

Happy New Year

THURSDAY
January 1, 2009

Observer

75 cents

WINNERS OF STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

www.hometownlife.com

High winds leave thousands without power

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Much of western Wayne County escaped major damage from a storm Sunday that included wind gusts up to 60 mph Sunday.

However, many communities had to bring in crews on overtime to deal with downed power lines and fallen trees and branches.

"We had a number of locations with trees down, and we had some flooding problems," said Pat Hogan, director of public works for the city of Livonia. "Our priority was to move trees from the roads, of which most of them were on local subdivision streets. We had to call in additional help because it happened on

the weekend."

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincoc said, surprisingly, damage was kept to a minimum.

"We had a street light damaged and a couple of trees in the Evergreen and Maple (streets) area," Sincoc said. "There were some power outages, including at Independence Village (senior living center in Plymouth Township). All in all, we had relatively minor damage."

According to DTE Energy spokesman Len Singer, Westland had about 6,000 customers without power as a result of the high winds and Livonia about 5,000. Canton Township had about 2,700 powerless customers, 550 in Plymouth and Plymouth Township, with Garden City and Redford Township about 400 each.

"The main problems were downed power lines from trees and tree branches that came into contact with," Singer said. "We brought in more than 300 workers from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to help."

In Livonia tree fell across the road on Merriman Court, knocking down a power line and blocking the road for about 15 households. The road represents the only access to Seven Mile for residents. Power had been restored to most residents on Merriman Court on Monday.

DTE had hoped to restore power for 90 percent of those 4,000 residents by Tuesday, and expected it all back by today (Thursday), according to Dave Varga, director of administrative services.

Kevin Buford, Westland's public service director, said downed trees were the

major problem in his community.

"The majority of the damage we incurred was from trees that were blown over," Buford said. "A lot of them were on private property. We had one that fell on a power line and the fire department responded to that one."

Garden City officials say it was much of the same.

"We had a few trees down, with most of them on private property," said Doug Morton, the deputy director of the Garden City Department of Public Services. "We went out and cleared the right-of-way, but besides that we had isolated areas of power and cable out."

"We had a little bit of residential flooding with the snow melting and the rain, but it wasn't too bad," he said.



Gian Riggi uses a chainsaw to take a few branches off a tree that fell across Merriman Court in Livonia at 5 a.m. on Sunday. The tree took down a power line and members of about 15 households were unable to drive down the road to get to Seven Mile Road.

Cell phone program helps troops call home

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you have one or two or maybe even three old cell phones tucked away in a junk drawer, RE/MAX Classic wants to take them off your hands.

The real estate agency has been participating in the Massachusetts-based Cell Phones for Soldiers program for five months and has collected nearly 1,350 phones.

"Isn't it amazing? Our initial goal was only 1,000 phones," said Lynn Dery, RE/MAX Classic director of career development. "This has brought us closer to the community and it has been a life changing experience for me."

Cell Phones for Soldiers, a non-profit organization started by two children several years ago, has a simple mission of helping "our troops call home." Each donated phone will be recycled and in return a 60-minute calling card will be distributed to a deployed soldier.

"Who doesn't want to support our soldiers?" Dery said. "You may not support the war, but you have to support our soldiers and calling cards are like gold. It is very expensive to call from Iraq and in these economic times, it is even harder to stay in contact."

The program, which has 3,000 collection sites throughout the country, including the six RE/MAX Classic locations, has handed out more than 500,000 calling cards to soldiers in all

branches of the U.S. Military.

"I am amazed at what we have collected," said Bart Patterson, RE/MAX Classic vice president and general manager. "It is an easy, tax-deductible donation and with the holidays here, it has even more importance."

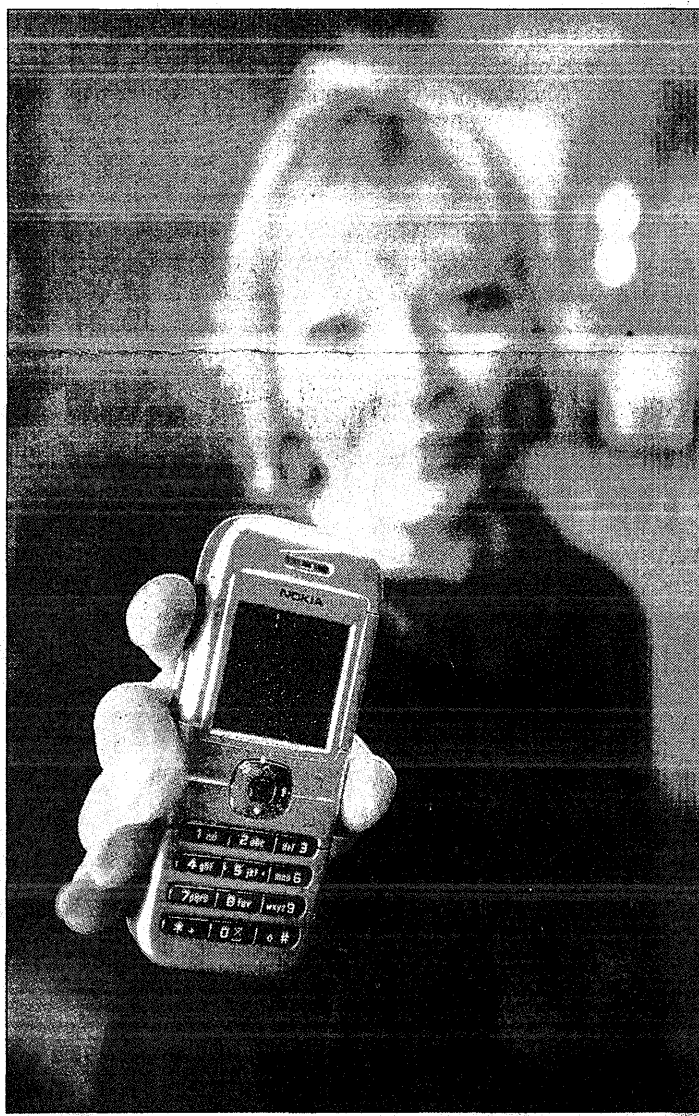
After telling the story of a RE/MAX agent that has collected about 400 phones on his own, Patterson said the agency's donations have amounted to 200,000 calling card hours.

"We are helping to serve a need," he said. "And we want to continue with this as long as we can."

In promoting the program, Dery has partnered with several area organizations, including the Plymouth-Canton chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America Inc.

"This has really touched my heart because I have had veterans tell me straight out that when you (are fighting overseas) you don't know if you are going to make it to the next day so speaking with your family is the most important gift you could have."

No appointment is necessary for cell phone donations. For more information, visit www.detroitmetrorealestate.com or contact your local office at the numbers listed: Canton - (734) 459-1010; Livonia - (734) 432-1010; Farmington Hills - (248) 737-6800; Milford - (248) 684-6655; Novi - (248) 348-3000 and West Bloomfield - (248) 738-7100.



Lynn Dery, director of career development at Re/Max Classic collects used cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers program. Each donated cell phone, when recycled, provides one hour of talk time for a soldier.

Leaving its mark

2008 was a year to remember

BY OBSERVER STAFF WRITERS

As we say goodbye to an event-filled 2008, it is worth taking a moment to look back at how the year impacted our communities. From major political upsets and victories on the playing field, to major new development projects and terrible crimes, 2008 had a little of everything.

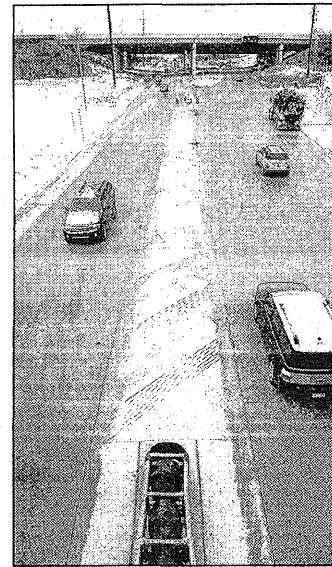
The Observer staff took some time to reflect on the memorable year, and compiled a list of the biggest news events of the year. We hope you enjoy it. And have a happy and safe new year.

CANTON

In the 12 months that were 2008, Canton faced several commercial highs and lows, had an energized political season and held on to its status as a safe community, despite a few strange crimes.

■ While some closed their doors in the township — Texas Corral, Farmer Jack, La Shish, Cici's Pizza, Mariachi Restaurant, Honey, What's for Dinner? — other businesses have set up shop including SpeedDate Michigan, HomeGoods, Clearly You, buybuy Baby, Expressions from Canton and JCPenney.

■ Undeclared by the criticism it faced in 2007, Oakwood is still looking to build in Canton. And unlike the forceful masses that came against the healthcare provider's earlier plans to build at



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Sheldon Road underpass project in Plymouth, which had been in the works for a decade, finally opened for traffic last month.

Beck and Geddes, opposition to its newest proposal to put down roots on the west side of Beck Road, just north of Michigan Avenue has been mostly quiet.

■ In March, Catherine Johnson stepped down from the Canton Planning Commission after she was asked to resign after posing a question about public urination during a hearing for the Hindu Temple rebuild last December.

Please see 2008, A5

Glenn's first principal remembered as man who cared

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Francis A. Higgins III, the first principal of Westland John Glenn High School, will be remembered as a Wayne-Westland educator whose humor, dedication and leadership made him a favorite of his students and his colleagues.

"He wanted to give every child the opportunity to reach their educational potential," his wife, Elizabeth Higgins, said. "That's what he strived for."

Mr. Higgins, a former Westland resident, retired to Naples, Fla., after a 40-year

career in education. He died Dec. 19 at the Avow Hospice facility in Naples following a long illness. He was 76.

Mr. Higgins taught English at Wayne Memorial High School before he became Glenn High's principal in the 1960s, and he also worked as the district's assistant superintendent of curriculum. He became superintendent in 1979 of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, where an elementary school was named in his honor.

Wayne-Westland Supt. Greg Baracy expressed sympathy to the family of an educator who Baracy said was highly regarded.

"That's sad news," he said of Mr. Higgins' death. "I know he had a great reputation."

Baracy recalled that Mr. Higgins was instrumental in designing Glenn High, part of a row of Wayne-Westland facilities on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads.

Mrs. Higgins, a former Wayne-Westland elementary teacher, also said her husband served as president of the Wayne Rotary Club and once led a statewide organization of school superintendents.

"He truly made a difference through his love and devotion to children," she said.

"He had humor, grace and leadership ability, and he always wanted the children to have the very best."

As an English teacher at Wayne Memorial, "the youngsters just loved him," Mrs. Higgins said. "The band would come in and serenade him. The students knew that he was there for them."

She even recalled times when students came to the Higgins home to talk about their troubles and to seek advice.

Former Observer Editor Leonard Poger remembered Mr. Higgins as "a very popular principal with an outgoing personality." Mr. Higgins earned his bachelor of

science degree from Eastern Michigan University, his master's degree from the University of Michigan and his doctorate from Wayne State University.

Mr. and Mrs. Higgins were married for 56 years. Other survivors include three sons, Francis A. Higgins IV of Cincinnati, Ohio, John Higgins of Tallahassee, Fla., and Mark (Vicki) Higgins of Whitmore Lake, Mich.; four grandchildren, Jonathan, Nicholas, Chelsea Elizabeth and Mark Todd; a sister, Joan (Chester) Kendzior of Naples; a brother, Todd (Deborah) Higgins of Waterford, Mich.; and nieces and nephews.

© The Observer
& Eccentric
Newspapers

For Home
Delivery call:
(866) 887-2737



6 53174 10007 8



Warming Homes and Hearts

The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) is a nonprofit organization established to provide low-income families with energy assistance during crisis. For the 2007-2008 heating season, THAW distributed more than \$10,928,000 in energy assistance to more than 8,600 households in Michigan.

*See branch for complete details. NCUA Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Equal Housing Lender. ©2009 Community Financial

For every new checking account opened in January 2009, Community Financial will contribute \$10.00 to THAW.*



(734) 453-1200 (877) 937-2328 toll free www.cfcu.org
PLYMOUTH CANTON NORTHVILLE NOVI

INDEX

APARTMENTS	C2
AUTOMOTIVE	C4
CLASSIFIED	C2-C6
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	C4
FILTER	D1
JOBS	C2
OBITUARIES	B6
OPINION	A4
PINK	D8
REAL ESTATE	C2
SERVICE GUIDE	C2
SPORTS	B1

USA WEEK

Coming Sunday:
Make 2009 your healthiest year ever

Hope and friendship

One childhood 'brother' helps another

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Douglas Kudwa felt sensations in his legs like he was being electrocuted on that day in April 2002.

The Livonia native was knocked by an I-beam at a construction site in Brighton and fell 23 feet down an elevator shaft onto concrete chunks and "rebar" or reinforcement bars.

Kudwa fell back first, and his lower back struck the concrete with such force that the impact went up his leg and shattered his left ankle, even though his leg was up in the air.

"I felt like I was being electrocuted," Kudwa said. "I knew something was wrong, but I didn't know what."

Kudwa was transported to the University of Michigan Hospital with an uncertainty of whether he would survive the fall, telling personnel to tell his wife Sandra he loved her.

It would begin a long arduous journey for Kudwa, that made him help appreciate his friendship that began in a Livonia neighborhood 40-plus years ago.

Kudwa suffered an incomplete spinal cord injury, meaning that his spine was not severed, but was seriously injured, with fragments near his spinal cord. "At that point, I was paralyzed from the waist down," Kudwa said.

Doctors performed surgery for 10½ hours to relieve the pressure on the spinal cord. They fused the spinal cord together with a titanium rod.

Kudwa had no feeling for a week, but soon felt tingling in his lower legs and sensations in his toes. Good signs.

But the road back was rough and painful. Sandra Kudwa had to clothe and bathe Doug. Then the therapists arrived later, and that was Doug's regimen every day for his three years in intense rehabilitation.

Kudwa spent a year with a walker, dealing with the pain of recovery, using pain killers, then quitting them because he didn't want to be addicted to them. He suffered great pain at that point, but that subsided. He went through therapy and exercises

'I just wanted to get back to hunting, fishing and camping. I wanted to get back to some normalcy.'

DOUGLAS KUDWA

as part of his long road to recovery and to ultimately walk again. His wife purchased kneepads to help him walk around the house on his knees to strengthen his legs, which he sometimes did at all hours of the night.

But doctors told him that he probably would never work again. Kudwa wanted normalcy. That November, he went hunting and sat in his wheelchair, bagging a buck on his trip on a 150-yard shot. "I just wanted to get back to hunting, fishing and camping," Kudwa said. "I wanted to get back to some normalcy."

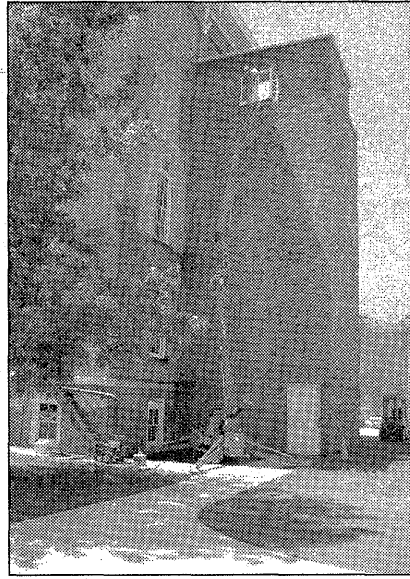
Kudwa wanted to work, but found that companies would not hire him. For two years, Kudwa sent out resumes seeking work as a project manager, or an office job since he could no longer work the physical part of onsite construction. "Anyone who knew me was leery about taking me back," Kudwa said. "They had questions: Was he able to work every day? Would he make it in that day? But they were worried about a possible future liability. They never said anything to me, but it was obvious."

Kudwa credits his wife for much of his recovery. "Our relationship grew through prayer. We laughed and cried together, and she's really my best friend."

Soon another friend stepped forward — Steve Vlahakis. They grew up together on Harrison in the Middlebelt and Five Mile neighborhood, attending Riley and graduating from Bentley.

They kept in touch throughout the years. Like he did every year, Vlahakis called Kudwa on Kudwa's birthday, his 48th, on Dec. 7, 2007. But this conversation was different.

Vlahakis asked Kudwa if he wanted to go into business with him. Vlahakis, vice president of Seaway Painting, an industrial painting con-



This lift owned by DS Access & Maintenance carries maintenance workers or painters to difficult-to-reach areas on buildings and bridges. The business was started by Steve Vlahakis and Doug Kudwa.

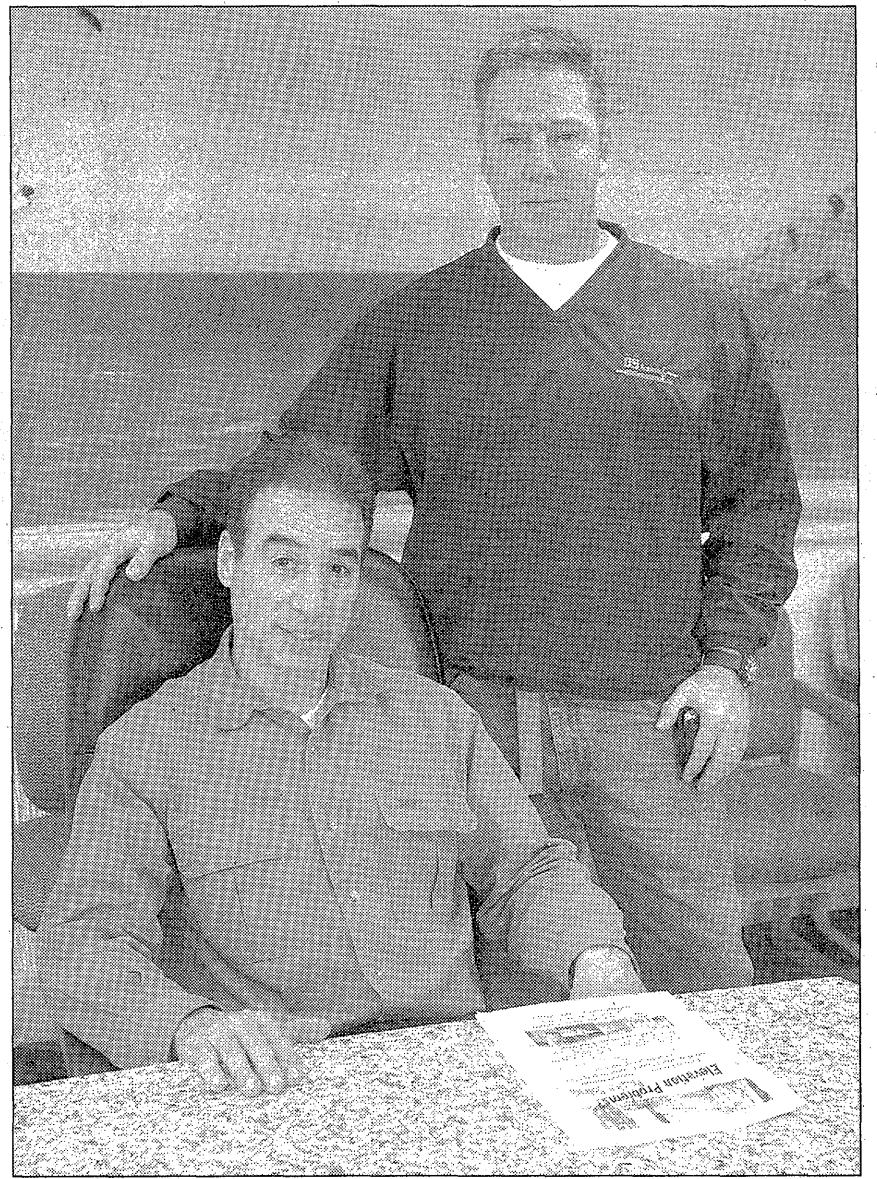
tractor in Livonia founded by Steve's father, George, and Kudwa would create DS Access & Maintenance, LLC, which would lease a specialized elevated lift for contractual work for painting and maintenance of buildings and bridges.

The specialized elevated lift resembles a spider. The 5,000-pound lift can maneuver through a 3-foot by 7-foot opening and is 16 feet long. It reaches heights of 60 feet to work on maintenance of heating, cooling, plumbing, fire suppression equipment, electrical or painting.

The machine is unique because the lift's operator can maneuver the bucket by folding the arm. The machine has special outriggers that act as feet extending to cover an area of 12 by 12-feet. That puts out a ground pressure of 5 pounds per square inch.

So far, business has been good, the partners say. DS Access & Maintenance's lift was recently used to paint structures and frames of CBS billboards, and at Hillsdale College and the M-14 bridge at Sheldon Road in Plymouth. They say they may purchase a second lift.

Kudwa is grateful for the oppor-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Vlahakis and Douglas Kudwa are partners in DS Access Maintenance.

tunity and the chance to spend time with his childhood friend. "It has given me hope for the future. I feel very fortunate. These people (Steve's parents, George and Connie) were always like second parents to me. It's like being invited into their family. It's meant a lot to me."

"Steve's always pulling people along with him. He's always helping his family and friends. He's just a great guy and he's always been very humble."

Vlahakis said he developed the business plan because Kudwa was a lifelong friend and also he saw an opportunity.

"We've had a lifelong friendship," Vlahakis said. "We did everything

together from baseball to football and anything like construction as a kid, chasing girls as a kid." Vlahakis then laughs.

"We had a great childhood together. Mr. (George) Kudwa was our baseball coach and he was a great guy. A friend is like family." (George Kudwa died in 1988. Doug's mother, Marge Kudwa, lives in Farmington Hills. Doug Kudwa lives in Holly and Steve Vlahakis lives in Northville.)

"He's just a lifelong friend, and it's a great opportunity," Vlahakis said. "We've always looked out for each other our whole lives."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591

Daily Specials: 25¢ Wings ALL DAY, EVERYDAY!!

Sunday: Kids eat free with purchase of adult meal of \$9.95

Monday: 1/2 off pizza

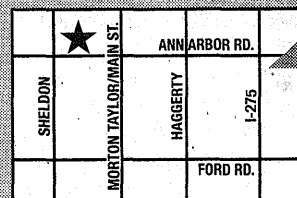
Tuesday: Burritos \$7.95 all day
• Open Mic 11pm - 2am
• Domestic Pints \$3 9pm - close

Wednesday: 1/2 slab ribs \$9.95
• Karaoke 10pm - 2am
• Domestic Bottles \$2.50 10pm - 2am

Thursday: Fajitas \$11.95
• \$1.00 Off Long Islands
• \$1.00 Off Any 22 oz draft

Friday: Fish & Chips \$9.95
• \$4.00 House Wine 5pm - 9pm
• Live Music 10pm - 2am

Saturday: Spaghetti \$7.95 all day
• Live Music 10pm - 2am



Convenient & Easy to Get To!

734-459-4190

1020 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170
www.bouldersbar.com

BOULDERS
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

Lunch 11am - 5pm

20% OFF

Total Food Bill

*Excludes Alcohol. Not to be used with other offers or daily specials. Dine in only.

Dinner

Buy Entrée

\$9.95 or more,

Get 2nd 1/2 off

*Excludes Alcohol. Not to be used with other offers or daily specials. Dine in only.

Visit us online at hometownlife.com



Parkside Dental Team

Holiday Whitening Special

Buy one, get one FREE Zoom Whitening

at

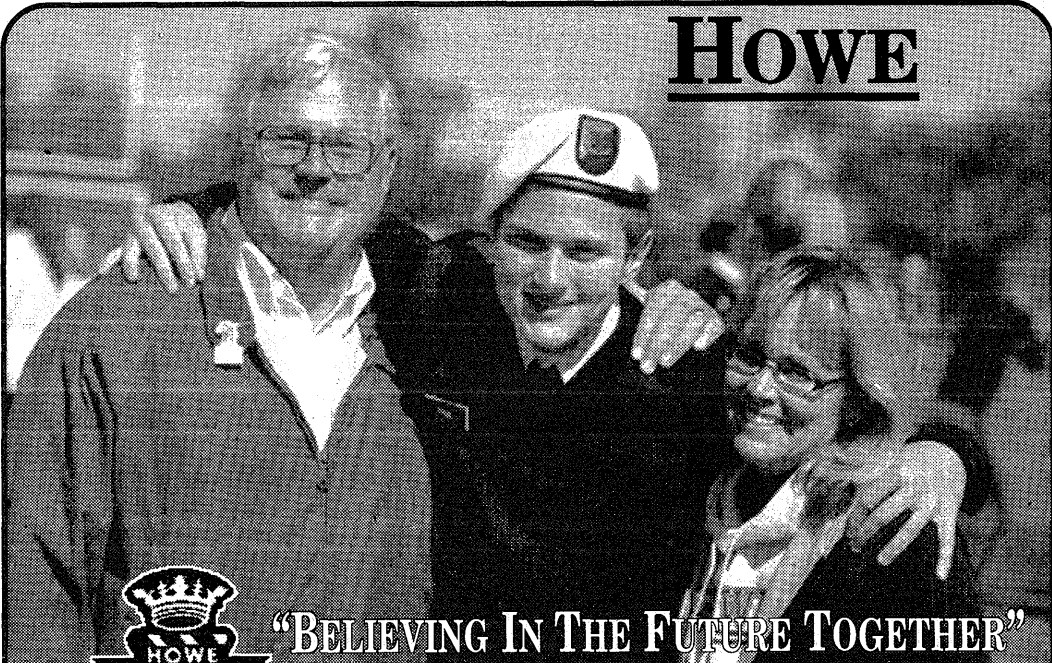
the ZOOM ROOM

Now thru January 31st, 2009.

Regular price, \$499. No other coupons or discounts apply.

36444 W. Warren Ave. • Westland, MI 48185
734.261.6060 www.park-sidedentalteam.com

HOWE



"BELIEVING IN THE FUTURE TOGETHER"

You Are Invited

to an informational reception

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009 7pm - 9pm

Location:

**The Inn at St. John's
Golf & Conference Center**

44045 Five Mile Road • Plymouth, MI 48170

Howe students achieve through self-confidence, self-discipline, leadership, respect and organization

Fully accredited by the NCA, ISACS and the State of Indiana

1-888-GO-2-HOWE • (1-888-462-4693)

www.howemilitary.com

TOWN 'N' COUNTRY LANES

1100 S. Wayne Rd. • Westland
Between Ford & Michigan Ave.

SHORT SEASON LEAGUES

Now Forming!

Openings for teams or individuals for more info
or to hold a spot call 734-722-5000

ADULT YOUTH LEAGUE

Every Monday @ 6:30 pm
Every child receives a new bowling ball at the end of the season!
Starts Jan. 12th!

TRIO LEAGUE

Any combination 3 people
Tuesdays @ 7:15 pm
Starts Jan. 13th!
Every bowler receives a new bowling ball when paid in full!

9 PIN - NO TAP - DOUBLES & SINGLES

Prize \$ Mystery Game
Lucky Strike
Every Friday @ 10:30 pm

BUMPER LEAGUE

Ages 4-8
Saturdays @ 12:30
Starts Jan 10th and
Tuesdays @ 6:00 pm
Starts Jan. 13th

Ask About Our Birthday Party Packages!

Teens experience realities of homelessness at Canton church

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cara Delaney was well-prepared to spend a night sleeping outside for Boxing Day.

"This will be my second year," said Delaney, a 16-year-old junior at Salem High School, of the senior high project at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton. Delaney, daughter of Beth and Stu of Plymouth Township, noted the event raises awareness of homelessness.

"It's also the big kickoff for our clothing drive," she said. "We're trying to help others, do what Jesus did."

Good-quality clothing including new underwear and socks — as well as toiletries — is being collected through Jan. 2 at the church on Sheldon north of Ford in Canton. The Rev. Bryan Smith, pastor, said it's based on the British and Canadian custom of boxing up clothing no longer needed on Dec. 26 and giving it to the needy.

Geneva's done the project for about 12 years.

of the fact that homelessness is a big issue in the metro Detroit area," said Smith, a Canton resident.

His church has a food pantry, and works with Fort Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Detroit. The Detroit church has a ministry to help needy people with food, clothing and other basics.

Geneva also helps teens to think about being homeless "and think about it from a faith perspective, too," he said. The senior highs gathered around 8 p.m. Friday, with some time for prayer and reflection. Some older students who've already graduated come back for the event as well, which wrapped up early Saturday morning.

Smith noted young people "kind of experience what it's like not to have people to talk to. You experience solitude quite a bit."

The teens had brought big boxes, from appliances and such, to sleep in.

"We usually have a fire going, so that keeps us warm, too," Delaney said. She and the other Geneva youth wore warm



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Josh Smith, Hannah Ruth Glodich, and Gretchen Danger Seibel spent part of the night in a cardboard box on Saturday at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton. The event raised awareness of homelessness.

clothes, but realize homeless people don't always have that option.

"Geneva's a great church," said Benjamin Ogden, director of the Open Door program at Fort Street Presbyterian, with services including food, clothing and

counseling. Ogden, an Oak Park resident, went to Geneva Friday to thank the participants.

Ogden appreciates the donated clothing which helps the "chronically homeless" who have mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Such people



Abrion Card, 14 years old, watches the flames from the warming barrels.

represent about 10 percent of the homeless population, Ogden said, but use a disproportionate share of resources.

"They cycle through a awful lot," he said. "Wet clothes are deadly, especially in this weather." Homeless people can't store clothing.

Ogden said the average age of volunteers is going up, now people in their 50s, "which means newer generations are not becoming engaged in this type of outreach." Some donors get frustrated seeing the same people homeless year after year.

"It's doing a lot of good because they're still alive,"

Ogden said. The homeless have issues beyond housing and jobs. "Just the fact that we're keeping them alive is proof positive of the good work being done."

Detroit's homeless population is some 12,500, people with no fixed address, with about 2,000 of those chronic. "We're finding it's just not an attractive charity anymore," Ogden said.

Homeless people are often veterans (one-third) or seniors and children (one-half). Many people are on a slippery slope toward homelessness.

"They look like your neighbors, they look like your friends," Ogden said.

Police searching for man wanted in Garden City armed robberies

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Garden City police are investigating two armed robberies reported early Dec. 28-29. The same suspect is believed to be responsible for both robberies as well as a third robbery on Dec. 26, police said.

At 12:39 a.m. police were called to the BP gas station, 32889 Warren, where the clerk reported being robbed at gunpoint. He said the suspect entered the store and immediately pointed a gun at him demanding money. After putting \$200 in a bag and also giving the man two cartons of cigarettes, the clerk said the suspect told him to lie on the floor behind the counter.

The clerk said he sat down on the floor and then got up to see which way the suspect had fled but the man was gone. Two witnesses told police the suspect had headed west across Venoy into an apartment complex. A Westland police dog tracked the suspect to the apartment parking lot but he wasn't located, police said.

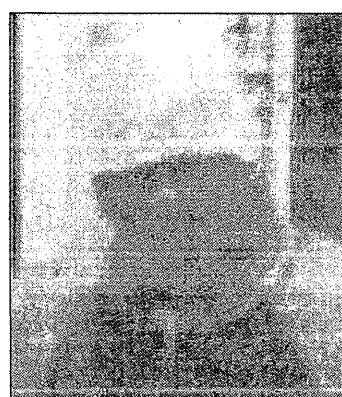
Based on the description of the suspect — a black male approximately 30 years old, 6-foot-4, medium build with a gray winter hat and black jacket with gray sleeves — and the surveillance video, the officer said the same person appeared to be responsible for robbing the Speedway gas station on Ford at Harrison on Dec. 26.

At 2:45 a.m. Dec. 27, an employee at CVS Pharmacy, 27435 Ford, told police that a man with a gray scarf over his face entered the store and immediately pointed a gun at him demanding money. The suspect left after receiving \$233 from two registers, police said. The employee was told to lie on the floor and was unable to see the direction in which the suspect had fled.

A police dog also tracked the suspect but soon lost the scent which police attributed to the suspect getting into a nearby vehicle.

Anyone with information about the robberies is asked to call Garden City Police at (734) 793-1700.

lrogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428



Garden City police are looking for information about a man suspected of three recent armed robberies. The photograph was taken from surveillance video at CVS Pharmacy on Ford at Inkster Road which was robbed at 2:45 a.m. Monday, Dec. 29. Anyone with information about the suspect is asked to call Garden City police at (734) 793-1700.

Huge Storewide Toy & Doll Clearance!
40% OFF this item #58619
SAVE 20-50%
1000s Of Items • Hundreds of Trusted Brands
Adora, Badger, Breyer, Brio, Corolle, Erector, Groovy Girl, Guidecraft, Gund, Haba, Kettler, K-Nex, Kidkraft, Le Toy Van, Learning Resources & Other Educational Items, Lee Middleton, Melissa & Doug, Playmobil, Ryan's Room, Steiff, Thomas & More!
For More Info. Visit www.dollhospital.com
The Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop 3947 W. 12 Mile Berkley 248-543-3115
While supplies last. Does not apply to previous purchases. Details in-store. Mon-Sat 10-5:30, Thurs 10-8:30

KITCHEN REFACING
\$500 Countertop* Includes Installation
50% SAVINGS OR MORE!
FREE ESTIMATES
cabinet clinic
The Leader in Cabinet Refacing
West 734-421-8151
North-East 586-751-1848
www.cabinetclinic.com
* Limited time offer-50 sq.ft. max. with refacing installation

THINKING ABOUT...
A NEW FURNACE?
LENNOX
FREE ESTIMATES
(734) 525-1930
Our 34th Year!
UNITED TEMPERATURE
8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA

Rx CANADA DIRECT
Saving you up to **75%** on your prescription drugs.
Including:
• Plavix 75mg, 100ct.....\$169.96
• Lipitor 10mg, 90ct.....\$139.85
• Flomax 0.4mg CR, 90ct.....\$128.38
• Januvia 100mg, 84ct.....\$369.90
Now **also** saving you **BIG** money on Prescription Eyewear.
Call us for a FREE QUOTE
313-724-8860
23541 Ford Road • Dearborn

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
Dec. 28 Dec. 29 Dec. 30 Dec. 31 Jan. 1 Jan. 2 Jan. 3
11am-6pm 10am-9pm 10am-9pm 10am-6pm 10am-7pm 10am-9pm 10am-9pm
Holiday Hours!
EMBELLISH YOUR LIFE
WESTLAND
SHOPPING CENTER
Macy's, JC Penney, Sears, Kohl's & Over 80 Specialty Stores • 734-421-0291
Located on the corner of Wayne & Warren Roads • www.westlandcenter.com

Put Your Money To Work!
4.25%* APY
15-Month IRA Certificate
Need a safe place to put your money where you'll earn a great return? Come to Co-op Services Credit Union, where your money works for you!
• IRAs (great for 401k rollovers) • Certificates of Deposit
• On-site financial advisor • Great rates
• Variety of terms • NCUA insured
Visit our website or call today for more information!
CO-OP SERVICES CREDIT UNION
Banking, the Credit Union Way!
www.cscu.org • 800-321-8570
Dearborn • Livonia • Melvindale • Southgate
Walled Lake • Westland
*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are subject to change. IRA Certificates require a minimum \$500 deposit. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. For more details, please visit www.cscu.org

OUR VIEWS

With 2008 behind us, there is much to hope for in 2009

As the year 2008 comes to a close, it's time to turn our attention to what we hope will be a much better 2009. With that in mind, the *Observer* offers some New Year's resolutions — or wishes really — for our state, our communities and the men and women who govern them.

■ Certainly we are hoping 2009 will be the year the Big 3 turn things around and are again the beacon of American capitalism. Hopefully the auto industry is able to use the recent lifeline from the federal government to survive long enough where it can retool itself to produce fuel-efficient vehicles that will help America break its addiction to foreign oil.

■ If the recent troubles of the Big 3 have taught us nothing else, it is that our state is too dependent on the auto industry. Michigan must continue to invest in other economic sectors, particularly in the development of alternative fuels and bio-technology. Western Wayne County could reap the benefits of such investment because of the companies and infrastructure already in place. This kind of investment could be the springboard for Michigan to regain its global stature as a hotbed of innovation.

■ Like last year, 2009 promises to be a challenging one for state lawmakers, who must find a way to avoid massive budget deficits. That being said, one area where the state cannot afford to make any more cuts is in the funding of public education. If Michigan wants to be a global innovator in alternative energy or any other industry, we must produce students who can meet the challenges of future workplaces. We must admit that our schools are falling behind. Funding is not keeping up with the costs associated with running quality schools. Fixing our public schools must be a priority.

■ The new year might just be the year that Detroit and its suburbs finally reach some consensus about the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and how the city supplies water to its 4.3 million customers. An agreement reached just a couple weeks ago is finally providing some hope that the city and suburbs can form a partnership built on trust rather than animosity. The historic agreement, which calls for the creation of a five-member directors' council made up of both city and suburban leaders, should allow the DWSD to eventually get out from under federal oversight.

Canton

■ We hope the new year will bring wisdom to all of Canton's newly elected officials. With a new supervisor, treasurer and three new trustees, as well as a new state representative and new district court judge, Canton is undergoing a big change in leadership. All of them should have a goal of maintaining Canton's high quality of life that residents have come to expect.

■ In this tough economy, we hope Canton Leisure Services (recently named the top recreation service provider in the nation) will be able to continue providing top-notch services and programs. Whether it's Liberty Fest, the senior programs or the B.L.O.C.K. teen center, Leisure Services does a fantastic job reaching all segments of Canton's citizenry.

Garden City

■ We hope Garden City Schools continue the good work on reducing the district's financial deficit. Instead of the projected \$1.8 million deficit, the shortage had dropped to an expected \$1.2 million.

■ Garden City should resolve to continue its several years of keeping spending down that have resulted in a \$2 million fund balance. That money will help as revenues are expected to be flat or declining in the next couple of years.

Livonia

■ We hope developers of the former Livonia Mall re-create and rejuvenate that old corner of Middlebelt and Seven Mile so that shoppers can experience variety and enjoy convenience there. The mall, renamed Livonia Marketplace, has looked run-down for years and needs an upgrade badly. Perhaps a revitalized mall will bring a rebirth for that end of town.

■ We hope Plymouth Road remains a viable business artery for the city and that entrepreneurs can develop plans for single businesses to create a new vitality along that strip. Yes, the economy is bad right now, but when we shop locally, we can help pump money into the community.

Plymouth

■ We hope the newly seated Plymouth Township Board of Trustees will foster more of an open, transparent atmosphere than they've been doing, particularly recently. Officials need to be more open about how much money the township is spending, particularly on labor lawyers, and quit relying on closed-session meetings to help enact policies and procedures without much discussion in open forums. While all perfectly legal, it doesn't do much for public morale.

■ We'd like to see Plymouth Township explore the possibility of a recreation department of its own. Currently the township has a number of athletic facilities — Lake Point Soccer Park, Plymouth Township Park and Hilltop Golf Course — that might make for natural programs of their own. It's an idea worth exploring.

Westland

■ Westland has a chance in 2009 to implement a long-awaited curbside recycling program with a rewards component for residents who participate. City officials hope to include RecycleBank in the new program, which would allow households to accumulate points for the amount of materials they recycle and redeem them for discounts to places like restaurants and movie theaters.

■ We hope Westland continues pushing for a state-approved cleanup plan for lead-contaminated Central City Park so that the city's one-time recreation jewel can be returned for safe public use as soon as possible.



LETTERS

Remember southern hostility

Among the disparate groups of retirees with whom I associate weekly, a rather common theme is appearing quite often: Why are those southern senators so intent on destroying this country's last major indigenous industry? I listen intently to the opinions and then offer my humble response. People like Sen. R. Shelby, et. al. have two goals in mind: 1) destroy the unions (even though it has been widely reported that our workers, in some cases make less than the ones in the "right-to-work" states); and 2) keep fighting the Civil War. (Come on, guys. You lost. Deal with it. Move on.)

The fact is, through no small effort on the part of the northern states (and our unions), our next president is an extremely intelligent black person, and is an encumbrance so onerous to the Neanderthal throwbacks south of the Ohio border that they have decided to decimate one out of seven jobs in this country.

Apparently, these wonderful folks have no idea (much less a concern) about how many families this will affect, about the tremendous loss of vital revenue to cities, etc., or about the millions of dollars it will cost to provide unemployment benefits, etc.

A member of one of my groups said, "Well yeah, you're right, but what can we do about it?" At my age, I have to continually fight the urge to say things like, "Well, for (goodness) sake, you could at least contact your congress person and the senators who are trying to dump on us!"

Plus, I also hate myself for coming up with sarcastic and malevolent answers to legitimate questions, but I couldn't help myself. I said, "Hey, I know you are going to Biloxi for the winter, and you're taking the cat and the collie with you. Start saving up all the kitty-poo and doggy-doo until you get to Alabama."

Frederick J. Libbing
Plymouth

Worn out her welcome

Gov. (Jennifer) Granholm would be of no value in an Obama administration post. Granholm can't help Michigan and, quite truthfully, never has helped Michigan. President-elect Obama can be better served by many more elected leaders with proven executive experience, such as Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

It's a bit much seeing Gov. Granholm appear all over the national broadcast media speaking on behalf of Michigan about the auto loan bailout. I'm a bit sick and tired of her ineffective, long-winded tenure. Doesn't Gov. Granholm realize that in the mind of many Michigan Democratic Party voters, she has worn out her welcome a long time ago? We're hurting big time and all Granholm does is talk-talk and pretend that she is an important player in getting the Big Three auto loan. It's not the time to gloat when the Big Three's chances of survival are at less than 50 percent.

The truth of the matter is that Gov. Granholm is globalization's best friend. As a one-time avid supporter, I remember an event at a Warren/Macomb Chamber of Commerce talk in May 2005. I wish everyone disaffected UAW auto worker would have been there and seen that drama. Granholm tightly held Tom Friedman's book *The World is Flat* with both hands over her

head and told the crowd that we had better get on board or be left behind. What she should have been doing is knocking down the doors of the Big Three and threatened to kick the (expletive) out of them out of them if they continued to focus on building SUVs which would one day make Michigan the laughing-stock of the entire developed world.

If I were advising Gov. Granholm, I'd suggest that she bow out before the Big Three delivers their report card to Washington next March 31, and give Lt. Gov. John Cherry a well deserved chance to use his skills as a public-policy maker and help Michigan wake from our economic nightmare.

Maybe Obama can name Granholm to a post in some enchanted faraway place such as Mongolia or Uruguay. She could develop her theatrical skills and promote the U.S. as well and I'd suspect have an audience, because right now, nobody is listening to her around these parts.

If Gov. Granholm sticks around, the remainder of her term will parallel that of President Bush's past two years in office, which was hindered by an absence of political capital. Nobody's been listening to him lately.

Hopefully, the Michigan Republican Party will select a more well-qualified candidate to run for governor in 2010. Dick DeVos just couldn't cut the cake and was a very poor choice in the 2006 election cycle. It's too bad and unfortunate that U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra didn't step up in 2006 and run. He may have been a godsend for Michigan. I'm ready to cast my vote for him right now.

Kenneth Hreha
Dryden

Goodfellows thanks

I would like to say a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who was a part of Canton Goodfellows this year. It was a huge project, with 625 children to serve, but with all of the great Santa's Helpers in Canton, we were able to get the job done.

Our board members are surely the best. They put their own lives on hold for a week and work harder than ever at getting all of our families taken care of. And our donors make the whole project possible. Chamber members, residents, citizens old and young — you are the heart and soul of the Canton Goodfellows. Your generosity and support lift us all up when we need it so badly.

Goodfellows is a labor of love — one that should encompass every Canton resident. We must show our love and concern for all of our community's children.

Again, from the bottom of my heart, to each and every one who cared this year, many, many thanks! Merry Christmas.

Nancy Spencer
Canton

Lions Club thanks

The Plymouth Lions Club would like to thank community members for the overwhelming support shown during our Candy Cane sales event that was held Nov. 28-29.

With your help, we had a very successful fund-raiser. And in these hard times, we appreciate every dollar and dime.

Collected funds will be used to support the many projects Lions conduct throughout the year. Some of the community programs include First Step, Penrickton School for the Blind, Plymouth High School scholarships

and leader dogs for the blind.

Your donations will truly make a difference. Thank you for helping us help others!

Sincerely,
Debbie Baudino-Dowling
Plymouth Lions Club
Plymouth

Have a little faith

I am a middle school student doing a project on the economic crisis. Now I believe that loans took part of the economic crisis. So many people kept pulling out loans from the bank to pay for the mortgage, wanted items and other expenses. Also, since most people never paid back the loans, some banks had to shut down. Banks today are tightening loans to people that are too risky.

Not only did the loans take part of the economic crisis, but consumer fear played a role, too. People started to see that the stocks went down, so they started pulling and pulling them out. They fear that they will lose too much money, so they take the stocks out. As the stock points go down, so does faith in the stock market. So if we just believed in our stocks, we just might come up faster. So have a little faith.

Zahra Bawaneh
Canton

Not a friend

Gov. Granholm is not a friend of the automobile industry. She supports union closed shops, handicapping manufacturers. She prevents slant oil drilling under the Great Lakes that could alleviate expensive gas. She wants autos to run on clean electricity, but will not provide enough of that either. She won't permit abundant nuclear or coal energy, but dreams of wind and solar power. These developments will not occur in her lifetime.

Some citizens were happy when \$4 gasoline sent our wealth to Third World nations. Guilt-ridden that America uses more than "our share" of energy, we were forced to economize or starve. Profits of "greedy" oil companies amount to nine cents a gallon. Michigan taxes are 19 cents and Lansing politicians propose an increase. The state collects double the profit and seeks more while opposing our needs.

Federal financing will not solve Michigan's problems. Sending Granholm away might help.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

Mail:
Letters to the editor
Livonia Observer
615 W. Lafayette, Second Level
Detroit, MI 48226

Fax:
(313) 223-4650

E-mail:
kabramcz@hometownlife.com

Observer

GANNETT

Hugh Gallagher
Managing Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

Jeannie Parent
Senior Director of
Sales & Marketing

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.

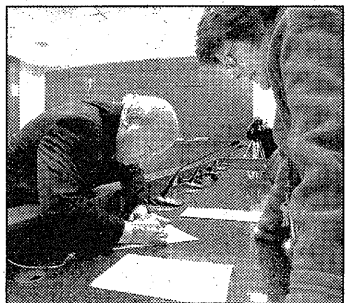
QUOTABLE

"Investment in infrastructure is a necessary and good thing. It's something that will last and not be temporary. I will be interested in the details and what gets put into the package."

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, discussing President-elect Barack Obama's intentions for an economic stimulus package centered around government investment in repairing the nation's infrastructure

2008 FROM PAGE A1

■ Canton's political season, complete with a Barack Obama Campaign for Change field office on Ford Road, was colorful with Melissa McLaughlin getting a victory over Joan Noricks to become township treasurer. Three new trustees, John Anthony, Syed Taj and Pat Williams, were also elected.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New Canton Supervisor Phil LaJoy signs the official papers provided by Clerk Terry Bennett minutes before he was sworn in on Dec. 19. LaJoy succeeded Tom Yack, who served as supervisor for 20 years.

And before he retired in December turning the supervisor's office over to Phil LaJoy, Tom Yack's support of McLaughlin's treasurer bid was called into question by a group calling themselves Watchdog Canton, and hundreds of his e-mails were obtained resulting in a complaint being filed with the state by the executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network.

■ While the township was ranked as the 24th safest community in the nation with populations over 75,000 and is able to claim the lowest crime rate among similar sized communities in the region, crime isn't immune to Canton.

Gary Allen Steele, a Detroit police officer, is awaiting trial for allegedly assaulting his ex-girlfriend and firing a gun near her head at her township home and former Plymouth Christian Academy teacher Stephanie Ann Stein was sentenced to a minimum of three years in prison for having a sexual relationship with a former student.

GARDEN CITY

■ The Garden City High School Cougars won the state softball championship defeating Alpena 2-1. It was the first state championship earned by any Garden City High School team.

■ Some familiar faces left Garden City during 2009 only to be replaced by some other familiar faces. Superintendent since 2002, Richard Witkowski wrapped up a 38-year career with Garden City Schools in February. After a superintendent

search, he was replaced by Michelle Cline, a consultant who was also a former assistant curriculum director for the district.

A former reference librarian, James Lenze returned to the Garden City Library as director replacing Joan Elmouchi, who left after 13 years to become director of the Chelsea District Library.

■ Over the spring and summer, the second phase of Maplewood — Inkster Road to Harrison and Henry Ruff to Merriman — was reconstructed. Combined with the earlier reconstruction project, that gives the heavily traveled street new pavement from Inkster Road to Merriman.

■ In July, a new weekly Garden City Farmers Market sponsored by the DDA and the Chamber of Commerce opened just south of Kroger. The market was a success and is expected to open earlier in 2009.

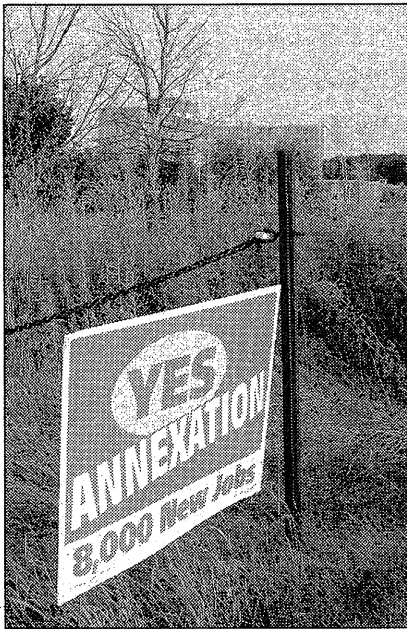
■ Garden City and Garden City Schools agreed in concept to swap ownership of the Maplewood Community Center, which the city leases from the school district, for the Community Pool, owned by the city but connected to and used by Garden City High School. A legal description and other details of the swap are still being worked out.

LIVONIA

■ In Livonia, plans for a new courthouse drew complaints last summer from some nearby residents who were concerned that the facility, placed between their homes and the Livonia Civic Center Library, would put too many residents and their children in close contact with criminals at the court. The 39,000-square-foot courthouse will hold two courtrooms, one magistrate's hearing room, holding cells, a saly port for prisoner transfer, a probation office with room for 12 officers and archive storage space. Cost of the building is estimated at \$11 million. The council approved the site on a 5-1 vote in July, after learning that other sites on the city campus would require differing levels of site preparation and cost anywhere between \$600,000 and \$1 million more.

■ Last summer's election season featured a fierce battle over the annexation of 414 acres of the site of the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital in Livonia's primary election on Aug. 5. REIS, a partnership between developers Real Estate Interests Group and Schostak Brothers, sought the annexation with Livonia after the developers could not reach an agreement with Northville Township officials on a proposed mixed-use development that included single and multiple housing, office and commercial development. The plan proposed required exceptions to the township's zoning regulations and master plan. The developer filed suit against the township.

At the request of the township, the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Despite a campaign to get Livonia voters to support annexing the site of the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital in Northville Township, voters shot down the measure in August.

developer put seven security guards on the property. The REIS employees registered to vote as residents of Northville Township. Once residency had been established, they petitioned for an election to be annexed to the adjacent city of Livonia.

On Aug. 5, voters rejected the proposal, 14,416-10,932.

■ In November's general election, John Walsh was elected as Livonia's new state representative, replacing term-limited John Pastor, and City Attorney Sean Kavanagh was elected 16th District Court judge.

PLYMOUTH

■ Residents in the Plymouth community had to wait until the end of the year to get their biggest highlight of 2008: completion of the Sheldon Road underpass. The project closed Sheldon Road between Plymouth and Northville for nearly two years. When it opened last month, motorists lined up to be among the first on the newly constructed road, honking horns and waving in celebration. The idea was sparked by a \$5.5 million federal grant in 1999 and took a decade to complete, with the final \$15.5 million price tag about twice the original cost estimates.

■ A Plymouth Township teen and his friend from Westland were sentenced to prison for the stabbing death of a River Rouge man in a Canton Township garage. Jean Pierre "JP" Orlewicz, 18, of Plymouth Township will spend his life in prison after being convicted by a jury of first-degree murder for the Nov. 2007 killing of Daniel Sorenson and then beheading him. Alex Letkemann, 18, of Westland pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and will spend up to 30 years in prison.

■ Salem High School Principal Jerry Ostoin, 64, retired after suffering a stroke. Ostoin began his career with Plymouth-Canton Schools in 1974, and was appointed principal at Salem in 1986. Meanwhile, Superintendent Jim Ryan retired in February. The school board's search brought in Dr. Craig Fiegel from Evergreen Park, Ill. Meanwhile, the district became the third largest in Michigan, behind Detroit and Utica.

■ Among those who made us proud, country singer Sarah Lenore of Plymouth, who was eliminated on American Idol the last night the final 10 acts were announced. And the Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team was chosen to march in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Judge Karen Khalil congratulates new Redford Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz (right) after she was sworn in on the steps of township hall in November. She defeated incumbent Miles Handy in the August primary.

REDFORD

■ Redford voters wanted a change in the township's leadership and chose Tracey Schultz Kobylarz over incumbent R. Miles Handy II in the Democratic primary election Aug. 5. Kobylarz also won the general election on Nov. 4, defeating James Bailey.

■ House Speaker Andy Dillon won two elections in November: he defeated a ballot proposal asking voters to recall him from office and defeated Republican Sandra Eggers. Dillon was elected to a third term as state representative for the 17th District, consisting of Redford Township, Dearborn Heights and a portion of Livonia.

Township Clerk Garth Christie retained his seat by a narrow margin, defeating Kathleen Mooradian in the Democratic primary election. Christie was unopposed on the November ballot. Lily Cavanaugh won election as the new township treasurer, defeating Paul Borland in the November general election. Cavanaugh succeeds Bob Brang, who decided not to seek re-election and stepped down from the treasurer's office after serving there since 1984.

■ Redford Union teachers want a new contract from the school board, so they protested at school board meetings this summer and fall. The teachers are now

are in the middle of a fourth school year without a contract. South Redford teachers are negotiating with school administrators to obtain a new contract.

WESTLAND

■ Westland showed signs of progress in 2008 despite shrinking revenues, rising foreclosures and warnings from auditors that the city should brace for increasingly difficult times.

■ The city adopted a new five-year parks plan and brought in community volunteers to Tattan Park to build Play Planet, one of the country's largest contiguous play structures. Mayor William Wild's administration continued pushing forward with a remediation plan for contaminated Central City Park, amid hopes the state will approve a proposal that would include soccer fields and a veterans memorial.

■ The city also moved forward with Wild's Mission Green program, a plan to make the city more environmentally friendly and cost-efficient. The biggest component will be a curbside recycling effort, expected this spring, that will include financial incentives for residents who participate.

■ Wayne-Westland teachers had a brief strike in October to protest the lack of progress in still-ongoing contract talks with administrators. On a more positive note, one of the district's graduates, Ashlee Baracy, earned the title of Miss Michigan.

■ One of the most shocking crimes occurred in August, when suspected drug dealers engaged in a shootout with undercover Romulus police officers outside a shopping center near Merriman and Warren. One suspect was killed, one pleaded guilty to his role, and three others still are facing trial.

■ Westland snagged some new businesses but also saw the closing of others, including its last movie theater, Showcase Cinema. One of Westland's premier politicians, Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard, stepped down after 30 years. Westland also learned it will be a stop along a proposed commuter rail line that is expected to run between Detroit and Ann Arbor — a move that could spur new development and jobs.

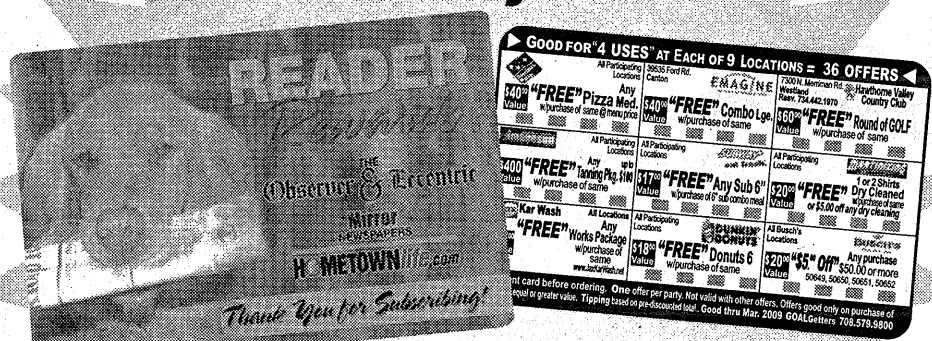


TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Yates of GameTime (left) and volunteer Bernie Brewer of the Wayne Masonic Lodge 112 help to build Westland's Play Planet.

Reader Rewards

Get Your "Reader Rewards Card" today!



Here's How!

Simply subscribe to or renew your subscription for 6 months and we'll send you a Readers Rewards Card!

Call 866.887.2737 or mail today...

Featuring... \$600 in FREE STUFF!

36 MORE REASONS to subscribe to your hometown newspaper!

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS
 CLIP AND MAIL OR CALL 1-866-887-2737
 Mail to: Circulation Department, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

I'd like to subscribe to my hometown newspaper every Sunday and Thursday for six months at \$34.95 and receive a Reader Rewards Card

PAYMENT ENCLOSED BILL ME

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Credit Card Information: VISA MasterCard Discover Amex
 Please automatically renew my subscription at expiration.
 Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____

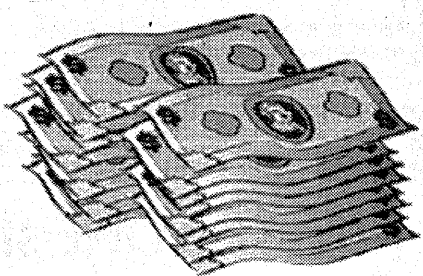
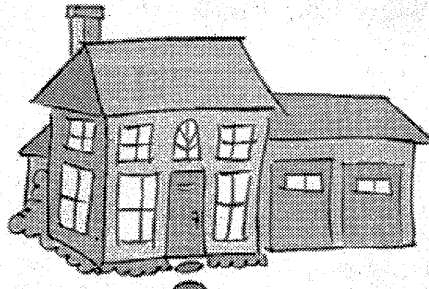
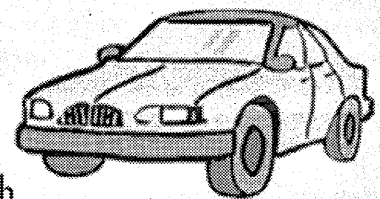
Participating Merchants:

- Busch's Super Market
- Subway
- One Hour Martinizing Dry Cleaners
- Dunkin Donuts
- Domino's Pizza
- Imagine Theater
- Image Sun Tanning
- Jax Car Wash
- Hawthorn Valley Golf Course

Reader Rewards

We have "No Problem" saving you money.

When you insure both your car and home with us, through Auto-Owners Insurance Company, we'll save you money! Stop in, or call us today for a "No Problem" insurance check-up.



Auto-Owners Insurance
 Life Home Car Business
 The "No Problem" People®

METRO AGENCY, INC.

"THE PERSONAL TOUCH"

Insurance

Best Possible Premiums. Happy Customers Since 1959.

32646 Five Mile Road • Livonia, MI 48154

734-555-3900

www.metroagency.net

BIG

GET ZED ROW FLOOR

In a tough economy, customers need to save money, but not sacrifice quality! With over 1000 stores worldwide, only Carpet One can make this kind of buy and pass the savings on to you. Come in and see this richly embossed, textured laminate flooring available at an unheard of price. **WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!**

FIRST QUALITY!

8 mm PLANK LAMINATE

2 colors Oak or Brazilian Cherry Realistic look!

Installation Available!
25 Year Warranty

\$1.79

SQ.FT. • MATERIAL ONLY

IN STOCK CARPET

5 Year Warranty
Stylish & Practical

2 styles-48 colors to choose from Wales II-Bronze Textured and Expert II-Bronze Saxony

Immediate Installation! Installed price with 6 lb. pad \$1.99 sq.ft

99¢

SQ.FT. MATERIAL ONLY

PREMIUM CARPET LABOR PACKAGE

\$189

We'll install your carpet, remove & replace furniture and remove your existing carpet for **ONE LOW PRICE!!!**



Plus...NO PAYMENTS, NO INTEREST for 1 YEAR*

PLEASE MENTION THIS AD FOR A FREE MEASURE!
Sale dates Jan. 2, 2009 thru Jan. 31, 2009

INDEPENDENT CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME

The ONE store for your perfect floor.® | www.carpetonewestland.com

1400 N. WAYNE ROAD, WESTLAND | 734.729.6200

STORE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9 AM-8 PM; SATURDAY 9 AM-6 PM
SUNDAY NOON- 4 PM

3 EASY WAYS TO SHOP

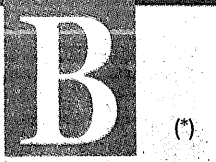


At participating stores only, not all products available at all locations. Photos for illustrative purposes only. Not responsible for typographical errors. Offers cannot be combined with other discounts or promotional offers and are not valid on previous purchases. ©Carpet One Floor and Home 2008 *On approved credit. Financing provided by CitiFinancial Retail Services. Finance Charges will not accrue on the purchase during the credit promotional period if the required minimum payment is made each billing cycle during the credit promotional period when due. The purchase price is divided by the number of months in the credit promotional period to determine equal monthly payments to be made during the credit promotional period. Credit promotional period may be terminated if you default under your account agreement. Minimum down payment and/or minimum purchase may apply. Available for a limited time only at participating stores. See store for details. †See actual warranty at store for details.



HARDWOOD | CARPET | LAMINATE | TILE | VINYL | AND MORE

SPORTS



Thursday, January 1, 2009

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

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

Pats stop Rochester in tourney

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After playing four close games in a row and losing three straight, the Livonia Franklin boys basketball team finally got a breather on Saturday.

The Patriots took a 28-14 halftime lead and rolled to a 44-26 win over Rochester in the consolation game of the Franklin Holiday Tournament.

Dearborn Fordson, getting 24 points from Daraoun Mashrah and 14 from Jamal Williams, captured the tournament title and improved to 7-0 with a 58-51 win over Howell.

Franklin, now 2-3 on the season, missed making the final after squandering a 43-37 third-quarter advantage en route to a 55-51 setback to Howell in Friday's opener.

The Highlanders outscored Franklin 18-8 in the decisive fourth quarter.

"Last night (Friday) we were outworked, outthusted and did not close it out," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "I like the way we're playing, but we did not handle the pressure and we did not finish. It was the most turnovers we've had so far.

"Tonight (Saturday) we made a big (personnel) adjustment. We played extremely hard and executed."

Senior forward Connor Leidal, who had a game-high 25 points in the loss to Howell, also led Franklin against Rochester with 13 points.

Jeff Poole and Andy McCaffery each added eight, while Garrett Gumm contributed seven.

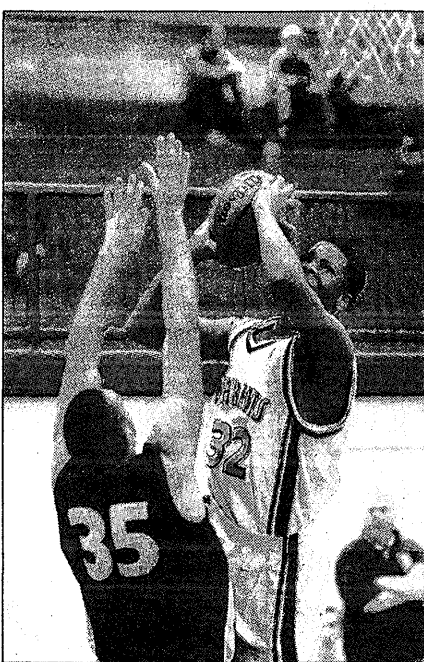
Nick Shafkalis and Nick O'Neil each scored six for the Falcons (2-4).

Fordson, getting 27 points from Baquer Sayed and 14 from Williams, edged Rochester in the other tourney semifinal, 54-53.

Shafkalis had 15 for the Falcons, while Keith Newberry added 14.

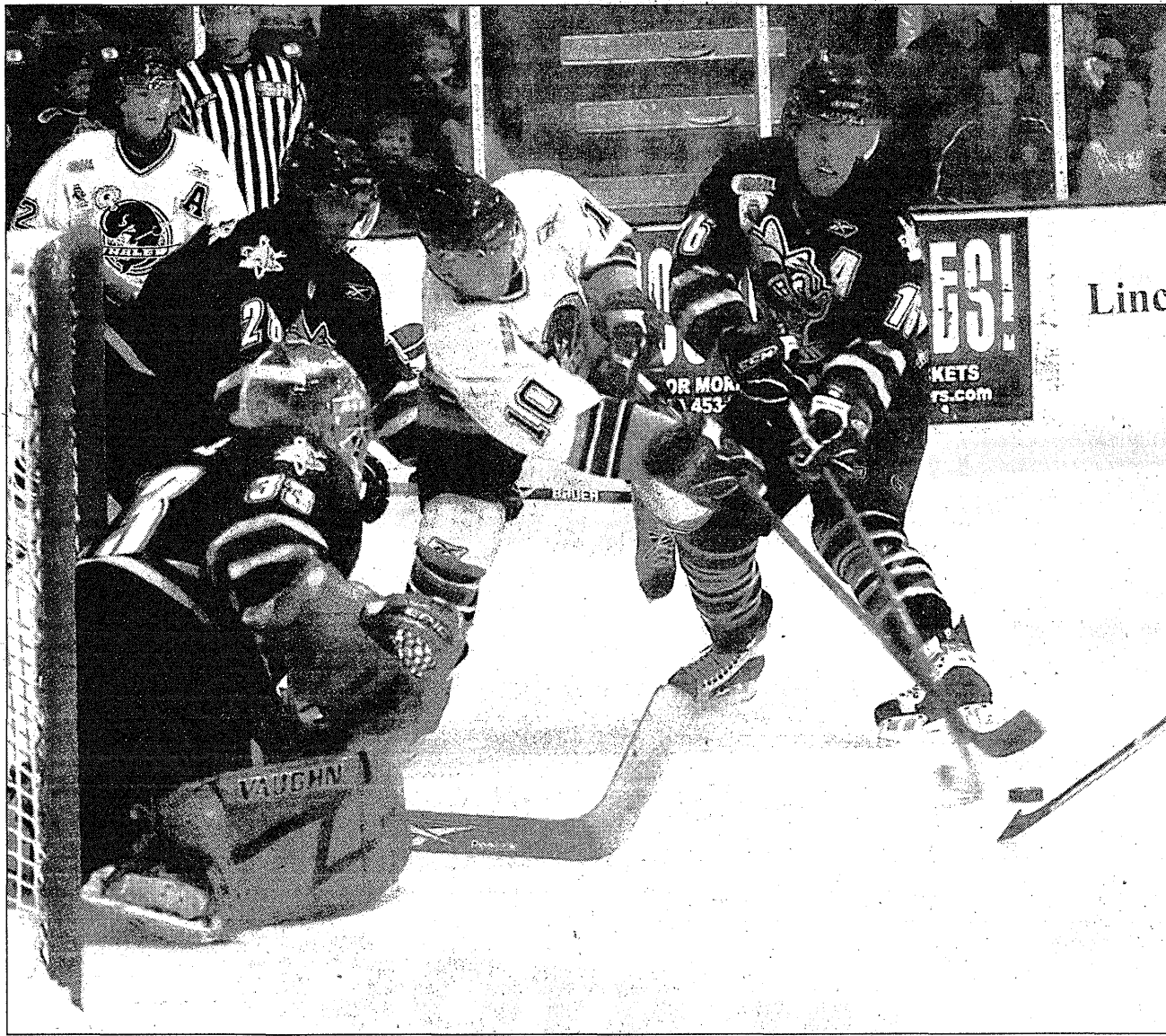
Howell (3-2) got 18 points from Tyler

Please see **HOOPS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Franklin's Jeff Poole rises above Howell's Tyler Hughes during first-round action in the Franklin Holiday Tournament.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Ryan Hayes (10) battles Sarnia's Steve Ferry for control of the puck during first-period action Monday afternoon. Hayes scored the Whalers' first goal, but the Sting prevailed, 5-2.

Cold Play

Icy start dooms Whalers in 5-2 setback to Sarnia

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Like the rock-hard fruitcake you received for Christmas one year from your great aunt, and the ceramic frog you got in the holiday office gift exchange, the Plymouth Whalers would like to take back Monday afternoon's matinee against visiting Sarnia.

Unfortunately, the Ontario Hockey League has a no-return policy.

In a battle of Ontario Hockey League Western Conference West Division rivals, the Sting tallied a pair of early first-period goals before skating to a 5-2 triumph before a "Kids Day" crowd of 2,041 at Compuware Arena.

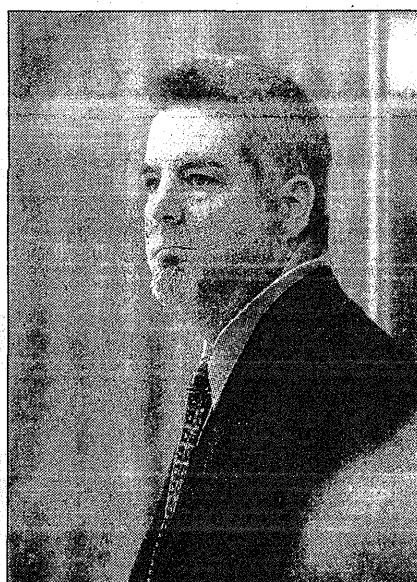
The loss dropped the recently red-hot Whalers to 16-16-4-0 (36 points) while the Sting improved to 18-15-2-2.

Windsor leads the division with 61 points, 17 more than second-place Saginaw.

Moments before Monday's opening face-off, Plymouth coach Mike Vellucci emphasized to his team the importance of a fast start, but it was Sarnia that seemed to heed the message as it bolted to a 2-0 lead within the contest's first 15 minutes.

"I was disappointed in our effort, especially in the first 10 minutes," said Vellucci. "This was Sarnia's first game back from the holidays and it was our second, so there was no excuse.

"Before the game, I talked to the team about taking it to them in the first 10 minutes, but the opposite hap-



Mike Vellucci has turned the season around for the Whalers since grabbing the head-coaching reins Nov. 10.

pened — they took it to us."

The Whalers entered the contest with nine wins in their previous 13 games, but they've struggled the past week, Vellucci said.

"We hadn't been playing well leading up to this game," the franchise's coach, general manager and president said. "We won the other night, but our goalie stood on his head.

"We're getting a little too cocky, thinking we're better than we are. I saw this coming."

The Whalers played Monday's game without three of their most productive

players: leading scorer Chris Terry, who suffered an injury in Saturday's 4-3 victory over Saginaw; defenseman Michal Jordan, who is competing for Czechoslovakia in the World Junior Hockey Championships; and Tyler Seguin, who is toiling for Canada in the U17 World Championships.

Terry's injury will be evaluated by a doctor on Wednesday. Jordan and Seguin will return the first week of January.

Sarnia's Justin DiBenedetto one-timed in a Michael Neal pass from the door-step 3:14 into the game to give the Sting a 1-0 advantage.

The visitors doubled their lead just over three minutes later when Jamie Arniel made the Whalers pay for back-to-back penalties with a two-man advantage goal from the top of the left circle at the 13:38 mark. Mark Katic assisted.

Ryan Hayes lit the lamp for the Whalers with 5:12 left in the first period when he hammered the puck over Dan Spence's left shoulder from a point directly in front of the net, 20 feet out. Tyler J. Brown and Bo Schmitz earned assists.

Hayes nearly knocked home an equalizing power-play goal with 2:15 to go in the opening stanza, but his wrist rolled wide by mere inches.

With 23.5 seconds left in first, Sarnia's Marcus Pepe dinged the post with a laser.

Sarnia outshot Plymouth, 15-13, over

Please see **WHALERS, B4**

Rockets' gold glare

John Glenn outlasts Rocks in Elks invite

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Members of the Westland John Glenn wrestling team are getting pretty good at perfecting a new hold: the trophy hold.

The Rockets captured first-place hardware for the second time this season Saturday after they won the Plymouth Elks Salem Invitational in the Rocks' gymnasium.

Despite competing without four starters who were ill, John Glenn amassed 159 points to outlast the host Rocks (145) and Melvindale (142).

"We have a lot of flexibility in our lineup, which we needed today," said John Glenn coach Bill Polk. "Our depth really came through today."

Polk praised the effort of senior 152-pounder Jeff Adkins, who earned the tournament's upper-weight class Most Valuable Wrestler award after registering falls in two of his three matches. Adkins pinned Monroe's Nick Lujan in the 152-pound final.

"I'm happy for Jeff because he's a senior and this is the first tournament he's won," said Polk. "He had a great day."

The Rockets also earned first-place points from 112-pounder Anthony Pavlich and 140-pounder Jimmy Mann.

Salem coach Greg Wochuk was pleased with his team's performance, which was spear-headed by Austin Root's title-grabbing effort at 189.

"We probably finished as high as we

could," said Wochuk. "We were down a kid early in the day, so to only be 14 points out of first is pretty good.

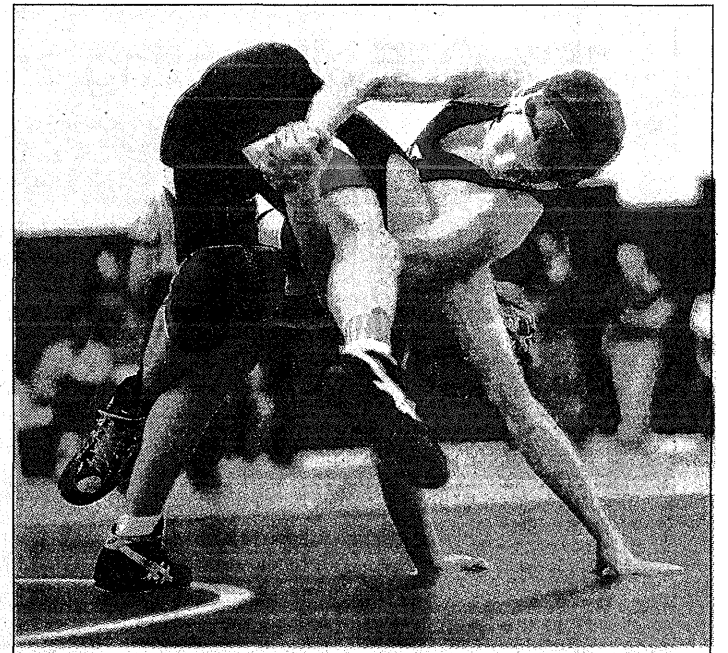
"I thought Austin Root, Sam Lepper and Blake Abbey wrestled very well. Blake is undersized for a heavyweight, but he's really holding his own."

Root took gold by upending Belleville's Kaare Cigan, 5-2, in the 189-pound title match.

Plymouth's top performers were Vince Rizzo, who placed third at 171, and Alex Winn, who was third at 189.

Melvindale's Gamal Yahia won the lower-weights MVW award by sweeping through his 103-pound matches.

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Kyle Middleditch (right) looks for leverage against John Glenn's Mark Thompson during a second-round 125-pound match during Saturday's Plymouth Elks Salem Invitational. Thompson won with a pin 2:52 into the match.

Sidelines

UM's Martin hailed

The Sporting News and Rivals.com both unveiled its 2008 All-Freshman teams with University of Michigan true freshman defensive tackle Mike Martin (Redford/Novi-Detroit Catholic Central H.S.) receiving recognition on each of the publication's second-team squad.

The Big Ten Conference had four league players represented on the first team and five selected to the second team.

Martin led all U-M freshman defenders with 20 tackles on the season, including 4.5 tackles for loss and two sacks. He played in all 12 contests at defensive tackle, posting stops in 10 of those 12 games.

Martin, a first-team All-Big Ten Freshman Team selection, tallied a season- and career-best three stops against Michigan State, Northwestern and Ohio State. He recorded his first career sack vs. Miami (Ohio) and added another during the conference season against the Spartans.

Martin is one of five returning defensive players on Michigan's two deep from this past season.

MU's Allen saluted

The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference office announced recently that Madonna University junior forward Leroy Allen (Detroit) was selected as the league's Men's Basketball Player of the Week for the period ending Dec. 21.

This is Allen's first selection of his career and he is the first Crusader men's player to be honored this season.

Connecting on 9-of-14 shots, Allen had 18 points (one off his career-high), grabbed six rebounds and had a block to help the Crusaders to a 63-60 win Dec. 19 at Notre Dame (Ohio) College.

The transfer from Kirkland CC is MU's second leading scorer, putting in 12.6 points per game while leading the Royal Blue and Gold with seven rebounds a night.

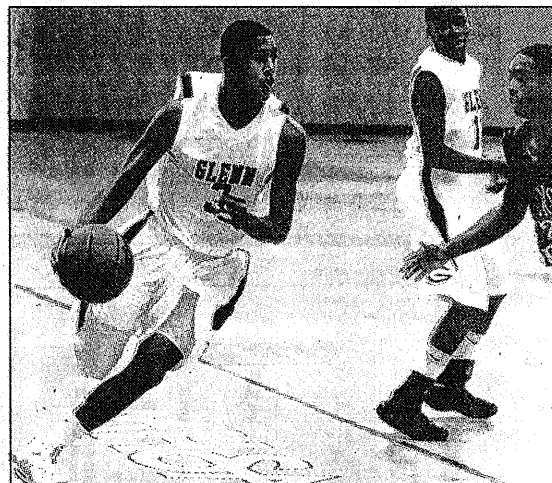
HOOPS
FROM PAGE B1

Hughes and 17 from Danny Fondriest in the tournament final loss to Fordson. Kyle Garra added 10. Garra had a team-high 12 in the win over Franklin, while Hughes and Fondriest each added nine. Franklin was 19-of-28 from the foul line against Howell. The Patriots will be off 19 days and won't return to action until Jan. 16 at

South Lyon. "It makes me feel good (the win vs. Rochester) going into the break," Rheault said. "We'll take a whole week off."

JOHN GLENN 50, UNIVERSITY PREP 38: On Monday, senior guard Austin Anderson scored 17 points and Dorian Prather added 13 to lead host Westland John Glenn (1-1) to a victory over Detroit University Prep in the John Glenn Basketball Classic. Glenn led 28-14 at halftime and stretched its lead to 41-21 after three quarters. Austin Omagbayi added 10 points for the Rockets. Deonta Watt led University Prep with 17.

NORTHWESTERN 82, CLARENCEVILLE 68: On Saturday, Asaad Robinson poured in 22 points and dished out 10 assists to lead Detroit Northwestern (2-1) to a victory over Livonia Clarenceville (1-3) in the Romulus Holiday Tournament. Senior forward Jamie Stewart scored a game-high 28 points in a losing cause for the Trojans. Nathan Clark added 20, while Jeremy Gainer had 12. Sophomore center Jalen Reynolds grabbed 18 rebounds. Rasheed Wright added 15 points and Dionte Fowlkes added 14 points and 15 rebounds for the victorious Colts, the defending Detroit PSL champions.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
John Glenn's Austin Anderson looks for the open man.

\$500 FREE GAS WITH \$500 REPAIR

<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ON?</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">WE'LL CHECK IT FOR FREE</p> <p><small>Restrictions and additional charges may apply to determine the cost of major repairs. One coupon per customer. Present at time of vehicle drop off. Not valid with any other offer or coupon.</small></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">VALID AT THIS LOCATION ONLY. EXPIRES 4-1-09.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">OIL CHANGE SPECIAL</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$24.95</p> <p><small>Most cars. Not full synthetic oils.</small></p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Includes FREE TIRE ROTATION!</p> <p><small>One coupon per customer. Present at time of vehicle drop off. Not valid with any other offer or coupon. VALID AT THIS LOCATION ONLY. EXPIRES 4-1-09.</small></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">20% OFF</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">ANY REPAIR UP TO \$150 OFF</p> <p><small>One coupon per customer. Present at time of vehicle drop off. Not valid with any other offer or coupon. VALID AT THIS LOCATION ONLY. EXPIRES 4-1-09.</small></p>
--	--	---

FREE TOW WITH MAJOR REPAIR

SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE

\$500 Free Gas Certificate

with any minor or major auto repair work over \$500.00

COMPLETE CAR CARE EXPERTS:

- ~ Check Engine Light On?
- ~ Transmission Problems?
- ~ Low Fluid Levels?
- ~ Brake Noise?

We can handle ALL of that!

Ask about our new VIP Program!

260 W. Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth

(Behind Greko Printing)

734-402-8777

TRANSMISSIONS, BRAKES, POWER STEERING, EXHAUST, TUNE-UPS, SHOCKS, COOLING SYSTEMS, ALTERNATORS, OIL/FLUID CHANGES & MORE

THE LEADER IN TRANSMISSIONS WITH 900+ NATIONWIDE LOCATIONS

\$500 FREE GAS WITH \$500 REPAIR

Super soph leads Chiefs to victory

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Leave it to Lever. That's exactly what Canton's basketball team did during a pivotal third-quarter stretch in Monday afternoon's match-up with Ferndale in the Westland John Glenn Shoot-Out Tournament. Sophomore point guard Deitrich Lever buried three consecutive clutch three-point shots to spark the Chiefs' 73-66 victory in the Rockets' gym. The triumph improved Canton's record to 2-0 while the Eagles slipped to 1-3. "Ferndale switched to a zone against us, Deitrich found some openings and hit the shots," said Canton coach Dan Colligan. "Ferndale shot 49 percent for the game, so they made a lot of shots. We're going to need to improve on our defense."

Ferndale led 34-32 at the half before the Chiefs posted 20- and 21-point quarters in the second half.

Lever led the way with 25 points. Marlan Glenn (16), Kevin Weisz (10) and George Muresan (eight) also played well for the winners.

Cecil Clarke paced the Eagles with 17 points.

Muresan and Weisz both yanked down six boards for Canton.

Along with Lever's threes, Colligan also pointed to a fourth-quarter, turn-around jump hook in the lane by Daniel Stoney as a key basket in the victory.

"That shot gave us a little cushion and we never trailed again," the second-year coach said.

Canton drained 17-of-27 free throws while the Eagles managed to find the mark on just 4-of-17 from the charity stripe.

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

NEW YEAR'S DAY SAVINGS!

LAST 3 DAYS! Save an extra 15%!

sale

\$679.99

queen mattress set

after 50% + 15% off
Serta "Platinum" Reg. 1599.99

50% OFF ALL MATTRESS SETS

PLUS AN ADDITIONAL

15% OFF ALL MATTRESS SETS

Excludes Stearns & Foster. Additional 10% off Stearns & Foster.

- **NO INTEREST, NO PAYMENTS FOR 12 MONTHS***
No interest, no payments on all mattress sets \$399 or more with qualifying card if paid in full within 12 months and account kept in good standing. See Important Deferred Interest Promotional Offer Details below. Offer ends 1/3/09.
- **FREE DELIVERY AND SETUP**
on all mattress sets \$399 or more with mail-in rebate. Free standard local delivery. Outside local delivery area, customer pays an additional charge. Rebate values, local area and additional charges vary. Maximum rebate value \$65. See store for details.
- **FREE BED FRAME**
Up to a \$9.99 value. Offer good for frame of comparable size to mattress. No substitutions.
- **FREE REMOVAL OF YOUR OLD MATTRESS**
Excludes waterbeds.

LAST 3 DAYS! 15% CASH BACK on all plumbing and vanities

Cash back after mail-in rebate. Excludes Kohler special orders. See store for details. Offer ends 1/3/09.

15% CASH BACK on all installed carpet and stair runners

including labor and 8-lb. pad For installed products, retainer must be taken between 1/1/09 and 1/31/09. Sale must be completed by 2/14/09.

15% OFF all area rugs

Excludes clearance and closeout merchandise. Offer ends 1/11/09.

15% OFF all lighting and ceiling fans

Excludes Casablanca, Minka Aire and Hunter Prestige. Offer ends 1/11/09.

20% OFF ALL Kenmore® major appliances

and up to 20% CASH BACK on all other major appliances*

buy 1-2, get 10% CASH BACK buy 3, get 15% CASH BACK buy 4 or more, get 20% CASH BACK

PLUS NO INTEREST AND NO PAYMENTS for 12 months* OR FREE DELIVERY

on purchases \$399 or more with qualifying card. Free standard local delivery. Outside local delivery area, customer pays an additional charge. Rebate values, local area and additional charges vary. Maximum rebate value \$65. See store for details. See Important Deferred Interest Promotional Offer details below. Offer ends 1/11/09.

- ARIZONA Chandler 480-792-6000 Scottsdale 480-281-9000
- CALIFORNIA Burbank 818-260-8000 Irvine 949-340-6000
- COLORADO Broomfield 720-566-1000 Lone Tree 303-708-2500
- ILLINOIS Lombard 630-873-8000 MARYLAND Gaithersburg 240-599-1300
- MICHIGAN Novi 248-679-1000 OHIO Columbus 614-880-8800
- TEXAS Farmers Branch 214-764-1000 Houston 832-476-8000

the great indoors



*FINANCE CHARGES accrue on a promotional purchase from the date of the purchase at the regular purchase rate in effect from time to time and all FINANCE CHARGES accrued for the entire promotional period will be added to your account if the purchase is not paid in full by the end of the promotional period or if you default under your card agreement. Making the minimum monthly payment will not pay off your promotional purchase in time to avoid FINANCE CHARGES. With credit approval, for qualifying purchases made on The Great Indoors MasterCard® or a Sears card (Sears Commercial One accounts excluded), Sears Home Improvement Account valid on installed sales only. Offer is valid for consumer accounts in good standing and is subject to change without notice. May not be combined with any other credit promotional offer. Promotional offers of 14 months or more require minimum monthly payments as disclosed in the offer. See card agreement for details including when the default rate applies. Sears cards: APR up to 26.49%, but if your account has a variable APR, the APR is up to 27.99% as of 12/1/08 and may vary. SEARS HOME IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT: APR is up to 18.90%, but if your account has a variable APR, the APR is up to 26.15% but never lower than 14.40% as of 12/1/08 and may vary. MINIMUM MONTHLY FINANCE CHARGES: \$1. Sears cards are issued by Citibank (South Dakota) N.A. Sears Solutions cards are issued by HSBC Bank Nevada, N.A. *Cash back after mail-in rebate. Excludes Kenmore, Kenmore Elite®, Kenmore PRO™, Never Priced Lower items, Aga, Fisher & Paykel, Miele, U-Line, Best hoods, Vent-A-Hood, Marvel, Thermador, CornuFé, Viking (not available in CA), Dacor, DCS, Zephyr and Bertazzoni. See store for offer details.

© 2009 Sears Holdings Corporation

THE WEEK AHEAD

- GIRLS BASKETBALL**
Saturday, Jan. 3
Canton at F.H. Mercy, 4 p.m.
- PREP HOCKEY**
Saturday, Jan. 3
Ledywood vs. Bloomfield at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
- Salem at Farmington United at Farmington Hills Ice Arena, 5:30 p.m.
- PREP WRESTLING**
Saturday, Jan. 3
Romulus Royal Tournament, 9:30 a.m.
- Wyandotte Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
- PREP GYMNASTICS**
Saturday, Jan. 3
Salem Invitational at Plymouth gym, 10 a.m.
- MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
Saturday, Jan. 3
St. Clair Co. CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
- Madonna vs. Marygrove College at U-D Jesuit H.S., 3 p.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
Saturday, Jan. 3
St. Clair Co. CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.

PREP BOWLING RESULTS

WAYNE MEMORIAL 19 WATERFORD KETTERING 11
Dec. 16 at Novi Bowl
Wayne individual scorers: Kellen Collison, 204-193-397; Elliot Arnold, 189-202-397; Ryan Gabriel, 160-228-388; Josh Vojtkofsky, 168-206-374; T.J. Lave, 159-161-320. Totals: 880-990-1,870 (9 points).
Kettering individual scorers: Jake Fincannon, 200-214-414; Alex Dengate, 200-192-392; Adam Lessel, 212-177-389; Mike Popchak, 219-161-386; Stephen Miller, 159-167-326. Totals: 880-990-1,870 (11 points).
Baker games: Wayne, 223-191-414 (10 points); Kettering, 214-126-340 (0 points).
Wayne's overall record: 4-0.
Top Wayne individual game averages: Arnold, 222; Gabriel, 203; Vojtkofsky, 200.

Visit us online at
hometownlife.com

Ladywood too much for Inkster, 40-31

Livonia Ladywood came on strong during the second half and earned a spot in Tuesday's Kalamazoo Loy Norrix Tournament final with a 40-31 girls basketball win Monday over Inkster.

The Blazers, who improved to 4-2 overall, were led by senior Caitlin Szczypka, who finished with a team-high 13 points. Freshman guard Cara Miller added eight.

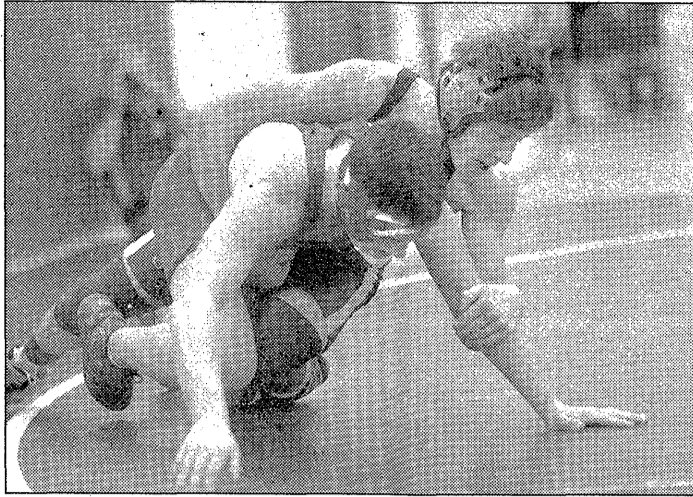
Ladywood, playing without injured junior point-guard Mary Fitzgerald, rallied from a 19-18 halftime deficit by outscoring the Vikings 22-12 in the second half to win its fourth straight.

The Blazers made 6-of-7 free throws in the final period and await the winner of Monday's other first-round matchup between host Loy Norrix and McBain.

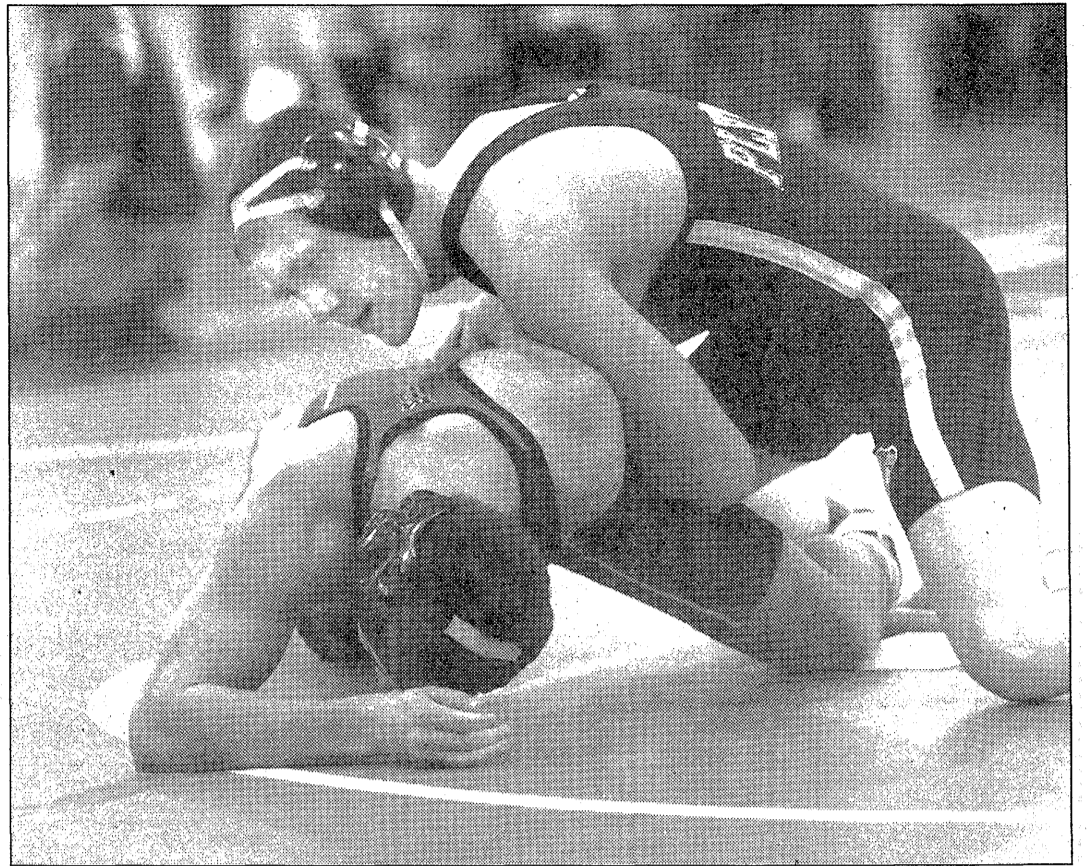
"I thought Caitlin (Szczypka) stepped up and provided us senior leadership," Ladywood first-year coach Pat Cannon said. "She was a calming influence. Inkster put a lot of pressure on us and caused turnovers, but we stayed calm at the end and made free throws to put us over the top."

The Blazers made 14-of-19 from the charity stripe on the night, while Inkster connected on just 9-of-19.

Ayrionna Taylor paced the Vikings (4-2) and all scorers with 18 points.



Salem's Austin Root (top) captured the 189-pound title at Saturday's Plymouth Elks Salem Invitational.



Plymouth's Derek Davey battles Melvindale's David McGrath during a 152-pound match at Saturday's Salem Invitational.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WRESTLING STATS

PLYMOUTH ELKS SALEM WRESTLING INVITATIONAL Saturday at Salem High School

FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Westland (John Glenn, 159 points); 2. Salem, 145; 3. Melvindale, 142; 4. Monroe, 134; 5. Belleville, 124.5; 6. Lincoln Park, 123.5; 7. Adrian, 117; 8. Dexter, 108.5; 9. Plymouth, 97; 10. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 81; 11. Lakeland, 70.5; 12. (tie) Livonia Stevenson, Garden City, Fraser, Wayne Memorial, Ypsilanti, 0.

103 pounds: 1st place: Gamal Yahia (Mel) pinned Zak Garcia (A) in 3:54; **3rd:** Steve Wakeford (JG) d. Joey Golani (DHC), 8-1; **5th:** Nick Kim (S) d. Said Youseff (P), 7-3.

112: 1st: Anthony Pavlich (JG) won by major decision over Bryan Boulware (Mel), 10-2; **3rd:** Dan Flowers (D) pinned Mo Rahal (DHC) in 2:28; **5th:** J.J. Orozco (A) d. Ian Phillips (S), 7-1.

119: 1st: Anthony Barbour (LP) d. Gabe Altomare (D), 13-6; **3rd:** C.J.

Lutzke (L) d. Ben Dewitt (S), 7-4; **5th:** Brendan Papin (B) won by tech. fall over Nick Rizzo (P), 16-0.

125: 1st: Jeremy Sherman (L) won by major decision over Dylan Fanslaw (MON), 11-2; **3rd:** Mark Thompson (JG) won by tech. fall over Joey Polocoser (DHC), 17-1; **5th:** Bobbie Sadowski (LP) d. Alex Sloan (D), 6-5 (2 OT).

130: 1st: Derrick Mandell (DHC) d. Drew Barnes (D), 16-13; **3rd:** Kyle Horst (MON) d. John Bills (S), 9-2; **5th:** Tyler Schneider (B) won by major dec. over Justin Robinson (JG), 16-3.

135: 1st: Sean Turner (MON) d. Jason VanWasshenova (LP), 4-2; **3rd:** Tommy Kozak (B) d. Abdul Yahia (MEL), 10-3; **5th:** Mikkel Tipton (JG) d. James Middleditch (S), 11-8.

140: 1st: Jimmy Mann (JG) pinned Mat Galvan (A) in 1:18; **3rd:** Denver McLaughlin (MON) pinned Randy Jolly (MEL) in 4:43; **5th:** Carter Sherman (B) won by tech. fall over C.J. Ward (LP), 18-3.

145: 1st: Andrew Collins (D) d. Mitch Crawford (D), 6-2; **3rd:** A.J. Arnett (MON) pinned Jose Quezada (MEL) in 3:45; **5th:** Robbie Schultz (S) d. Andrew Majewski (B), 7-0.

152: 1st: Jeff Adkins (JG) pinned Nick Lujan (MON) in 2:36; **3rd:** David McGrath (MEL) d. Logan Verner (A), 10-5; **5th:** Derrick Davey (P) won by major dec. over Rob Kanalos (LP), 10-1.

160: 1st: Rafael Rodriguez (A) won by injury default over Zain Amman

(JG); **3rd:** Colin Gross (S) pinned Chase Stevens (D) in 4:56; **5th:** Rob Barackman (P) pinned Caleb Wilson (LP) in 54 seconds.

171: 1st: James Walton (LP) d. Max Hill (L), 10-9; **3rd:** Vince Rizzo (P) won by major dec. over Alex Jochartz (B), 14-1; **5th:** Matt Pitcher (MON) d. Zach Redden (JG), 8-2.

189: 1st: Austin Root (S) d. Kaare Cigan (B), 5-2; **3rd:** Alex Winn (P) pinned Edgar Gonzalez (MEL) in 2:39; **5th:**

Jacob MacMullen (MON) d. Sequoyah Burke-Combs (D), 6-5.

215: 1st: Buster Wilson (LP) d. Sam Lepper (S), 7-4 (2 OT); **3rd:** Forrest Sampson (B) d. Derek Hoffman (A), 6-2; **5th:** David Pope (MON) pinned Youseff El Sayed (DHC) in 1:35.

285: 1st: Matt Gable (MEL) pinned Blake Abbey (S) in 5:15; **3rd:** Dustin Slaton (B) pinned Hassan El-Sayed (DHC) in 2:11; **5th:** Tom Coleman (A) pinned Wally Eppler (P) in 2:52.

Visit us online at hometownlife.com

"Looking for that special place to call home? Look no further!!"

Community Home Finder

800.579-7355 oads@hometownlife.com

3000-3890 Real Estate For Sale

Garden City \$170

REAL ESTATE & CONTENTS AUCTION
Sun. Jan 19 at 2 pm.
6409 Whitby, Beautiful 3 bdrm Ranch on Double Lot. Name Your Price! Auctions.com (248) 473-1547 Preview: Tues. Jan. 13 from 6-7:30.

4000-4980 Real Estate For Lease

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

BIRMINGHAM AREA-TROY 1 MONTH RENT FREE!!
1 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1100 sq. ft., \$750/mo. 248-882-0748

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

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

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

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

SOUTHFIELD Senior apts, for 55 & over. 1 & 2 bdrms, heat & water incl. 1 month free rent. \$99 sec. dep. Activities. Quiet area. 248-423-3690

THE MEADOWS OF LIVONIA
Seniors 55 & Older
2 MONTHS FREE RENT
*\$99 Moves You In
• 1 Bdrms Starting at \$775
• 2 Bdrms Starting at \$900
• No Application Fees
• Heat/Water & Trash Incl
• Emergency Response System
• Key Pad Entry
• Livonia Transit
734-522-1151
*Some Restrictions Apply, Limited Time Only

WESTLAND
1 bdrm w/appliances. \$475/mo. 248-892-0262

WESTLAND
2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, close to schools. \$600/month. 248-892-0262

Condos/Townhouses 4020

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

LIVONIA - Newly remodeled 3 bdrm colonial, 1.5 baths, finished bsmt, 2 car attached. \$1250/mo. (248) 390-7097

ROYAL OAK 3 bdrm, 1200 sq ft., c/a, all appliances, fenced yard, 1 car attached garage. \$975/mo. 248-549-1188.

Duplexes 4030

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

Homes For Rent 4050

BIRMINGHAM 2 bdrm, 1 bath, garage. Avail. now. \$925/mo + utilities. Call: 248-417-3544

FERNDALE Large 4 bdrm, all hardwood floors, 2 car garage, large bsmt. \$1100/mo. + deposit. 734-968-9253

Rooms For Rent 4140

QUALITY SUITES
Low weekly rates
Livonia
734-261-6800

For Even More Listings See Our Classified Section In Today's Paper

BUYING? SELLING?

Whatever the case may be...

Your area realtors and your

Observer & Eccentric HomeTown Classifieds are ready to help!

Look for the realtor who is a member of the

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS.

Ready to change your address?

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Your Weekly Guide to Apartment Living

WAYNE

Mid Town Square Apartments
Holiday Special

★ Let Us Buy Your Christmas Gifts! ★
★ \$250 Gift Card To Westland Mall ★

1, 2 & 3 bedrooms.
Newly decorated.
734-326-7800

What a great place to find your next...or maybe your first apartment!

Pick your community and give them a call to take advantage of some really great values.

CALL TODAY FOR A GREAT RATE... **1-800-579-7355**

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Vern Cooper steers the puck toward open ice during Monday's 5-2 loss to Sarnia.



WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

the first 15 minutes. Hackett stoned Matt Martin twice within a matter of 40 seconds early in the second. However, Daniel Lombardi squeezed a puck through Hackett's five-hole at the 14:51 mark to make it 3-1. Arnel and Jordan Hill registered helpers. Miroslov Preisinger struck just 30 seconds later when he slid a rebound shot past the goal line to up the Sting's lead to 4-1. He was assisted by

Lombardi and Katic. Seconds later, Jeremy Smith replaced Matt Hackett between the pipes for the Whalers. Smith sparked following his insertion, repelling a number of Sting stingers mid-way through the second period to keep the Whalers within striking distance. Sarnia inflated its lead to 5-1 14:50 into the second period when DiBenedetto capped a textbook give-and-go play with Michael Neal when he beat Smith, who would have needed four arms and four legs to ward off the two-on-zero assault. The Whalers solved Spence

6:01 into the third when Myles McCauley ripped home his second goal of the season to make it 5-2. He was assisted by Jamie Devane and Leo Jenner. Devane hit the post with a rocket at the 10:15 mark. Hayes nearly made things very interesting with 4:38 to play, but his attempted tap-in from just outside the crease was re-directed by a sprawling Spence. Sarnia outshot Plymouth, 43-37.

ewright@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2108

LOCAL PERSONALITIES GO HEAD TO HEAD

Mason WGPR Radio	Jon Bond WVMV Radio	Gator Anderson 97.1 Radio	Jeff Lesson CBS Radio	Keith Lang Tennyson Chevrolet	Bob Faust Jack Demmer Ford	Ronnie Williams Perfect Floors	Tom Flory Shelton Pontiac Buick GMC	Ron Fruciano Friendly Chrysler Jeep
11-5 143-81	11-5 136-88	13-3 141-83	12-4 141-83	9-7 146-78	13-3 147-77	13-3 149-75	11-5 144-80	11-5 139-85
Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta
Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore
Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia

PERFECT FLOORS 2008 SAVINGS
NO PAYMENTS
NO INTEREST
1 YEAR Same as Cash
CARPET • VINYL • HARDWOOD • LAMINATE

PLUSHES
DENSE/DURABLE PLUSH \$199
OUR BEST SELLING HEAVY PLUSH \$249
OUR HEAVIEST PLUSH CARPET \$369

BERBERS
OUR MOST POPULAR BERBER \$219
OUR VERY BEST BERBERS \$359
BASEMENT CARPET \$139

100% 30% OFF HARDWOOD FLOORS
CERAMICA Starting at \$149
BRUCE PREFINISHED OAK \$629

SALE
LAMINATE SALE STARTING AT \$129

Perfect Floors
South Lyon 21946 Pontiac Trail
Rochester Hills 1015 John R

DISCOVER THE DEMMER DIFFERENCE!

2009 FORD FLEX SE Fwd

Lease for 36 Months **\$279***
\$2426 Due at Signing

37300 Michigan Ave. at Newburgh
Wayne • Just East of I-275
734-721-2600
www.demmer.com • aplanheadquarters.com

SHELTON
PONTIAC BUICK GMC

2009 PONTIAC G6

\$185* **OVER 30 MPG!**

24 MOS. 12K YR.
\$1000 Due \$0 Sec. Dep.
See Dealer for Details

V-6, alloy wheels, remote start, power windows, locks, tilt, cruise

855 S. Rochester Road • Rochester Hills
(248) 651-5500

PICK THE PROS! CONTEST

To Play, Go To: **www.hometownlife.com**

And Click On The **Pick The Pros Advertisement**

WEEKLY PRIZES! SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

1st Place **\$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE** (Not interchangeable.)

PLUS **EMAGINE** THE MAGIC OF MOVIES & MORE **MOVIE PASS FOR TWO**

2nd Place **EMAGINE** THE MAGIC OF MOVIES & MORE **MOVIE PASS FOR TWO**

Jim Riehl's FRIENDLY CHRYSLER JEEP

2009 CHRYSLER 300 SIGNATURE SERIES

36 Mo. Lease **\$339***
\$339 Due at Signing

MSRP \$33,415

Corner of 14 Mile & Van Dyke **866-414-2734**
Check out our inventory online: www.jimriehl.com

You'll Always Be Miles Ahead At... Tennyson CHEVROLET

• SALES • PARTS • SERVICE • LEASING •

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

ALL DEALERS PAY THE SAME FOR A VEHICLE FROM THE MANUFACTURER

"IT'S HOW WE STRUCTURE THE DEAL THAT MAKES IT BEST, FOR YOU, OUR CUSTOMER"

734-425-6500
32570 Plymouth Rd. • Livonia
Just East of Farmington Rd.
www.tennysonchevy.com
Serving The Community Through 6 Decades

BODY SHOP ON PREMISE
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

HOURS: MON. & THURS. 8:30am to 9:00pm • TUE., WED. & FRI. 8:30am to 6:00pm

WEEK #18 GAMES POST SEASON WILD CARDS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2009

Atlanta at Arizona
Indianapolis at San Diego

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009

Baltimore at Miami
Philadelphia at Minnesota

Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kittie Higgins displays a well-used color chart at International Minute Press. You pick the color, they can mix it for your print job.

Press shop specializes in printing (not laundry)

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

International Minute Press: We are one of over 970, all independently owned, "Minuteman Press" printing franchise locations world wide. We print things like business cards, letterhead, envelopes, brochures, flyers and everything else except money. Sorry, we don't print money. We also provide promotional products and business mailing services.

Observer: What makes your business unique? Do you serve a special niche?

International Minute Press: We offer Free Ink Combo Color Days, Free Pick Up & Delivery and Outstanding Personal Service.

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

International Minute Press: My dogs. I was the editor of our dog club's newsletter, so when my employer closed our Michigan location, I decided to do "printing" full time.

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

International Minute Press: Plymouth is a great town. Not too big and not too small; like Goldilocks said, it's just right.

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

International Minute Press: From time to time we will have someone walk in with their laundry. They mistakenly think that "Minute Press" means we do shirts.

INTERNATIONAL MINUTE PRESS

Business: International Minute Press

Address: 1058 S. Main, Plymouth

Owner: Tim Higgins

Hometown: Youngstown, Ohio (God's country)

Business opened: July 2003

Number of employees: 4.5

Business specialty: Printing (digital & offset), promotional products and business mailing services

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday by appointment.

Business phone/Web site: (734) 414-6203. www.myprinter.intlminutepress.com

BUSINESS MILESTONES

New physicians on staff

Garden City Hospital has welcomed four new members to its medical staff, helping to expand and supplement the realm of services available to the public. Joining the staff are:

■ Dr. Henry K. Lee, neurology, with offices at 28595 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 200, Farmington Hills.

■ Dr. Margaret J. Hepke, physical medicine/rehab, with offices at 8750 W. Nine Mile, Oak Park.

■ Dr. Anupama A. Shah, anesthesia, with offices at 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

■ Dr. Abdul M. Quazi, family practice, with offices at 3611 Carpenter St., Detroit.

For more information or to make an appointment with one of Garden City Hospital's new or existing physicians, call the Physician Referral service at 877-717-WELL or go online to www.gchosp.org.

needed. Donations are tax deductible and receipts will be provided. The items will be distributed to anyone in need along with the Plymouth-Canton High School Clothing Bank and New Dimension Outreach of Westland. For more information about the coat drive, visit the Taxgaster Web site at www.taxgaster.com.

Gourmet desserts on sale

Beginning in January, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, 8036 N. Wayne Road in Westland, will be offering a selection of gourmet desserts for only \$1. Desserts for the price of a dollar will include cupcakes topped with French buttercream, cinnamon crumb cakes, cake slices, coffee, yesterday's fresh muffins, fun-sized bars, cookies (3 for \$1), and the sliced off top of a cake, oddly named, cake butts.

"I think it's a great idea. I'm hoping that dollar desserts are just what customers need in these tough times" said owner Mary Denning.

Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, which has been part of the Westland community for more than 16 years, has earned numerous bakery awards, including Detroit's Best Pastries and Sam Walton's Business of the Year. Most recently, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe was named one of the top five best bakeries in Metro-Detroit by Click on Detroit's 4 the Best Guide.

For more information visit www.marydenning.com or call (734) 261-3680.

ONGOING

The Fan Zone

After 12 years anchoring a corner of the West Court at Westland Shopping Center, The Fan Zone is closing its doors. Wing nuts, Piston fans and even Lions boosters can get some great deals on apparel and autographed memorabilia. Everything is half off. The store will close for good on Jan. 10 or sooner, depending on sales. Westland Shopping Center is at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland.

KB Toys

While you're at the mall, stop by at KB Toys, also off the mall's West Court. The 86-year-old toy company announced it was shuttering all of its store due to lagging sales. The selection is limited, but there's bargains to be had.

La-Z-Boy

There's still deals to be had at the La-Z-Boy Furniture Gallery in Canton. The store is one of seven being closed in the metro area because of the state's poor economy. There's still a wide selection of recliners, both fabric and leather covered, sofas and chairs. Accessories are going for half off. You'll find the store at 27754 Ford, just east of the I275 Freeway.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Collecting coats

Taxfaster of Westland has partnered with One Warm Coat to hold a coat drive now through Jan. 31. People can drop off items at Taxfaster, 38950 Cherry Hill at John Hix in Westland. Coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots and any winter weather wear for adults and children are



St. Mary Mercy gala

Jason and Robin Beeman (from left), Richard DeLoof, Cheryl and Tom Korpela enjoy St. Mary Mercy Hospital's 16th Annual Gala Nov. 21 at the Sheraton Detroit Novi. More than 300 guests attended the gala — a black-tie affair that raised more than \$125,000 in support of the hospital's Caring for the Future Campaign, benefitting the advancement of cancer care and cardiac services offered in the Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center and the Heart & Vascular Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Westland woman receives New Center caring award

Covenant House Michigan program director Cynthia Adams has been honored by New Center Community Mental Health Services with the "Caring Place in the Neighborhood Award" for her long-standing support of Michigan youths struggling with mental illness.



Adams

A Westland resident, Adams was honored during New Center's 10th annual award ceremony at the Rooster Tail in Detroit.

"We are happy to honor a person who passionately advocates for the mental well-being of kids who, otherwise, do not have access to the help they need," said Roberta Sanders, CEO of New Center. "Cynthia works hard to support those who have come into Covenant House not only looking for shelter but also looking for help with their special needs."

Over the years, Adams has seen a steady increase in mental health issues among those admitted to the CHM Crisis Center. This increase is accredited to a lack of housing options and services available at the hospital and community level. Due to reductions in state funding, several mental health facilities in the state have been forced to close their doors,

including the Aurora Mental Health Facility located directly across the street from CHM.

"The residents that we serve have nowhere else to go in Wayne County," said Adams. "They are stuck between childhood and adulthood so the adult facilities aren't equipped to take care of them. Many of them have been living on the streets and they feel and act as if they have been thrown away."

Through a partnership with New Center, CHM has been able to provide free mental health services to its residents — Michigan's homeless, run-away and at-risk youths. With the services Adams provides through CHM and New Center, 2008 has been a successful year for diagnosing and treating youths in need. During the first half of the fiscal year, 77 out of 150 new intakes to CHM's Crisis Center had a diagnosed mental illness, 142 had a suspected mental illness and 61 are taking psychotropic medications.

"Cynthia has worked

so hard to make our collaboration a success," said Sanders. "We are pleased to continue to work together to make sure that kids with special needs get help so they can get off the streets and live successful, independent lives."

Covenant House Michigan helps thousands of homeless and at-risk young people every year. In addition to food and shelter, Covenant House provides preparation for the GED exam, job development services and crisis intervention to its residents and other young people.

The agency operates an outreach van that drives through metro Detroit-area neighborhoods and offers on the spot assistance to homeless and other needy youth.

Through a recent partnership with the Detroit Public School, Covenant House Michigan opened three second chance high schools to offer dropouts and at-risk youth the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma rather than a GED. More than 900 youth are enrolled each year.

For more information on Covenant House Michigan, call (313) 463-2000 or go online to www.covenant-housemi.org.



Top paramedic

HVA paramedic Mike Warzocha of Howell (right) has been honored as the Plymouth Rotary Club's 2008 Paramedic of the Year. Each year, the Rotary Club selects one paramedic, one firefighter, and a police officer from both the City and Township police forces to honor them for their service to the community. "Mike Warzocha is an outstanding, hard-working, knowledgeable paramedic. He's someone you would want at your side in an emergency," said HVA Vice President Paul Hood (at left). Warzocha is a senior paramedic with HVA and he also staffs the Mobile Intensive Care Unit, which provides transportation between hospitals for seriously ill or injured patients who require specialized care. Married, his wife Alisha (center) is studying nursing.

ADVERTISING THAT MEANS BUSINESS!

Here's your chance to showcase your business on a page geared to business in your community.

By advertising alongside features geared toward local business, you can reach your target audience faster.

If it's important to you, it's important to us.

For advertising information, please call:


Oakland County: 248-901-2500

Wayne County: 734-582-8363

West Oakland County: 248-437-2011



OPEN SAT Jan. 3rd 9 am - 3 pm



BILL BROWN FORD

MICHIGAN'S #1 FORD DEALER!

Total New Retail Vehicle Sales and Largest Inventory To Choose From!

Employee Pricing PLUS

#1 FORD DEALER IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!

NEW 2009 FORD FUSION SE!

Employee Pricing PLUS **BUY FOR \$15,137⁺**

Featuring SYNC, moon roof, remote start, automatic, SIRIUS satellite radio, power windows, locks, speed control.



15 at this price
519 available

\$1,000 DOWN **\$230³⁶ MO** **SIGN & DRIVE** **\$269³⁶ MO**
\$1,382 DUE AT DELIVERY* we make your first payment

NEW 2009 FORD FUSION SEL

\$1600 Navigation Discount Package

Featuring: V6, Voice activated Navigation System, Leather, Sync, moon roof, remote start, 25 at this price 519 available



Employee Pricing PLUS **BUY FOR \$19,108⁺** **\$1,000 DOWN** **\$286³⁶ MO** **SIGN & DRIVE** **\$328³⁶ MO**
\$1,442 DUE AT DELIVERY We make your first payment

NEW 2009 FORD ESCAPE XLT

Featuring: Remote start, moon roof, SYNC, power windows, locks, seats, speed control and tilt wheel 40 at this price 209 available



Employee Pricing PLUS **BUY FOR \$19,598⁺** **\$1,000 DOWN** **\$285³⁶ MO** **SIGN & DRIVE** **\$326³⁶ MO**
\$1,440 DUE AT DELIVERY We make your first payment

NEW 2009 FORD EDGE SE



Featuring: Remote start, Power windows, locks, tilt wheel, speed control

7 at this price, 167 available

Employee Pricing PLUS **BUY FOR \$22,804⁺** **\$1,000 DOWN** **\$355³⁶ MO** **SIGN & DRIVE** **\$399³⁶ MO**
\$1,515 DUE AT DELIVERY We make your first payment

NEW 2009 FORD FLEX SE



Featuring: remote start, SYNC, power windows, seat, locks, speed control, tilt wheel, reverse sensing system 3 at this price 107 available

Employee Pricing PLUS **BUY FOR \$23,907⁺** **\$1,000 DOWN** **\$377³⁶ MO** **SIGN & DRIVE** **\$421³⁶ MO**
\$1,520 DUE AT DELIVERY We make your first payment

NEW 2009 FORD FOCUS SE Sedan

Featuring: automatic, speed control, power windows & locks



21 at this price 150 available

Employee Pricing PLUS **BUY FOR \$13,710⁺**

NEW 2008 FORD F250 SUPER CAB XL

Featuring: V-8, Automatic, air conditioning, sliding rear window, captain chairs



Employee Pricing PLUS **BUY FOR \$18,993⁺**

NEW 2008 FORD TAURUS LIMITED



Featuring: SYNC, leather, tilt, power windows & locks, heated power seat, remote start, AM/FM/CDX6/MP3, audiophile sound system with subwoofer

4 at this price 58 available

Employee Pricing PLUS **BUY FOR \$19,445⁺**

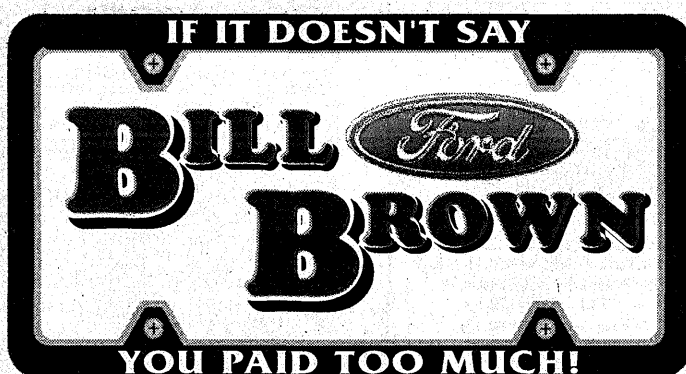
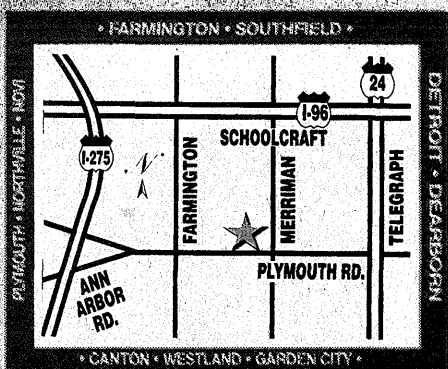
NEW 2008 FORD TAURUS X LMTD



Featuring: SYNC, leather, tilt, power windows & locks, heated power seat, remote start, AM/FM/CDX6/MP3, audiophile sound system with subwoofer

3 at this price 18 available

Employee Pricing PLUS **BUY FOR \$22,244⁺**



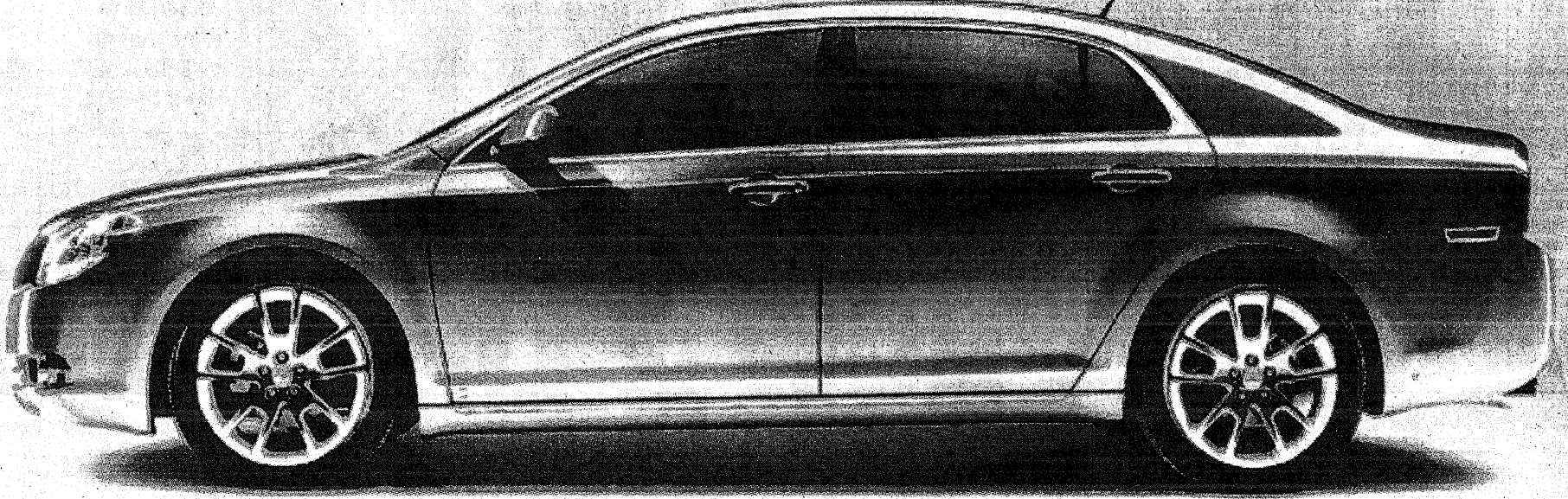
32222 PLYMOUTH RD. • LIVONIA • 1-800-611-2990

* Employee Pricing Plus lease payments and buy prices are for qualifying customers. All payments include acquisition fee, exclude tax and license fees. 10,500 miles per year. Security Deposit Waived. + Purchase price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including owner loyalty or previous lease where applicable and may require Ford Credit financing. Subject to availability. Pictures may not represent actual vehicles. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication are and subject to change. All offers expire January 5, 2009. † Per 2007 dealer ranking for Ford Division total sales.

BROWSE OUR INVENTORY AT BILLBROWNFORD.COM

Finance for Less

Catholic Parishes Federal Credit Union has **NEW PAYMENT OPTIONS** for vehicle financing!



Along with traditional programs we're offering extended terms and a new Budget Saver Loan for even lower payments. Whether you're buying new, buying used or looking to refinance a current loan, we can help you with great rates and affordable terms.

Compare these payment examples for a new vehicle loan in the amount of \$18,400:

TRADITIONAL FINANCING

\$353.47

as low as 5.24% APR*
60 month term

EXTENDED TERM

\$311.38

as low as 6.24% APR*
72 month term
model years 2008-09 only

BUDGET SAVER**

\$292.12

as low as 5.74% APR*
60 month term

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. These rates are available for borrowers with "A" credit scores and includes a reduction of .50% for automatic payments from your active CPFCU checking account. Your rate will be determined by your credit history, model year of vehicle, the loan program and term selected, and additional account relationships. Rates are current as of December 1, 2008 and are subject to change without notice.
**Budget Saver Program is available for model years 2005-2009. Maximum financing term will be based on the model year of vehicle. Payments will be based on the loan term, amount requested, and the calculated residual value which will be due at the term of your loan. In this example, the final payment would be \$4,899.95. The residual value estimated may not reflect the value of your vehicle at the term of your loan due to future used car market conditions, wear and tear on the vehicle, and mileage. The balance due at the term of the loan may be paid in full or refinanced into another loan for qualifying borrowers.

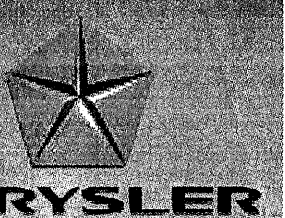
PLUS

You can **REDUCE** your **RATE** an additional **.25%***** when you...
Finance a new vehicle from FORD / GM / CHRYSLER OR
purchase a fuel efficient vehicle rated to get at least 30 MPG highway!

***Rate reduction is a limited time offer and available to new loans only. To qualify, your new model year vehicle must be either manufactured by FORD, GM, CHRYSLER, or their wholly owned subsidiaries; or have a fuel rating of 30 MPG Highway based on our dealer write-up or as listed on www.fueleconomy.gov



Invest in American with the Credit Union Discount* from GM & Chrysler!



All eligible current and new members of Catholic Parishes Federal Credit Union have the unique opportunity to get a great discount on most new vehicles from GM or Chrysler. Discounts vary depending on make and model year of vehicle.

Shop now for great deals and low rates. Pre-approved financing is available from Catholic Parishes Federal Credit Union.

**Catholic
Parishes
Federal Credit Union**

For more information call 734-432-0212 or
visit us online at www.catholicparishesfcu.org

Main Branch
36111 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154

Plymouth Branch
8817 Sheldon
Plymouth, MI 48170

St. Valentine Branch
25800 Dow
Redford, MI 48239

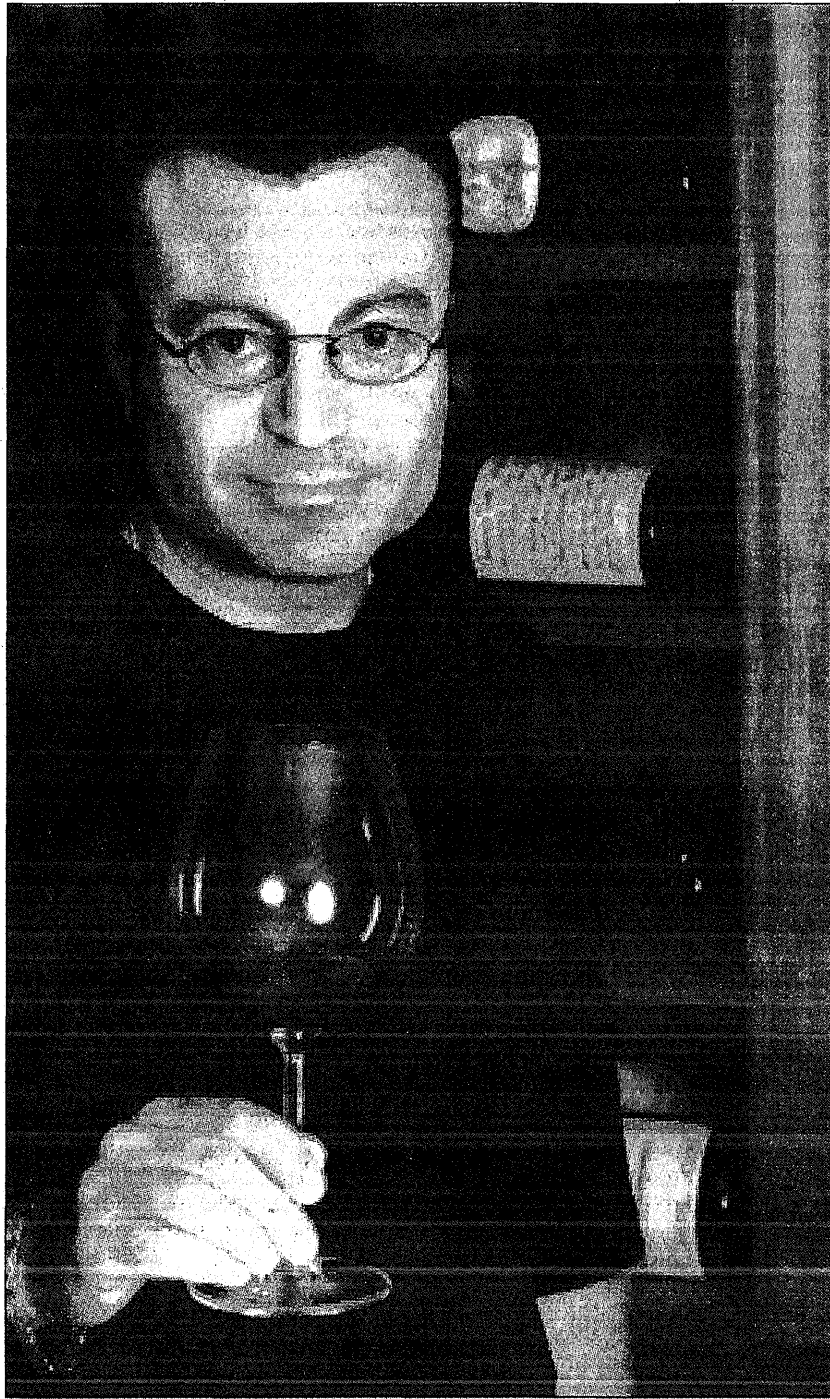
Faithfully serving the Catholic community by helping its members get ahead financially.



*Not available with some other offers. Residency restrictions apply. Some offers require retail delivery by 1-5-09. Tax, title, license, dealer fees and optional equipment extra. See dealer for details.
The marks of General Motors, its divisions, slogans, emblems, vehicle model names, vehicle body designs and other marks appearing in this document are the trademarks and/or service marks of General Motors Corporation, its subsidiaries, affiliates or licensors. ©2008 GM Corp. Buckle up, America! Chrysler is a registered trademark of Chrysler LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Unusual classes help pass the wintertime

Certified Sommelier Nidal Daher hosts wine tasting courses in Birmingham.



Many of us won't be traveling to the islands to escape the winter blues this year because of tough financial times.

But that doesn't mean there aren't other things we can do. Winter is a perfect time to explore different topics through enrichment classes.

Learn how to taste wine with your partner, take a bookmaking class with your relative, enjoy the history of film alone, or realize how to make jewelry, emboss metal and decorate cakes with a group of friends.

Start a new year's resolution to lose weight with dance classes from India, Latin America or the Middle East.

Take swimming lessons, Tai Chi, volleyball, yoga, or so much more. Here's a sampling:

CANTON

For example, if you are in Canton, the Canton Leisure Services winter class registration begins the week of Jan. 7.

Wally Ball classes there are just part of the fun. There are also arts, entertainment, health and wellness, courses. Those who are not Canton residents may register in person five days prior to class start date, if space is available.

View the class brochure at <http://leisure.canton-mi.org>, where complete course descriptions also available.

WEST BLOOMFIELD

In West Bloomfield, there are dog agility classes for your canine who may go a little stir crazy indoors all winter long. There also are world dance classes for adults, creative writing for seniors, martial arts

therapy for those with special needs and courses for teens who want to be effective babysitters. Visit www.westbloomfield-parks.org

BIRMINGHAM

In Birmingham, at the Community House, classes are open to everyone. There's a wine exploration series that helps beginners enjoy an uncomplicated introduction into the world of wine.

Learn about the wines of Australia, Chile, France, California, Spain, Portugal and Italy. Classes are as low as \$24.

The instructor Nidal Daher, a certified sommelier, is a former fine wine director and buyer for the Merchant of Vino and is a professional member of the French gourmet society.

Another instructor, Marc Jonna, co-founder of Plum Market, has been in the wine industry for more than 25 years.

There are also yoga, dance, cooking and travel classes.

Call (248) 644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com.

Also in Birmingham, the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center offers nearly 140 classes for those seeking a more artful life.

Classes are geared to all ages and experience levels and start as early as preschool. Topics include history, beading, bookmaking, photography, film history and portfolio preparation in addition to the traditional ceramics, drawing, fiber, painting, glass, jewelry, and sculpture.

To register call (248) 644-0866. View all classes at www.BBArtCenter.org.

Lana Mini

VISIT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Filter In your paper every Thursday!
PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

Part of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

LONGHORN RODEO
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

THIS WEEKEND
SATURDAY, JANUARY 3 - 8PM
OPENING NIGHT - First 1,000 kids 12 and under receive a free trick rope!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 - NOON
*DRESS YOUR BEST AS YOUR FAVORITE RODEO CLOWN
Kids and Seniors half price!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 - 6PM
*STICKHORSE STAMPEDE - Kids ages 5-10, with stickhorse, can participate in the stickhorse stampe! All advance seats just \$12

PALACE
20 YEARS

*For information and ticket details, including how you can attend the free interactive pre-show event, visit palacenet.com/rodeo. Ticket offers exclude VIP. Sunday 6pm tickets are \$2 more day of show.

TICKETS AT THE PALACE BOX OFFICE, PALACENET.COM
AND ALL ticketmaster LOCATIONS. CALL 1-800-745-3000.

Wednesday Night (ONLY)
\$2.99
8oz Sizzling Steak Dinner.

Includes a crisp salad, choice of potato & our famous yeast rolls.

With Purchase of the same. Regular price \$10.99
Not valid for take out, banquets or on holidays.
One coupon per couple. Not valid with any other coupon or daily specials. Wednesdays starting at 4pm (full price menu items only). Present this coupon before ordering. A 15% gratuity based on total bill before coupon will be added to bill.

Macomb: Hall Road, across from The Mall at Partridge
Creek or Northville: On 6 Mile just west of Haggerty. brannns.com

The Perfect Present

The Perfect Present for every occasion and every person
Inspirational, Christian, Wedding, Anniversary, Baby, Children, Teens, Retirement, Red Hat Society and more

Store Hours:
Mon-Fri 10-7
Sat 10-5

32614 Seven Mile Road • Livonia
E. of Farmington Road (Near Jet's Pizza)
www.perfectpresentllc.com
248-478-GIFT (4438)

AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE
All Christmas Items
50% off!

We are an authorized dealer for...
San Francisco Music Boxes,
Taggies, Fireside Coffee,
Village Candles, Wind & Willow
and Crystal World.

Senior Discount Everyday

LIVONIA now has...
REAL MONEY POKER!
Charitable Poker Room

HOSTING: WOLVERINE SPORTS CONSERVATION
M44720/PROCEEDS BENEFIT GF

Open Jan 1st \$1500 FREE ROLL @ 6PM
DOORS OPEN AT NOON
Jan. 4th \$1000 FREE ROLL @ 4PM
FREE ROLLS EVERYDAY!

Merri-Bowl Lanes
30950 Five Mile Road • Livonia, MI 48154
Hours: Thursdays & Fridays 5 pm-2 am
Saturdays & Sundays 2 pm-2 am
Offering daily tournaments and a variety of cash games.
For more information call
(800) 203-4089

Ages 18 & Up! www.poker@merri-bowl.com

COME PARTY WITH US THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

SWEET LORRAINE'S CAFE & BAR
248-559-5985

GRAND OPENING

Coifer Salon
Hair Styles for Men & Women

"Our Staff has Over 25 Years Combined Life Experience Cutting Hair!"

Cuts • Perms • Highlights
Sets • Waxing • Color for Men and Women

10% Senior Discount 10 am-2 pm T-Th
20% off Schwarzkopf Products

15% OFF Any Color Service

Hours:
Tues-Fri 10-8
Sat 9-5; Sun 11-5

Five Mile Road
The Village Plaza
Newburgh, MI

734.464.3340
37657 Five Mile Road at Newburgh
Next to the Former Farmer Jack Building

Temporary relief for families when it's needed most

Judson Center

Rose F. Kennedy Respite Center for adults and children with developmental disability or physical impairment.

Staffed by well-trained, attentive and compassionate caregivers offering:

- Individualized personal care
- 24-hour supervision
- Focusing on:
 - Homemaking
 - Language development
 - Social skills
 - Orientation to community participation

Transportation assistance available
For more information call:
313-794-5653 ext. 2060

FREE DESIGN* & COST EFFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION
*with all qualifying projects - ask if your project qualifies - 734-737-0500

Architectural quality since 1946

886 N. Mill Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170-1424

D.J. MALTESE
Designers & Builders
www.djmaltese.com

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

ART
Arnold Klein Gallery: 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709.
Art Leaders Gallery: 33030 Northwestern Hwy., West Bloomfield, (248) 539-0262, www.artleaders.com.
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.
Cass Gallery: Works by Robert Edwards, Kip Kowalski and Richard P. Mylenek, through Jan. 10, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit, (313) 831-1400.
CPOP: 4160 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9901, www.cpop.com.
Detroit Artist Market: 4719 Woodward, Detroit.
DEM 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) 553.6262, www.suzannebaum.com.
First United Methodist Church: 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham.
Gallery@E: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/village-theater, 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, (248) 432-5448.
Lawrence Street Gallery: 22620 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.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 Luncheon on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusarts-gallery.com.
Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suldan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Beiner and many others, 530 Hilton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www.nextstepstudio.com.
Northville Art House: 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org.
Oakland University Art Gallery: at 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, (248) 370-3005.
Paint Creek Center for the Arts: "Holiday Objects Up and Down," through Jan. 3, 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org.
Paul Kotula Projects: 23255 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3020, www.paulkotula.com.
Peavabic Pottery: 1025 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, (313) 822-0954, www.peavabic.org.
Plymouth Community Arts Council: 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com.
The Print Gallery: 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, (248) 356-5454, www.every-



thingart.com.
Progressive Art & Frame Design: 1511 North Main, Clawson, (248) 435-0944, www.progressiveart.net.
The Scarab Club: "Year of the Weasel," featuring works by Carl Butler, Jeanne Bieri, Todd Erickson, Jerome Ferretti, Mary Fortuna, Matthew Hanna and Arturo Rodriguez, Jan. 2 to Feb. 15, opening reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit, (313) 831-1250 or www.scarabclub.org.
Susanne Hilberry Gallery: Works by Zak Prekop, Elena Pankova, Ryan McLaughlin, Michael Wetzel, Matt Connors and Paul Bloodgood, through Feb. 7, at 700 Livernois, Ferndale, (248) 541-4700, www.susannehilberrygallery.com.
Tangent Gallery: 715 E. Millwaukee St., Detroit, (313) 877-4377, www.tangentgallery.com.
The Community House: 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com.
Visual Arts Association of Livonia: Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Dr., (248) 348-4550.
BOOKS/LITERATURE
Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council and Center: 2121 Midvale, Birmingham, (248) 203-5270.
Borders Ann Arbor: 612 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 668-7652.
Borders Dearborn: 5601 Mercury Dr., Dearborn, (313) 271-4441.
Borders Farmington Hills: 30995 Orchard Lake Road, (248) 737-0110.
Borders Novi: 43075 Crescent Blvd., (248) 347-0780.
Barnes & Noble Royal Oak: 500 S. Main, Royal Oak, (248) 380-5500.
Campania House: Saturday Book Club, Campus Martius, next to the Compareure Building, Detroit, http://www2.wsupress.wayne.edu/news.php/
CHAMBER
Birmingham Temple: Pianist Christopher Atzinger, April 4; Charlie Gabriel Quartet with Vocalist Joan Bow, May 2; 28611 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 788-9338, www.vivaceseries.org.
Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings: "Fun and Games," 3 p.m. Feb. 22; Birmingham Unitarian Church and 4 p.m. March 1; Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit, "String Sundae," 3 p.m. March 29, Birmingham Unitarian Church and 3 p.m. April 5, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church; "Schubert and Spice," 3 p.m. April 26, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham; Final Concert, 8 p.m. June 20, 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, Jan. 30, March 13 and May 8, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org.
Seligman Performing Arts Center: Denyce Graves, mezzo-soprano, Jan. 24; ATOS Trio, Feb. 7; Garrick Ohlsson, piano, March 21; Guarneri String Quartet, April 11; Pacifica Quartet with Erik Ronmark, saxophone, April 18; Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio with the Miami String Quartet, May 16; Yefim Bronfman, piano, May 30. All concerts 8 p.m. Saturdays, Tickets, \$25-\$75, 22305 West 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ComeHearCMSD.org.
CHORAL
Beckridge Chorale: 45700 Six Mile, Northville, www.beckridgechorale.org or call (734) 416-9885.
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts: 350 Madison, Detroit, (313) 887-8500, www.music-hall.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: Psenturies of Psalms, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 9; How Can You Keep From Singing?, 4 p.m. Feb. 8; Pipebusters w/organist Tom Trenney, 7:30 p.m. April 17; Music for a Cathedral, 7:30 p.m. May 22, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham, (248) 644-2040 x136, trenney@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, Club Venetian, Madison Heights; "Dear Mrs. Parks" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, March 6-8, Orchestra Hall, Detroit; "The Armed Man: A Concert for Peace" with original film, April 5, Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Dearborn, www.rackhamchoir.org.
CLASSICAL
Orchestra Canton: "Mozart's Birthday Bash," 8 p.m. Jan. 24, 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.detroitso.org, (313) 576-5400.
Fox Theatre: Andrew Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. May 19; tickets \$82-\$162.
Max M. Fisher Music Center: Americans Here and Abroad, Jan. 9-11; From Russia With Love, Jan. 15-18; Marvin Hamlisch, Jan. 22-24; Oudjian & Beethoven, Jan. 30-31; Mendelssohn & Mahler, Feb. 6-8; Pops Season features: All You Need is Love, Feb. 12-15; Pops Goes Las Vegas, March 19-22; The Music of Billy Joel & More by Michael Cavanaugh, April 16-19; A John Williams Adventure, March 14-17, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitso.org.
Plymouth Symphony Orchestra: "Mendelssohn, Marimba & More," 8 p.m. Feb. 7; "Fanfare for Freedom," 8 p.m. March 14, all at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville; Benefit Concert of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, 8 p.m. April 24, Penn Theatre, 760 Pennington, Plymouth, (734) 451-2112, www.plymouthsymphony.org.
Schoolcraft College: Pianist Anton Nel, Feb. 13; Avalon String Quartet, March 20; Cellist Robert de Maine, May 15; \$10, students, \$20 adults, Presentation Room in the VistaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, (734) 462-4403.
CLUBS
The Ark: 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, www.theark.org.
Bachelor's One: 1967 Cass Lake Rd., Keego Harbor (248) 682-2295.
The Belmont: 10215 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, (313) 871-1966.
Berkley Front: 3087 12 Mile, Berkley, (248) 547-3331.
Bosco: 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.
Cardtown Tavern: 1716 Michigan Ave., Detroit, (313) 964-5103.
Eden Nightclub & Ultralounge: Friday night party with DJ Ryan Richards, 10 p.m. guest celebrity hosts and D.J.s: 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) 547-7674.
Edison's: 220 E. Merrill, Birmingham, (248) 645-2150.
Ginopolis on the Grill: Don Swindell and Shuffle Play, with Swindell, Sheila Brown, Mike Lorenz and Jake Reichart, 7:30-1:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 27851 Middlebelt at 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, no cover, (248) 851-8222.
Four Green Fields: Northwood Shopping Plaza, 13 Mile and Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 506-0531.
Magic Bag: Robert Gordon, Jan. 9; Leon Russell, Jan. 17; Kathleen Edwards, Feb. 4, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com.
The Magic Stick: 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.
O-Zen Lounge: Hot "N Ready with D.J. N.I., hip hop soul, Thursday; Insomnia Music, hip hop, soul, old school, Friday; Super Sonic Smooth Music with DJ Shug, Saturday; karaoke with Chez, Sunday; '80s and Rock n Roll; bring your CDs, Tuesday; and Energetic House with DJ Tony Bell, Wednesday; www.ozenlounge.com, 21633 W. Eight Mile, Detroit, (313) 535-4664.

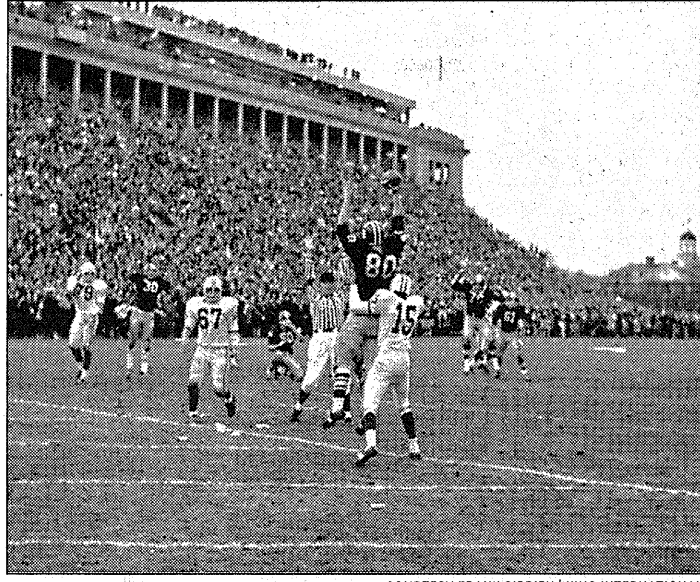
The Pike Room: 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, (248) 858-9333.
Plymouth Coffee Bean: Open mic 7:30-10:30 p.m. Mondays, 884 Pennington, Plymouth, myspace.com/plymouthcoffeebean.
The Shelter: 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (313) 961-MELT.
Sky Club: Tango, salsa, and Latin dancing beginning at 8 p.m., every Wednesday, located above Sangria's Restaurant, 401 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, (248) 543-1964.
Traveling Fork: located inside Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, (734) 464-1300, www.radisson.com/livonia.
COMEDY
Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase: Mark Knope, Jan. 2-3; Karen Rontowski, Jan. 8-10; Norm Stultz, Jan. 15-17; Citizen Jimmy starring Jimmy Dore, Jan. 22-24; Peter Berman, Jan. 29-31, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 996-9080.
The Fillmore: Joel McHale, Jan. 17, 2115 Woodward, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.
Fox Theatre: Larry the Cable Guy, Jan. 24; Ron White, March 14, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com, (248) 433-1515.
JJ's House of Comedy: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday; 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield, (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com.
Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia: 36071 Plymouth Road, (734) 261-5500, www.kickerscomplex.com.
Joe Louis Arena: 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak, (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com.
The Second City: 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi, (248) 348-4448, www.secondcity.com.
CONCERTS
Clutch Cargo: David Allan Coe, Jan. 16; The Devil Wears Prada, April 9, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac, (248) 645-6666.
The Fillmore: City and Colour, Jan. 9; The Black Keys, Jan. 29; Soujia Boy, Feb. 7; Throwing Molly, Feb. 19; Taste of Chaos Tour with Thursday, Pierce The Veil, Bring Me the Horizon, March 10, 2115 Woodward, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.
The Fox Theatre: Labelle featuring Patti LaBelle, Nona Hendryx and Sarah Dash, Jan. 18; BB King and Buddy Guy, Feb. 16; Celtic Woman: Isle of Hope, Feb. 20; Bill Gaither and his Homecoming Friends, March 12, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com, (248) 433-1515.
Joe Louis Arena: Metallica with Machinehead, The Sword, Jan. 13; Nickelback, Feb. 28, (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment.com.
Masonic Temple Theatre: Rain, A Tribute to The Beatles, March 19, 500 Temple, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.
Majestic Theatre: Femi Kuti, Jan. 16; Galactic, Feb. 4, 4140 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9700.
Michigan Theatre: The Pretenders, Feb. 9; John Hiatt and Lyle Lovett, Feb. 20, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (248) 645-6666.
The Palace of Auburn Hills: Slipknot with Coheed and Cambria and Trivium, Jan. 31; Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance, Feb. 15; Fleetwood Mac, March 8; 1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills, (248) 645-6666 or Palacenet.com.
Royal Oak Music Theatre: Reel Big Fish, Jan. 13; Tim and Eric's Awesome Show, Jan. 25; Umphrey's McGee, March 12; 318 W. Fourth, Royal Oak, (800) 919-6272, www.royaloakmusictheatre.com.
St. Andrew's Hall: Uneathr, Jan. 9; Scott Weiland, Jan. 28; Sam Roberts, Feb. 28; Adele, March 20; Less than Jake, March 21, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.
DANCE
Detroit Dance Collective: Adray Theatre, Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, (810) 444-4553, www.detroitdancecollective.org.

Detroit Opera House: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Feb. 12-15; "Aladdin," Grand Rapids Ballet Company, Feb. 28; "Romeo & Juliet," American Ballet, March 13-15, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, (313) 237-3426, www.michiganopera.org.
Eisenhower Dance Ensemble: Lake Orion Performing Arts Center, (248) 559-2095; "NewDANCEfest IV," 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17, Troy High School Auditorium, (248) 559-2095; "Motown in Motion," 8 p.m. April 4, 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) 899-2629.
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts: The Russian Classical Ballet Theatre's "Don Quixote," Jan. 10, 350 Madison, Detroit, \$30-\$50, call (313) 887-8500, www.musichall.org.
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, and "Deca Dance" 2 p.m. Feb. 15; Compagnie Heddy Maalem "Rite," 8 p.m. Oct. 15; Compagnie Marie Chouinard, "Orpheus and Eurydice," 8 p.m. April 25, and "Rite of Spring," 2 p.m. April 26; Rubberdance Group, "Elastic Perspective," 8 p.m. Jan. 9 and "Redux Phase II" 1 and 8 p.m. Jan. 10, www.ums.org.
FAMILY
Canton Cinema: Free matinees 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturdays, 43555 Ford Road, (734) 844-3456.
Detroit Puppet Theatre: "Banana for Turtle," January; "Oh, Ananse," February; "Purim Shpiel," March; Guest Artist Performances, April; "Turtle Island" May; "Sleeping Beauty," June, all performances at 2 p.m. Saturdays, \$10/adults, \$5/children, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit, (313) 967-7777, www.puppetart.org.
Detroit Zoo: (248) 541-5717, www.detroitzoo.org.
Fox Theatre: Sesame Street Live "When Elmo Grows Up" Jan. 30-Feb. 15, \$12-\$32; family nights, Jan. 30, Feb. 4 and 12, \$10; Detroit Public Television benefit performance, Feb. 6, (248) 433-1515, www.OlympiaEntertainment.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; "Nate the Great," 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Feb. 28; "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere," 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. March 20; "Charlotte's Web," 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. May 9; on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills, (248) 377-0300, www.ticketmaster.com, for more information, visit www.mbttheatre.com.
Music Hall: Goodnight Moon and the Runaway Bunny, 4 p.m. Jan. 18, tickets \$7-\$17, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, call (313) 887-8500.
Palace of Auburn Hills: 1 Championship Drive, (248) 645-6666.
University Musical Society: Family Series, Rubberdance Group, Jan. 10; Kodo, Feb. 13; The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma, March 13; Dan Zanes & Friends, March 29; (734) 764-2538, www.ums.org.
FILM
Detroit Film Theatre: "Lola Montes," kicks off a new season Jan. 16, at Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. See www.dia.org/dftt 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, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com.
Penn Theatre: 760 Pennington, Plymouth, (734) 453-0870.
Redford Theatre: "The Sound of Music," Jan. 9-10; "Anatomy of a Murder," Jan. 23-24; "Sunset Boulevard," Feb. 6-7; "Sister Act," Feb. 20-21; "The Karate Kid," March 6-7; "Mrs. Doubtfire," March 20-21; Three Stooges Festival, April 3-4; "The Great Escape," April 17-18, at 17360 Lahser, Detroit. www.redfordtheatre.com.

Where available by deadline, features are listed. **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS

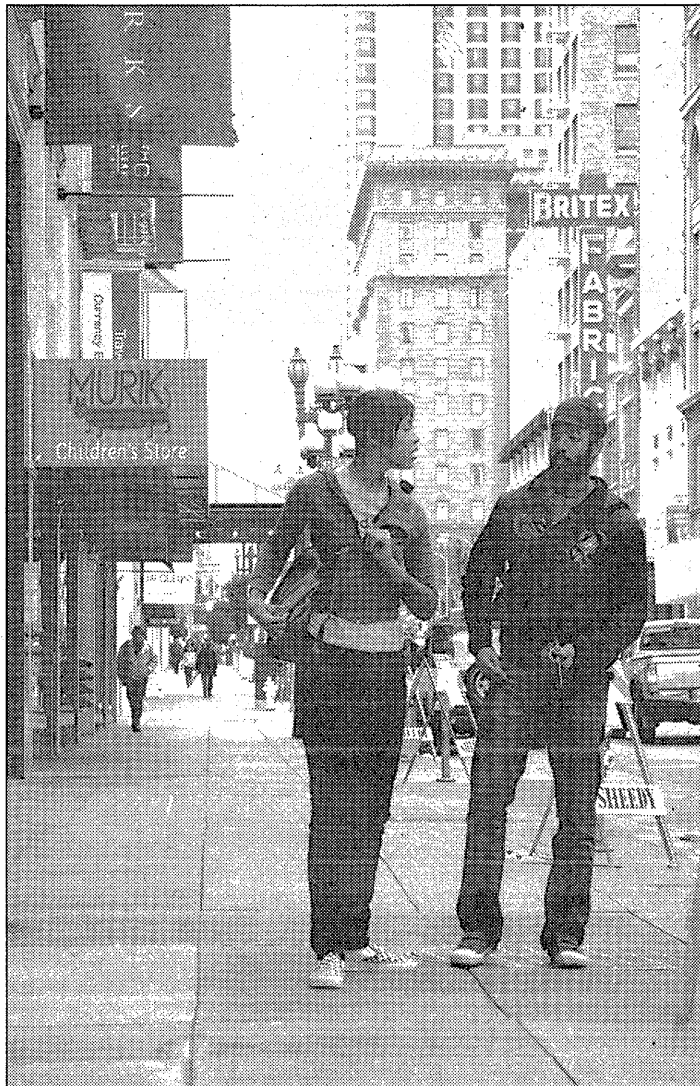
Call your local theatre for showings for this week. Please check listings below for phone numbers and websites.

<p>AMC THEATRES The World's Best Theatres www.amctheatres.com Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows Starting Before 6:00pm Now Accepting VISA & MasterCard</p>	<p>BIRMINGHAM 8 211 S. Old Woodward Ave. Downtown Birmingham 248-644-FILM 248-644-3456 www.birmingham8.com</p>	<p>12/26/08-12/30/08 BEDTIME STORIES [PG] THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON [PG13] MARLEY & ME [PG] THE SPIRIT [PG13] VALKYRIE [PG13] DOUBT [PG13] YES MAN [PG13] SEVEN POUNDS [PG13] THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX [G] THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL [PG13] CADILLAC RECORDS [R] PUNISHER: WAR ZONE [R] FOUR CHRISTMASSES [PG13] TWILIGHT [PG13] BOLT 3-D [PG] QUANTUM OF SOLACE [PG13] MADAGASCAR ESCAPE 2 AFRICA [PG] CALL FOR FEATURES & TIMES www.emagine-entertainment.com</p>	<p>FORD WYOMING DRIVE-IN THEATRE Ford Rd. & Wyoming • Dearborn 313-846-6910 846-6910 TWO GREAT MOVIES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!! [1-5] 12/26/08-1/1/09 CLOSED NEW YEAR'S EVE SEVEN POUNDS [PG13] CADILLAC RECORDS [R] SPIRIT [PG13] TRANSPORTER 3 [PG13] YES MAN [PG13] FOUR CHRISTMASSES [PG13] VALKYRIE [PG13] THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL [PG13] BEDTIME STORIES [PG] BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA [PG] [6-9] THEATRE 6-9 IS CLOSED FOR THE SEASON & WILL REOPEN IN THE SPRING PLEASE ATTEND THEATRES 1-5 ON FORD ROAD Please Call Theatre For Movies & Showtimes www.fordwyomingdrivein.com</p>	<p>MICHIGAN THEATER 603 E. Liberty • Ann Arbor 734-668-TIME 734-668-8463 www.michtheater.org \$8.50 Regular Adult; \$6.75 Students, Seniors & Children Under 12 MJR DIGITAL THEATRES MJR BRIGHTON TOWNE SQUARE DIGITAL CINEMA 20 8200 Murphy Drive Brighton Towne Square Behind Home Depot 24 Hr. Movie Line CALL 810-227-4700 www.mjrdigitaltheatres.com MJR WATERFORD DIGITAL CINEMA 16 7501 Highland Rd. S. E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd. 24 Hr. Movie Line 248-666-7900 www.mjrdigitaltheatres.com</p>	<p>For Group Sales, Special Events & Field Trips PLEASE CALL 248-788-5785 PHOENIX THEATRES AT WEST RIVER CENTRE Farmington Hills' Neighborhood Theatre 30170 Grand River M-5 W. of Middlebelt 248-788-6572 www.phoenixmovies.net Bargain Matinees Before 6 PM For Group Sales, Special Events & Field Trips PLEASE CALL 248-788-5785 STATE THEATER 233 State St. at Liberty Ann Arbor 734-761-8667 \$8.50 Regular Adult; \$6.75 Students, Seniors & Children Under 12 \$5.50 All Shows Beginning Before 6PM \$6.00 Michigan Theater Member STATE WAYNE THEATRE 35310 Michigan Ave. • Wayne 734-326-4600 THURSDAYS • ALL SEATS 99¢ 12/26/08-1/1/09 CLOSED NEW YEAR'S EVE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: THE SENIOR YEAR [G] BODY OF LIES [R] BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA [PG] EAGLE EYE [PG13] SAW V [R] Please Call Theatre For Movies & Showtimes</p>
<p>AMC LAUREL PARK 10 734-462-6200 www.amctheatres.com</p>	<p>CINEMARK MOVIES 16 The Best Seat in Town 28600 Dequindre Rd. • Warren 586-558-7520 Reel Family Monday's With Parties Of 3 Or More - 50¢ Admission Monday Is Seniors Day All Seats \$1.00 The First Show Of The Day Monday-Friday Before 6:00pm Is \$1.00 Bargain Tuesday All Seats All Day \$1.00 All Shows \$1.50 Except Fri-Sun After 6PM All Shows \$2.50 CALL FOR FEATURES AND TIMES</p>	<p>12/25/08-1/1/09 VALKYRIE [PG13] BEDTIME STORIES [PG] THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON [PG13] DOUBT [PG13] MARLEY & ME [PG] THE SPIRIT [PG13] YES MAN [PG13] SEVEN POUNDS [PG13] SLIMDODS MILLIONAIRE [R] THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX [G] THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL [PG13] FOUR CHRISTMASSES [PG13] TWILIGHT [PG13] BOLT 3-D [PG] QUANTUM OF SOLACE [PG13] CALL FOR FEATURES & TIMES www.emagine-entertainment.com</p>	<p>EMAGINE NOVI 12 Mile at Novi Road COCKTAILS SERVED! 888-319-3456 12/26/08-1/1/09 CLOSED NEW YEAR'S EVE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: THE SENIOR YEAR [G] BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA [PG] NIGHTS IN RODANTHE [PG13] Please Call Theatre For Movies & Showtimes</p>	<p>NATIONAL AMUSEMENTS SHOWCASE CINEMAS SHOWCASE ANN ARBOR 1-20 4100 Carpenter Rd. I-94 & US 23 734-973-8424 Bargain Matinees Daily, All Shows Until 6PM. Late Shows Fri. & Sat. NOVI TOWN CENTER 8 Grand River at Novi Rd. 248-465-SHOW 248-465-7469 www.novitowncenter8.com OXFORD 7 CINEMAS 48 S. Washington St. Downtown Oxford Lapeer Rd. (M-24) 248-969-7469</p>	<p>STATE THEATER 233 State St. at Liberty Ann Arbor 734-761-8667 \$8.50 Regular Adult; \$6.75 Students, Seniors & Children Under 12 \$5.50 All Shows Beginning Before 6PM \$6.00 Michigan Theater Member STATE WAYNE THEATRE 35310 Michigan Ave. • Wayne 734-326-4600 THURSDAYS • ALL SEATS 99¢ 12/26/08-1/1/09 CLOSED NEW YEAR'S EVE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: THE SENIOR YEAR [G] BODY OF LIES [R] BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA [PG] EAGLE EYE [PG13] SAW V [R] Please Call Theatre For Movies & Showtimes</p>
<p>AMC STAR FAIRLANE 18900 Michigan Ave. Dearborn 313-240-6389 www.amctheatres.com</p>	<p>EMAGINE THEATERS ONLINE TICKETS www.emagine-entertainment.com CALL 888-319-3456 VOTED BEST MOVIE THEATRE 2006 BY THE DETROIT NEWS! GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE! EMAGINE THAT! Make Your Phone Your Movie Ticket at www.mbo.com NO COMMERCIALS ONCE THE PREVIEWS BEGIN! Digital Projection On All Screens "A Perfect Picture Every Time!" DP-Digital Presentation "Luxury" Seating OPEN AT 11:30 AM</p>	<p>FARMINGTON CIVIC 33332 Grand River Farmington 248-474-1951 12/26/08-1/1/09 CLOSED NEW YEAR'S EVE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: THE SENIOR YEAR [G] BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA [PG] NIGHTS IN RODANTHE [PG13] Please Call Theatre For Movies & Showtimes</p>	<p>MAPLE ART THEATRE III 4135 W. Maple, West of Telegraph Bloomfield Township 248-855-9091 24 Hr. Movie Line 248-263-2111 (DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!!) TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BOX OFFICE OR PHONE 248-542-0180</p>	<p>PHOENIX THEATRES AT BEL-AIR CENTRE Detroit's Neighborhood Theatre 10100 E. Eight Mile Rd. E. of Van Dyke 313-438-3494 www.phoenixmovies.net Bargain Matinees Before 6 PM</p>	<p>STATE THEATER 233 State St. at Liberty Ann Arbor 734-761-8667 \$8.50 Regular Adult; \$6.75 Students, Seniors & Children Under 12 \$5.50 All Shows Beginning Before 6PM \$6.00 Michigan Theater Member STATE WAYNE THEATRE 35310 Michigan Ave. • Wayne 734-326-4600</p>



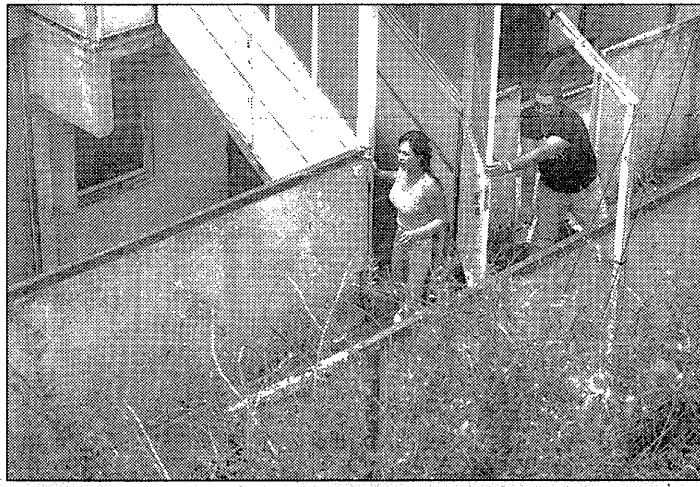
COURTESY FRANK O'BRIEN | KINO INTERNATIONAL

Harvard's Pete Varney catches the two-point conversion that brought the score to 29-29 in the film "Harvard Beats Yale 29-29."



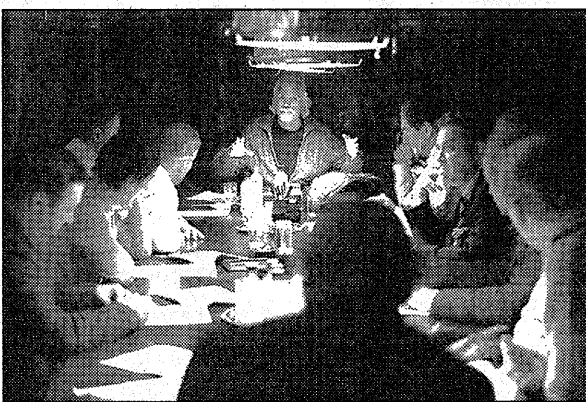
DAVID BORNFRIEND

Tracey Heggins is Jo and Wyatt Cenac is Micah in "Medicine for Melancholy," directed by Barry Jenkins.



MILENA BOTOVA

"Gomorrah," directed by Matteo Garrone, is on the roster of films playing at the Detroit Institute of Arts' Detroit Film Theatre this season.



MILENA BOTOVA

Fans of the American classic "12 Angry Men" won't want to miss this film, "12," playing this season at the DFT.

WINNER BEST PICTURE
NEW YORK FILM CRITICS CIRCLE • SAN FRANCISCO FILM CRITICS CIRCLE • SOUTHEASTERN FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION

"THE YEAR'S BEST PICTURE IS AN AMERICAN CLASSIC!"
PETER TRAYLOR, HOLLWOOD CLOSURE

8 CRITICS CHOICE AWARD NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE **3 SCREEN ACTORS GUILD NOMINATIONS BEST CAST**

SEAN PENN
MILK
EMILE HIRSCH • JOSH BROLIN • DIEGO LUNA • AND JAMES FRANCO
WRITTEN BY DUSTIN LANCE BLACK AND DIRECTED BY GUS VAN SANT
NEVER BLEND IN
SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT NOW PLAYING
Landmark Theatres MAIN ART 118 N Main Street 248/263-2111
SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORY OR CALL FOR SOUND INFORMATION AND SHOWTIMES
MOBILE USERS: For Showtimes - Text MILK with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549)
For group sales information, log on to www.milkthemovie.com/groupsales or please call 866-617-7178.



Denis Lavant stars in Leos Carax's "Merde," a segment of "Tokyo!," closing out the DFT winter season.

- DFT WINTER 2009 SCHEDULE**
- Jan. 16-18: Lola Montès
 - Jan. 23-Feb. 1: Let The Right One In
 - Jan. 30-Feb. 8: A Secret
 - Feb. 6-15: 2008 Academy Award-Nominated Short Films
 - Feb. 13-22: Medicine for Melancholy
 - Feb. 20-March 15: Harvard Beats Yale 29-29
 - Feb. 27-March 8: Gomorrah
 - March 13-22: TrueCrimes
 - March 20-22: Shoot The Piano Player
 - March 27-April 5: Six in Paris
 - March 27-29: The 400 Blows
 - April 3-12: Revanche
 - April 10-19: Shall We Kiss
 - April 17-26: 12
 - April 23-25: Tokyo!
- Times and ticket prices: See www.dia.org/dft

The Detroit Film Theater doles out thrillers, romance, French New Wave and more

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Though the new season at the Detroit Institute of Arts' Detroit Film Theatre seems to lean heavily toward French cinema — including the first two films made by French New Wave Director Francois Truffaut — and dabbles in mobster flicks, romance, and multi-director collections like *Tokyo!* and *Paris vu Par*, Curator of Film Elliot Wilhelm maintains that any connections among these movies are mostly coincidental.

The process of choosing and showing films is an ongoing one, often dependent upon release dates, the availability of new prints and films new to DVD. It has taken years to obtain some of the movies on the winter roster.

"When you look at the last three and half decades of the Detroit Film Theatre," said Wilhelm, "you get an overview of what's been going on in world cinema. That's what's important."

And this selection of films, he said, proves that what's going on now is truly exciting. "There is a lot of great cinema," Wilhelm said. "A lot of fantastic stuff going on."

It's fitting then that the season should begin with *Lola Montès* by Max Ophuls (*La Ronde*). Wilhelm first saw the 1955 film about a courtesan and mistress of kings, on a trip to New York City in 1968. He saw it again two years ago — in its finished form. And now that the movie has been made available in the U.S., he is proud to bring it before Detroit audiences. When *Lola Montès* was first released, it was misunderstood and something of a critical and public failure — a response many believe led to the Ophuls'



PHOTO COURTESY RIALTO PICTURES

Martine Carol is Lola Montès in the film by the same name, opening up a new season at the Detroit Film Theatre.

death soon afterward. Wilhelm called it a broken heart.

The studio took control over Ophuls' film, which made use of Technicolor and Widescreen formats, and cut it considerably. By showing this film now, in its completely restored state, Wilhelm said the DFT aims to show it was a work far ahead of its time. He called it "truly a magnificent work of art."

VARIETY

The movie that follows is a brand new Swedish vampire flick titled *Let The Right One In*. The juxtaposition, Wilhelm noted, proves just what the DFT offers its patrons — variety. "You can't pin it down."

From the truly creepy to the utterly romantic, the DFT sends us a Valentine in Barry Jenkins' *Medicine for Melancholy*, an independent film Wilhelm described as "beautifully written and beautifully acted."

Sports fans or documentary film lovers won't want to miss *Harvard Beats Yale 29-29*, which details the "greatest football game ever played," and proved to be a riveting experience, said Wilhelm.

This winter, the theater

will host the North American premiere of an incredible thriller titled *Revanche*, which Wilhelm discovered at the Telluride Film Festival.

SIMILAR WORKS

Fans of the American cinematic masterpiece *12 Angry Men*, directed for the screen by Sidney Lumet, won't want to miss out on the Russian Director Nikita Mikhalkov work, *12*. "It is applied to a completely different system of justice," said Wilhelm. "But the same principles are there. It mirrors the American film in many ways but it is very different." *12* proves that "Reginald Rose's original teleplay is far more universal than many of us thought."

Another crowd-pleaser comes at the end of the season as three directors show their own take on a single location in *Tokyo!* While each of the 30-minute films is good, Wilhelm said, "one of them is outstand-

ing." He even tossed out the term "life-changing."

This season also includes Truffaut's *The 400 Blows* and *Shoot The Piano Player*, each of which represent restored prints that allow the DFT to show these influential films the way they were meant to be seen. And adding them to the roster allows patrons to experience Truffaut's early work even before the movies are released on DVD.

Wilhelm said he hopes the theater will draw in both fans and newcomers this season, as support is more important than ever. "The DIA is in a difficult situation right now," he said. "It's very important — for people who love what we do — this is the time to prove that it is important to them. Its future actually does depend on whether or not they want to support it."

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

VISIT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

EXPERIENCE THE HOLIDAYS' FUNNIEST ADVENTURE!

"HYSTERICALLY FUNNY!"
Bryan Eddy, INSIGHT CABLE

"A LOT OF FUN. SEE IT."
Ben Lyons, AT THE MOVIES

"BIG THRILLS AND BIG LAUGHS!"
David Sheehan, HOLLYWOOD CLOSE-UPS

ADAM SANDLER
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
BEDTIME STORIES

FOR THEATRES AND SHOWTIMES: CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS OR TEXT BED WITH YOUR ZIP CODE TO 43KIX (43549) OR VISIT Disney.com/BedtimeStories

5 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE (Drama)

BEST DIRECTOR David Fincher
BEST ACTOR (Drama) Brad Pitt

BEST SCREENPLAY
Screenplay by Eric Roth and Robin Swicord
Story by Eric Roth

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE
Alexandre Desplat

TIME
"A SPRAWLING, ENTHRALLING MOVIE."
- Richard Corliss

ELLE
"ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES OF THE DECADE."
- Karen Duerbin

Newsweek
"BRAD PITT GIVES ONE OF THE SUBTLEST, MOST TOUCHING PERFORMANCES OF HIS CAREER."
- David Aizen

BRAD PITT CATE BLANCHETT

The Curious Case Of BENJAMIN BUTTON

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENT A KENNEDY/MARSHALL PRODUCTION A DAVID FINCHER FILM BRAD PITT CATE BLANCHETT "THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON" TARA JIP HENSON JULIA ORLANDO JASON FLEMING ELIAS KOTIAS AND TILDA SWINTON MUSIC BY ALEXANDRE DESPLAT COSTUME DESIGNER KIRK BAXTER ANGUS WALL PRODUCTION DESIGNER KATHLEEN KENNEDY FRANK MARSHALL CLEAN CHAFFIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SCOTT FITZGERALD PRODUCED BY ERIC ROTH AND ROBIN SWICORD WRITTEN BY ERIC ROTH DIRECTED BY DAVID FINCHER

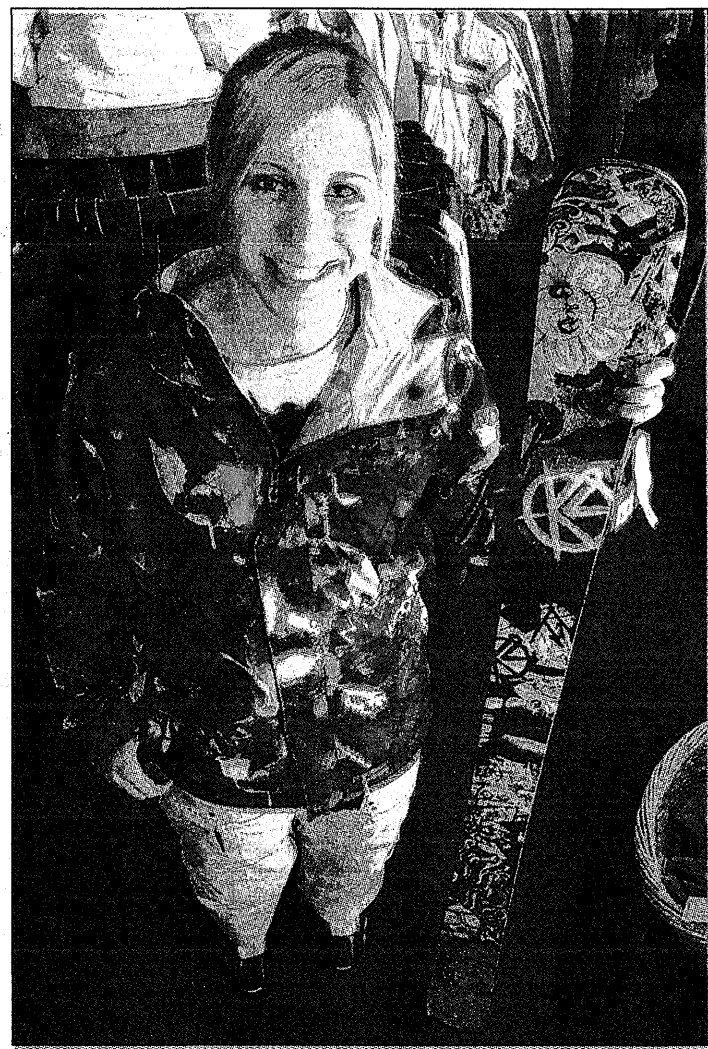
NOW PLAYING

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT - NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATRES AND SHOWTIMES Text BEN to 33287 to find a theater near you and to receive movie alerts from Paramount!

Ski fashions show bold colors, kitschy patterns this winter



Jessica Kopitz, Bloomfield Hills, knows goggles or fashionable shades, like this white-hot pair by Laguna Summer, are a must on the slopes.



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kopitz shows off the latest ski fashions at Don Thomas Sporthaus in Birmingham last week.

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

When it comes to hitting the slopes, Bloomfield Hills native Jessica Kopitz knows it's possible to look fierce whether you're a beginner or a pro. She's been skiing since the age of 3, back when her father would hold her in a Hula Hoop and help her get her footing. "Off I went," she said. Ever since, skiing and snowboarding has been a major part of her life. Now a student attending Rochester Institute of Technology, Kopitz

said outdoor sports have always brought her family together. Her first experiences on skis began in northern Michigan and today she travels around the country — to parks in Utah or Colorado — to ski and snowboard with family. It's a way they manage to stay connected. "I never saw a Friday at school," said the Cranbrook graduate. "We were always going to Nub's Nob or Boyne. It's definitely a family thing for us." Her father, Steve Kopitz, owns Don Thomas

Sporthaus, part of his company, Summit Sports Inc. The shop, which moved from its original location at Telegraph and Maple roads to downtown Birmingham two years ago, caters to outdoor sports and sportswear of all kinds. Current trends in fashion are easy to spot from a visit to the store. Bright colors and patterns abound.

"It started with snowboarders and moved into skiing," said Kopitz. While she lamented that menswear still offers more options in vibrant styles and colors, it's moving over into women's apparel too.

Kopitz demonstrated some pieces at the height of fashion. She paired a pair of cream-colored ski pants by Spyder with a brightly patterned shell of a jacket by Volcom — perfect for snowboarding. The pants are equipped with an adjustable waistband for a customized fit, while the jacket has an iPod hookup and a snowcuff, to connect to her pants and keep her warm and dry on the slopes. She said while women still tend to match some items, winter sports themselves have moved away from a matchy-matchy mentality. In fact, she believes

the less-coordinated the outfit, the better the athlete.

Hans Erni, store manager at Don Thomas Sporthaus, said patterns often go together, while colors need not match. He's seen skiers hit the slopes in green jackets and pink pants, for example.

Regardless of the outfit, fit is crucial. Erni said the store custom-fits boots to your feet. The hottest brand of ski boots available, he said, are Full Tilt. They come in colors like bright orange or baby blue, some come equipped with foot warmers.

Handwarmers are also available, and a good item to keep nearby in winter months. Kopitz said she keeps them in the car in case it breaks down. Accessories are useful on and off the slopes.

Big bold sunglasses give an air of Hollywood glamour to the sport, while blocking out harsh rays. Kopitz suggested a stark white pair by Laguna Summer, at \$189, or a bold purple pair by Bline at \$295 to make a statement while making tracks.

Equipment can be just as personalized as clothing. Kopitz opts for a wider pair of skis by K2, with a pink elaborate pattern. They are meant for powdery snow found on park slopes in Colorado, rather than thinner skis best used to slice through the icy runs in Michigan. "Fatter skis glide on top of the snow," said Kopitz. The pair she chose are best for half-pipes and when landing backwards.

With a black and white pattern on the back, it's easy to imagine them flying through

the air.

But before she straps on a pair of skis, Kopitz makes sure she has these items:

- Long underwear, like Under Armor or Hot Chillys. Avoid cotton and stick with moisture-wicking materials to stay warm and dry
- Basic snowpants
- Goggles or sunglasses
- A warm hat or, preferably, a helmet.
- Gloves

Kopitz owns a Boeri helmet and said it's important to consider safety. She's been hit on the slopes by others more often than she's fallen down and, in any case, safety is key. Modern helmets come equipped with everything from Bluetooth technology and iPod compatibility to ponytail holders. Some are even decked in faux fur and Swarovski crystals, like the Boeri VIP Siren, which Erni called "the ultimate in bling."

A higher-end brand that's been dashing off the shelves at Don Thomas Sporthaus

are lux vests and jackets by Para Jumper. From down-filled warmth to fur-trimmed hoods and kitschy hardware, they're teeming with style, whether you're just braving the cold winter winds or you're hopping onto a snowboard. Vests run about \$184 and look ski-bunny sweet when topped with a waffle-textured knit thermal shirt.

For aspiring skiers, namely youngsters, the shop carries lines like I-Grow, which adjust to fit growing children, expanding a few inches to last more than a single season.

Kopitz said starting early meant she gained independence and confidence, especially in such a male-dominated sport. It also keeps her fit. She said she hopes to encourage women to get into winter sports. "It's more of a fashion sport and more of a fun sport when you get into it," she said of dressing the part.

scasola@hometownlife.com
(248) 901-2567

make your legs beautiful again.

Advanced Vein Therapies uses the latest technology to provide you safe, non-invasive, painless and effective varicose and spider vein care with no stripping and no scarring.

All procedures are in-office, and most are covered by insurance. You'll be up and walking immediately, with relief that allows you to get back to your life. Please visit our web site to see how we've helped others at www.AVtherapies.com.



ADVANCED VEIN THERAPIES

JEFFREY H. MILLER, MD is Metro Detroit's foremost board-certified authority on varicose and spider vein care, specializing in treating venous diseases for nearly fifteen years.

248.344.9110 | www.AVtherapies.com

48325 W. 12 MILE ROAD | SUITE 335 | NOVI | West of Novi Road near I-96

As seen in the Yellow Pages



- Cézanne
- Dali
- Degas
- Gauguin
- Magritte
- Matisse
- Modigliani
- Monet
- Picasso
- Renoir
- Rodin
- Van Gogh

MONET TO DALI

Modern Masters from the Cleveland Museum of Art

October 12, 2008 - January 18, 2009

Masterpiece after masterpiece after masterpiece. See them now.

For tickets visit www.dia.org or the DIA Box Office. Members receive FREE tickets. Join today! 313.833.7971

FINAL DAYS

New Year's Special! Half-off tickets January 2, 3 and 4.



DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

let yourself go | dia.org



This exhibition has been organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art. In Detroit, the exhibition is proudly sponsored by Bank of America. Additional support has been provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the City of Detroit.

Pierre Auguste Renoir (French, 1841-1919), *Romaire Lacaux* (detail), 1864, Oil on fabric, 81.3 x 65 cm. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Gift of the Hanna Fund 1942.1095. © The Cleveland Museum of Art. Amedeo Modigliani (Italian, 1884-1920), *Portrait of a Woman* (detail), c. 1917-18, Oil on canvas, 65 x 48.3 cm. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Gift of the Hanna Fund 1951.1358. © The Cleveland Museum of Art.

CE0683780



FREE PARKING in the Compuware garage Mon-Fri 11am-6pm with skating admission

- Family Outings
- Private Ice Parties
- Field Trips
- Group Rates
- Skate Rentals
- Convenient Adjacent Parking
- Open 7 Days Including Holidays

HOURS: Mon.-Thurs.....11am - 10 pm
Friday.....11am - Midnight
Saturday.....10 am - Midnight
Sunday.....Noon - 8 pm



800 Woodward Avenue
3 Blocks North of Jefferson

Located in Detroit's Meeting Place, Across from the Compuware Building and Hard Rock Cafe.

For reservations & further info, call 313-963-9393

CE06834324