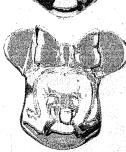
Charms are popular items at jewelry counters this holiday season.

Gary Astrein, of Astrein's Creative Jewelers in Birmingham, says they're a way to give a high quality, personalized gift for the holidays. "People get to pick the items that they iden-

tify with," he said of their charms. "It's a great gift because it's affordable. The idea is not to get them all at once, but to gradually add pieces and eventually get a nice collec-

Astrein recently added the charm collection from Chamilia. As Chamilia is licensed by Disney, its large selec-





Mickey and Minnie Mouse are two of the Disney charms from the new Chamilia line at Astrein's in Birmingham.

tion of charms include the beloved cartoon characters and symbols. Whether you prefer Mickey Mouse or

Cinderella's pumpkin coach, they're available in various combinations of handblown murano glass, Swarovski crystal or gold and silver. They start at \$25.

Tiffany & Co. at Troy's Somerset Collection has a premier selection of charms, including one in sterling silver depicting its signature blue gift box for \$150. There's also a charm bracelet already loaded with Christmas and winter theme charms in sterling silver.

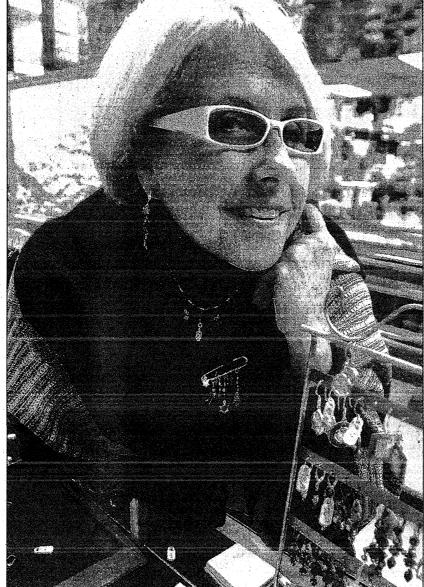
"Charms are a great

way to celebrate love, special occasions and memorable milestones," said Tiffany & Co. Director Erle Pereira. "As new charms are added you begin a tradition that will become a cherished keepsake for future generations."

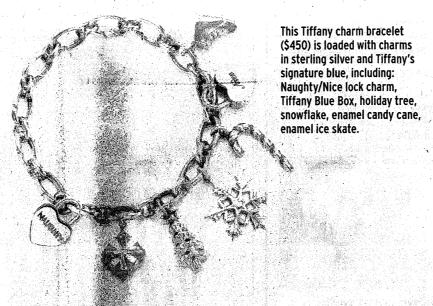
At Coby's Judaica Center in West Bloomfield, Carole Master says she's selling charm necklaces, earrings and lapel pins with charms such as dreidels and menorahs for Hanukkah, which begins at sundown, Sunday, Dec. 21. "They make wonderful Hanukkah gifts

because Hanukkah is gift-giving time for eight consecutive nights," said Master, suggesting that a necklace could be given one evening and matching earrings the next.

A pin or necklace starts at \$45 and earrings at \$29 at the store, located in the Jewish



Carole Master wears a Hanukkah- theme charm necklace, pin and earrings, among the pieces available at Coby's Judaica Center for holiday giving and wearing



Community Center. All the stores also have sparkling offerings for other big holidays such as New Year's Eve.

Overall, Astrein said he finds that more classic items are selling best this year.

"People are sort of going back to some of the classics like diamond studs and diamond bracelets, They want things that will last," he said.

At Parisian in Livonia and

Rochester Hills, spokeswoman Jill Engel said there are three hot sellers this season, two of which are along the classic lines: crystal boxed jewelry with Swarovski crystals and sterling silver jewelry.

The third big seller has a personal touch — like charms — as people are buying inspirational bracelets, she said.

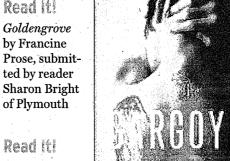
ssteinmueller@hometownlife.com

pink picks

Editor's Note: This week's Picks urge you to curl up by a roaring fire and crack open a new book. All but the first suggestion were submitted by PINK readers in Oakland and Wayne counties. Enjoy! Read Itt

A Flake Like Mike, by Mike Reiss available for \$16.99 at Saks Fifth Avenue in

Troy. For each sale, \$2 benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

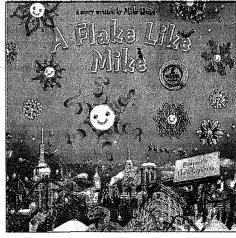


Real Simple magazine, submitted by reader Lizz Hill of Commerce Township.

Read It!

Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog by John Grogan, then see the movie, opening Dec. 25, submitted by reader Jennifer **Peters of Canton**

Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia by Elizabeth Gilbert, submitted by reader Yong Lin of Livonia



Jane Eyre (a classic!) by Charlotte Bronte, submitted by reader and former Pink Picks

Contest Winner Amanda Pier of Redford

Read It!

The Gargoyle by Andrew Davidson, submitted by reader Elizabeth Montalvo of Farmington

Read It! The Power of Body

Language by Tonya Reiman, submitted by reader Tanya

Read It!

Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, submitted by reader Jaime White of Plymouth

Read It!

Middlesex by Michigan native Jeffrey Eugenides, submitted by reader Esther Weddell of Farmington

Compiled by Stephanie A. Casola

Some families nave theme nights for Hanukkah

BY LISA FLAM ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Some families create gift themes on the individual nights of Hanukkah, such as pajama or movie night.

Kids get excited about the themes, anticipating what any given night will bring, and parents say it helps them appreciate their gifts more.

· "The theme ends up being almost as important as the gift because we build the excitement up," said Andrew Borislow, of Lower Gwynedd, Pa., who's done nights related to cooking, Harry Potter and Pokemon with his sons.

Hanukkah begins this year at sundown Sunday, Dec. 21. Some topical themes this

PLASTIC PRESENTS: Michelle Levine of Houston is getting her sons, ages 12 and 8, five or six gifts cards each this year because the shrinking economy has forced her to turn down their requests to eat out and see movies. Giving them \$5 or \$10 gift cards "will allow me to say 'yes' (on their dime) the next time they ask to go out for dinner or to see the new feature hitting theaters," she said.

GREEN GIFTS: Jodi R.R. Smith, of Marblehead, Mass., is celebrating with her extended family with gifts that include a hemp bicycle shirt, a botanical facial and biodegradable waste bags and all-natural dog treats. The children are getting nature-themed books and toys, bug catchers and star charts.

GIVING BACK: Following the Jewish tradition of giving to the needy, families set aside a night to make a charitable donation. A nice way to do it is to have the children donate the same gift they are getting. Cindy Edelstein, 44, of Pelham, N.Y., is giving her 11-year-old daughter pajamas, and they will also donate a matching pair.

"This way she'll be reminded of her donation and that she shared some holiday spirit every time she puts on her pink

Book chronicles glory days of downtown Detroit

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER STAFF WRITER '

The glory days of downtown Detroit retailing on Woodward Avenue are chronicled in a new book, perfect for holiday giv-

20th Century Retailing in Downtown Detroit, an Arcadia Publishing title, was launched by the Detroit Historical Society last month. It includes more than 200 rarely seen images.

"Anybody who has any memories of downtown in its heyday, or holiday traditions downtown, will certainly want to pick up a copy of the book,"

said Michael Hauser, who co-authored the book with Marianne Weldon.

There's a chapter each on Hudson's, Crowley's and Kern's, popular department stores at the time. There's also a chapter on "value merchants" like the Kresge and Woolworth's dime stores.

"All the great stores are in there," said Hauser. "And there's a chapter on holiday traditions downtown."

Hauser is the marketing manager for the Michigan Opera Theatre. Weldon is the former curator of collections for the Detroit Historical



Holiday crowds are pictured outside of J.L. Hudson Co. on Woodward in downtown Detroit in this 1953 photo from "20th Century Retailing in Downtown Detroit."

The \$21.99 book is available at the Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. in Detroit's Cultural Center area. A portion of the proceeds benefit the museum.

It's also available at Borders and Barnes & Noble bookstores. For more information, call the museum at (313) 833-1805 or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

