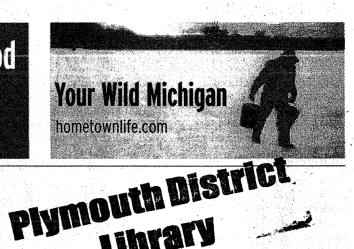


Down on Main Street: good food

Strictly Business, B6



**THURSDAY** 

filter - Section D

January 8, 2009

75 cents

WINNERS OF STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

PLYMOUTH

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### Nearly three years later, police nab pizza suspect

BY TONY BRUSCATO OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's a crime case not unlike those we see every night on television, i.e. CSI: Miami and Law & Order.

Feb. 4, 2006, 8:30 p.m. A ski-masked gunman walks into the Hungry Howie's pizza restaurant on Main Street and orders the manager to hand over the \$150 in the cash register.

He runs out the back door and leads

Plymouth and Plymouth Township police — and K-9 — on a foot chase through backyards on Simpson and Ross streets during a snowstorm. The snow makes for easy tracking of footprints, until it's snowing so hard the tracks dis-

appear before police can catch up. The robber and the money vanish, with seemingly no clues left behind. A suspicious van is stopped, with police believing it was the getaway vehicle. There's no positive proof; however, the driver was arrested on

unrelated charges.

"I think we were close, really close," Plymouth Police Detective Lt. Al Cox recalled. "We just couldn't seal our perimeter fast enough and I think he broke through. I believe we arrested the getaway driver that night, and the suspect was the getaway driver's brother.

"It's one of those cases I knew I would always think about, especially if we didn't get him," Cox added.

The next day, a homeowner on Ross Street reported finding two

knit hats and a pair of black gloves in a bucket. A year later, the clothing ended up being the lead Cox needed.

They were in water for almost 24 hours and I remember thinking we're not going to get anything (DNA) off of this," said Cox, who sent the items to the crime lab. "In April 2007, we got a lab report that said we had a positive hit on our suspect, who had a previous criminal history. They identified him by DNA from a hair pulled out of one of the hats."

The suspect, 30-year-old Michael Perry Cox Jr. of Plymouth Township, was extradicted from Florida and is now facing a preliminary exam in 35th District Court. He's charged with armed robbery and being a habitual offender, and could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted. Cox's preliminary exam continues Jan. 23. He's being held in the Wayne County Jail in lieu of \$1 million bond.

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

### Adding Abe artifacts

#### Museum adds little-seen items to Lincoln exhibit

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

The Plymouth Historical Museum, which already has the state's largest Abraham Lincoln collection, scored another coup to celebrate the 200th birthday (Feb. 12) of the United States' 16th president.

The museum will have on loan from The Henry Ford in Dearborn

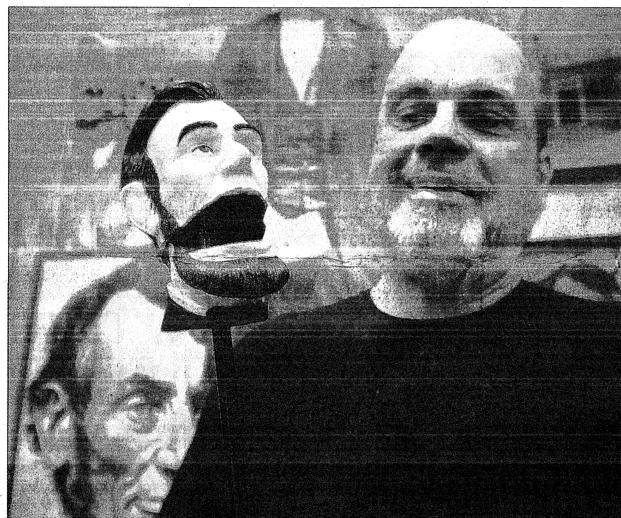


It's not Kramer from 'Seinfeld,' but a painting of a younger at the Plymouth Lincoln, before the presidency

four pieces that belonged to Honest Abe ın Springfield, Ill., which were sold before he moved to the White House in 1861. They will be the cornerstones of the "In the Presence of Lincoln" display Historical Museum, from Jan. 21-Nov. 4.

"We're getting two rockers, which belonged to Abe and his wife, Mary," said Dan Packer, Lincoln curator and board member at the Plymouth Historical Museum. "Other than the assassination chair at The Henry Ford, this is second

"There's a parlor table, mohagany with claw feet; and a mantle clock which Lincoln was standing next to when the Republican delegation



PHOTOS'BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lincoln archivist Dan Packer collects Lincoln memorabilia of a less serious nature. This Lincoln Talking Head is a best-seller at the gift shop in the new visitor's center at Gettysburg.

came to him with the nomination for president of the United States," Packer added. "Outside of Springfield, this museum is on par with major museums around the

country when it comes to Lincoln.' The search for the items began

when ancestors of the man who bought the pieces from Lincoln showed up the Plymouth Historical Museum looking for them. Packer led the family members to The Henry Ford, which - with Packer's help - found them in a warehouse

used to store items not on display in the main Dearborn museum. The four items have been displayed to the public before, but it's unlikely many have seen them.

Please see LINCOLN, A3

### Family 'overjoyed' at 'amazing Christmas gift'

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

The Christmas season is a ready-made time for miracles.

When West Middle School music teacher Marc Whitlock picked up the phone three days before Christmas, he received the miracle he and his wife, Kellie, had been looking for.

The word from doctors at Children's Hospital in Detroit indicated their 2-year-old daughter, Macaylah — who was born with transient leukemia and had been undergoing treatment was cancer-free.

"I was so overjoyed," said Marc Whitlock. "It's what we'd been praying for over the last year. There is no cancer in the blood and no cancer in the bone marrow. The good cells are rebuilding themselves and starting to grow. What an amazing Christmas gift we have received."

Whitlock said they still have to tackle Down syndrome and associated deafness. But, for a few days, he and Kellie want to give thanks to God and express their appreciation for all the support given his family.

We are grateful for all those who have helped us along the way," said Whitlock. "This has taught us a lot, and we certainly plan to do our part in paying it forward."

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



Macaylah Whitlock has been declared cancer-free

### **Kettle drive** soars past 2008 goal

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

When the Plymouth Salvation Arm braintrust got together and set the goa for the 2008 Red Kettle Campaign at \$235,000, the raised eyebrows came and the whispers started.

"In these kinds of financial times, you're never gonna make that," the conventional wisdom went.

If that really was the conventional wisdom, it wasn't all that wise. Benefitting from what Salvation Army officials call an "incredibly generous" community, this year's Red Kettle Campaign, the Army's biggest fund-raiser, raised more than \$244,000, an 18-percent increase over last year's campaign.

"The story there is the need is just incredible," said Maj. Jim Irvine, commander of the Plymouth Salvation Army. "Everyone is feeling that; it doesn't come as a surprise to anyone. What comes as the big surprise is how well we did in these financially hard times."

That figure is in contrast to how the overall campaign is doing around metropolitan Detroit. District Salvation Army officials noted in a release the overall campaign was some \$839,000 behind as of Dec. 29. The metro Detroit goal is \$8.5 million.

Irvine said the local Salvation Army which serves the Plymouths, Canton, Northville and Belleville — was able to far exceed its goal by "streamlining the use of kettles" at some 20 locations around those communities "to get the best use we could" out of the kettles.

But the real push, Irvine acknowledged, was from volunteers and the donors themselves.

We had people who knew we were hurting, and they came out nonstop to ring the bells," Irvine said. "It was people passing the kettles who knew their families were hurting. We didn't get any single big-check donations, as we've had in the past. It was all the one-dollar, five-dollar and 10-dollar donations people were putting in that made all the difference."

The donations will help the Plymouth Salvation Army finance all of its programs, including things like the Thanksgiving and Christmas family adoptions. That need, Irvine pointed out, increased dramatically this year. The Plymouth Salvation Army served 436 families (up 27 percent over 2007) and 1,037 children, some 300 more than a year ago.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

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Volume 123

Number 41





#### **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 household in Michigan.

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

Ргумоптн Canton - Northville

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**Coming Sunday:** 

Intriguing innovations

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

#### Chorale auditions

conducts auditions for its 35th anniversary season.

Auditions will be by appointment only. Auditions for all voice parts will be held in January. Our adult ensemble is composed of members from all over southeast Michigan. To schedule an audition appointment or for more information, contact (734) 416-9885 or visit www. beckridgechorale.com.

#### Music at the library

The Plymouth District Library hosts the Rhapsody Music Series 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11.

The String Trio from the Plymouth Symphony will present an all-Mozart program as part of this popular Library series, sponsored by the Friends of the Plymouth District Library. Guest musicians include Hektor Qyteti (violin), Faith Demorest (violin 2) and Brandon Cota (cello).

Registration is requested for these free programs. Call the Library at (734) 453-0750,

#### PUPS performances

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is proud to pres-

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ent the Plymouth Uptown Players in productions of "Beggar and the Wolf," "Mother Goose has flown the Coop," and "The Enchanted

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, January 8, 2009

"Mother Goose" is scheduled The BeckRidge Chorale for 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday Jan. 10-11; "Beggar" and "Enchanted Cottage" are scheduled for 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. «

17-18 Tickets are \$6 for everyone and are on sale by calling the PCAC at (734) 416-4278 or e-mailing tamara@plymoutharts.com

All performances will take place at The Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

■ PUPs will also hold winter/spring season auditions 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22. Actors must bring a short poem to read at the auditions. If your child participated in the Fall 2008 PUPs program they do not need to audition, but registration for the Winter/Spring session is required.

For more information, call (734)416-4278.

#### **Calling Plymouth Democrats**

Take an important first step and attend a meeting to explore the potential for a Plymouth Democratic Club 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Plymouth District Library.

Since the election, the challenges we face - and our

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Look in on them on our doggle web cams!

A HAPPY DOG DAY... IS A DAY OF DOG PLAY!"



#### Fife and Drum roll

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps kicked off its upcoming 2009 season with a Holiday Cookie Party Dec. 15. The Corps collected items to donate to First Step in Plymouth (www.firststep-mi.org) and to Ozone House in Ann Arbor (www.ozonehouse.org). The upcoming performance season for the PFDC will include many Southeast Michigan parades and performances as well as events in Charlevoix, St. Clair, Muskegon and a weekend in Mackinaw. In August the Corps will travel on their annual 10-day tour which this year will be into Canada with performances at Fort Henry, Ontario, Montreal, and a special performance on Canada's Peacekeeping Day in Ottawa. Visit the group's Web site at www.pfdc.us for additional information.

responsibility to take action have only become more urgent. Help us make progress on the strong grass-roots infrastructure built in Plymouth during President-elect Obama's campaign. You can connect with fellow supporters and continue to make a difference in our community and country. Please plan to attend this meeting, hosted by Plymouth Obama Campaign team leaders, and register at plymouthdemocrats@gmail.com

#### Genealogical Society meets

The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets Monday, Jan. 19, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia.

The main speaker, following the 7:30 p.m. business meeting, will be the Petticoat Ladies. Their topic will be "Mother's of Invention." This spirited group of ladies will enlighten us on what women had to go through in Victorian times. The 6:30 p.m. program will be a After the Holidays Social to visit and catch up with each other's genealogy fun. Have a brick wall? See if our members can help.

The meetings are open to the public. Guests are always welcomed.

For further information,

1926 South Telegraph Rd.

Bloomfield

(next to Carl's Golfland)

248.338.6390

visit the group's Web site @ www.rootsweb.com/ ~miwwcgs/

#### Saturdays @ The Penn

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and the **Plymouth Canton Symphony** Society present Saturdays at the Penn @ noon.

The next old-fashioned variety shows for children and families is Feb. 7, with special musical host Guy Louis and Chataugua Express and special guest performer Like Water Drume and Dance. The announcer is Timothy Thompson.

Tickets cost \$3 and may be purchased the day of the show. Doors open at 11:15 a.m.at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman in Plymouth. To purchase tickets before the concert or for more information on group purchases, contact Deb Madonna at (734) 377-0914. Visit www.PennSaturdays.com for more information.

#### Council on Aging

**■** The Plymouth Council on Aging hosts the Detroit Institute of Art, who will present "Monet To Dali." A DIA speaker will have a slide show along with presenta-

tion of masters of art from the Cleveland Museum of Arts. Come share this cultural event 1:30-3 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. Cost is \$1.00 at the door.

■ The Council on Aging hosts a free health screening 12:30-3:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at the Plymouth Cultural Center. This will be for persons 60 years and older. Screening and testing will include Vital Signs/ Blood Pressure/Blood Sugar, Urinalysis/ Cholesterol Blood Count/ Hemoccult/ Hearing/ Vision and Flu Shots. Bring your physician's name, health history, current medications and your Medicare Card.

RSVP to (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236.

#### **PLAV** members

PLAV Post #166, located at 39375 Amrhein in Livonia (at the southeastern corner of Amrhein and Eckles) is seeking new veteran members (the first year is offered free).

The Post meeting is the second Monday of every month (except July and August) and begins at 7:30 p.m. with a light lunch that follows the meeting. Those interested are welcome; contact Sr Vice Cmdr/Adj Roger L. Kehrier, (734) 453-2031.

#### Bipolar forum

Bipolar disorder can be a devastating illness, both for individuals and for families. It is a chronic disease causing unstable and unpredictable moods. The positive news is that bipolar disorder is treatable, and new research advances are under way.

The University of Michigan Depression Center and the Plymouth District Library will present a Bright Nights forum, "Understanding Bipolar Disorder," 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the library, 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth.

Dr. Melvin McInnis, M.D., will present a brief overview of the illness from a clinical and genetic perspective. McInnis is the Thomas B. and Nancy Upjohn Woodworth Professor of Bipolar Disorder and Depression at the U-M Depression Center, His overview will be followed by a specialist panel discussion based on audience questions.

Pre-registration for the free

event can be made by calling the library at (734) 453-0750. Ext. 4. Family members, friends and individuals with bipolar disorder are especially welcome. For more information, visit the Depression Center Web site at www. depressioncenter,org or contact Trish Meyer at meyerpa@ umich.edu.

#### **PCAC offerings**

The Plymouth Community Arts Council's Winter/Spring Session starts in January.

The PCAC is bring back its camp program for children ages 5-12. The mid-winter camp runs Feb. 23-27, the spring break camp is April 13-17, and the PCAC offers snowday camps when Plymouth-Canton school officials call a snow day due to inclement weather. All camps run 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The PCAC offers Girl Scout programs, with workshops for badges including ceramics and clay, theatre, Her Story and colors and shapes.

There are drop-in art classes with Pam Grossman. The drawing-based class takes place Mondays and Wednesdays, while the youth (ages 6-19) classes are offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Pottery A-Z with Jeff Burda is offered in six-week sessions for children ages 6-12, on Saturdays Jan. 24-Feb. 28. March 7-April 11, April 25-May 30.

All camps and classes are held at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth. To register for these programs stop in at the PCAC or call (734) 416-4278. More information on all programs is available at the PCAC Web site, www.plymoutharts.com

#### College workshop series

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

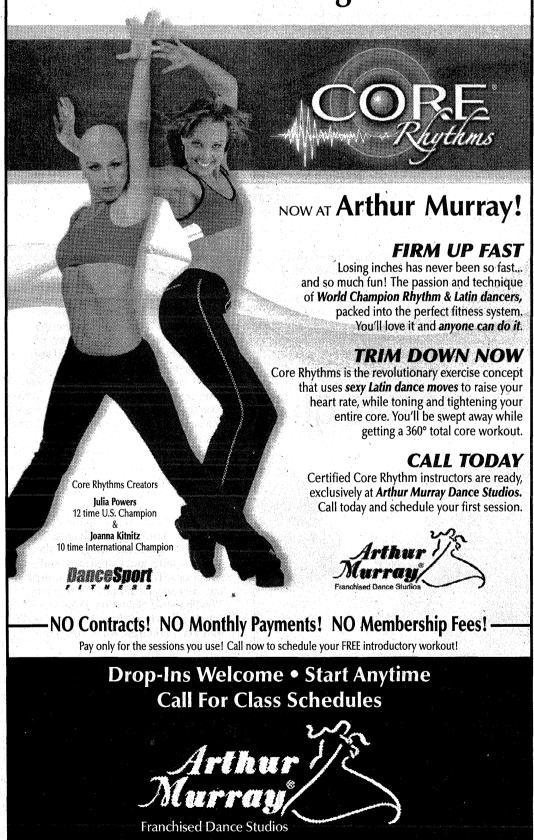
Test strategies for the

ACT," Thursday, Jan. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Essay writing workshop

for the ACT essay," Thursday, Jan. 22, 7-8:30 p.m. Registration is requested for these free programs. Contact

the library at (734) 453-0750,

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Northville

(between Northville Rd. & Haggerty)

248.349.1133



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**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!

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Ask About Our Birthday Party Packages!

**BUMPER LEAGUE** 

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

#### STATE OF MICHIGAN **COUNTY OF WAYNE**

PAID PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO RELOCATE A BANK BRANCH

Notice is hereby given that Monroe Bank & Trust has made application with the FDIC for permission to relocate a bank branch from 133 West Main Street, Northville, MI 48168 to 201 East Main Street, Northville, MI 48168.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its Regional Office (500 West Monroe Street, Suite 3600, Chicago, Illinois 60661) before processing of the application has been completed. Processing will be completed no earlier than the 15th day following either the date of this publication or the date of receipt of the application by the FDIC, whichever is later. The period may be extended by the Regional Director for good cause. The non-confidential portion of the application file is available for inspection within one day following the request for such file. It may be inspected in the Corporation's Regional Office during regular business hours. Photocopies of information in the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request. A schedule of charges for such copies can be obtained from the Region Director.

> By: H. Douglas Chaffin President & CEO January 8, 2009

#### Symphony, arts council get foundation grant

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society have been awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Community Foundation of Plymouth.

This grant will assist with the expenses to accommodate the Plymouth Canton Symphony's move to the Plymouth Community Arts Council to share space and other administrative resources. The move is expected to take place during the summer of 2009.

On Wednesday, December 17, 2008 the Plymouth **Community Arts Council** and the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society were awarded the check from the Community Foundation of Plymouth. The check was presented to the organizations by Stella Green, a **Community Foundation** Board Member. Sheila Paton,



Plymouth Community Foundation board member Stella Green, PCAC treasurer Sheila Paton, symphony director Beth Stewart and PCAC board members Si Nahra, Bill Lawton and Joanne Winkelman Hulce celebrate the \$2,500 grant the PCAC and symphony got from the foundation.

Treasurer of the Plymouth Community Arts Council and Beth Stewart from the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society accepted the check from the Foundation. PCAC Board members Si Nahra,

Bill Lawton and Joanne Winkleman Hulce were also present for the award. Deb Madonna, PCAC Board

grant award. "We appreciate this sup-

President, is thrilled with the

port from the Community Foundation of Plymouth, Madonna said. "This will. enable the Arts Council and the Symphony to enhance our work together and share resources so that we can continue to bring quality programs to the community."

Beth Stewart, Executive Director of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society said she's looking forward to the

"We look forward to a much closer working relationship between the Plymouth Symphony and the PCAC," Stewart said. "We appreciate the support received from the Plymouth Community Foundation to help facilitate these efforts."

#### **Community Shares**

Community Financial of Plymouth recently presented a check to the Novi Educational Foundation (NEF) to further educational programs in the local community.

Mary Collins, manager of Community Financial's Novi office, made the presentation to Peter Dion, superintendent of Novi Community School District.

According to NEF's **Executive Director Bob** Schram, Community Financial's contribution will be used to help defray costs for the Career Day and Reality Store programs at Novi Middle School

"The NEF values its community partners, including Community Financial, in accomplishing its mission to make a difference for the students of Novi Community Schools," said Schram.

The donation was made possible by Community Financial's positive financial performance during 2008. The Novi Educational Foundation is among seven recipients to be given a total of \$5,300 from the credit union's annual Community Shares program.

"We are very pleased to

contribute toward educational programs that benefit students and local schools," said credit union CEO Bill Lawton. "This is another way that Community Financial is making a positive difference in the communities we serve."

Attending the check presentation, which was held at Novi's Orchard Hills Elementary, were students from Cathy Cloke's fourth grade class who volunteer at the school's studentrun credit union, which is sponsored by Community Financial.

"Our partnership with Community Financial has given our students handson experience to learn how a banking establishment operates," said Orchard Hills Principal Paul LePlae. "Advertising, leadership and math skills are all part of the experience, and the value of saving money is at the core of this learning opportunity."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Small busts and statues are ready for display.

"They had previously been on display at the Logan County Courthouse, where Lincoln practiced law," said Leslie Mio, loan coordinator at The Henry Ford. "But, it's been decades since they were shown.'

The Plymouth Historical Museum had to fill out a 50page facilities report in order to get the items.

"As a result, we've enhanced the level of security in the whole building, not just for the Lincoln items, but for our displays, too," said Liz Kerstens, museum director, who said the four pieces will be put in the former doll house outside the permanent Lincoln room with special humidity and light levels to preserve them. "It's still a community museum, and nothing will take away from that, but because we will be having items we believe haven't been displayed for such a long time, hopefully the word will get out.

Along with the new items and current Lincoln room display - which includes a lock of Lincoln's hair and the dictionary he used as a child - there will be speakers and workshops during the nearly year-long celebration of Lincoln.

Kerstens is fund-raising to pay for the cost of borrowing the furniture, additional security, advertising and other costs, which she said will be in the "tens of thousands" of dollars. The major sponsor for the event is Hines Park Lincoln-Mercury.

The Plymouth Historical Museum's Lincoln artifacts were purchased in 1998 from Dr. Weldon Petz of West Bloomfield. The museum fundraised for \$150,000 to pay Petz, as well as develop and preserve the display which opened in 2002.

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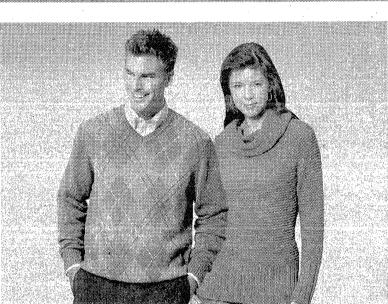


# Thursday-Saturday, January 8-10



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Entire stock of Easy Spirit shoes. Make your selection from a variety of casual and athletic stock up and assortment of colors. It's the perfect time to stock up your shoe wardrobe. Women's sizes 6-10,11M. Reg. \$59-\$75. Stock-Up Sale continues now through Wednesday, January 14, 2009

#### Plus, save even more with these extra savings coupons!

Valid Thursday-Saturday, January 8-10, 2009 take an EXTRA 20% OFF

a single sale price apparel or fine jewelry item

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Quick Click! To shop online or to find the store nearest you, visit us at bonton.com. Sale prices effective now through Saturday, January 10, 2009, unless otherwise indicated. No price adjustments for previously purchased clearance merchandise. Entire Stock offers exclude Clearance and Incredible Value merchandise. Regular and original prices reflect offering prices in effect during the 90 days before or after this sale, but not necessarily during the past 30 days. Savings may not be based on actual sales intermediate markdowns may have been taken. Merchandise, styte and color availability may vary by store and online. [19517C]

# Dreams to reality?

### Plymouth native puts Miss America pageant hopes to TV test

**TONY BRUSCATO OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Plymouth native Katie Lorenz is getting a reality

The winner of the Miss Illinois contest is competing with the 51 other women on the Queen Mary ocean liner in Long Beach, Calif., navigating through a series of team and individual competitions in a reality show designed to prove what it takes to be Miss America.

The four-part, one-hour episodes are being shown on the TLC television network each Friday before the pageant, which is on Saturday, Jan. 24 at Planet Hollywood in Las

Lorenz, a graduate of Plymouth-Canton Schools and the University of Michigan, now resides in Chicago. A reception in her honor at the Lotus Art Gallery in downtown Plymouth brought out

'I've been dreaming of being Miss America since I was 7 years old. I am nervous, excited, overwhelmed, thrilled, scared and every possible emotion. I want it to be here and find out what happens.

KATIE LORENZ, Miss America hopeful

dozens of well-wishers.

"It's exciting, but nervewracking," said Katie's mother, Yvonne, who will be in the Las Vegas audience with about 50 family members and friends. "She is genuine, has a good heart and everything she does is for the right reasons. It's gotten her far in everything.'

"She's a down-to-earth, really neat girl," added Sheila Osann, Katie's aunt. "She started to participate in pageants for scholarship money,

and she's done well because she's not affected by herself."

Yvonne Lorenz said while Katie liked to dance as a child, she really didn't think her daughter would be competing in pageants, let alone for Miss

However, Katie apparently had different thoughts.

"I've been dreaming of being Miss America since I was 7 years old," said Katie Lorenz, who met 1988 Miss America Kaye Lani Rae Rafko of Monroe. "I am nervous, excited, overwhelmed, thrilled, scared and every possible emotion. I want it to be here and find out what happens."

When asked how her childhood dreams ended, the reigning Miss Illinois smiled.

Of course, it always ends in

becoming Miss America," she On Jan. 24 we'll find out if

dreams really do come true.

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2637 Katie Lorenz and family; brother Joe, mom Yvonne, and dad Scott.





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Prior to enrollment in the CPFRC research registry, volunteers will be asked to complete a screening appointment.

Candidates who meet screening criteria will then be advised of up-coming studies and have the opportunity to participate in a variety of research projects to be conducted over the next

Compensation is provided for completion of the screening assessment and for participation in all research studies.

To view information regarding current studies, visit "ENGAGE", the UMHS research study web-site\* at:

www.umENGAGE.org \*(search by condition under "Pain Studies")

For information about the research candidate pool and/or to schedule a screening appointment contact the CPFRC at: 1-866-288-0046 or (734)998-7110

Publish: January 8, 2009

Joe Gannon

by Joe Gannon

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#### CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction January 13, 2009 at 10:00 AM. The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

ď	Year	Make	Model	Body	VIN#
	1992	Dodge	Daytona	2-Dr	1B3XW44K6NN253884
	1997	Ford	F-150	P/U	1FTDX1765VKA02285
	1997	Plymouth	Neon	4-Dr	3P3ES47CXVT602874
	1990	Lincoln	Continental	2-Dr	1LNCM93E0LY805740
1	1994	Pontiac	Sunbird	4-Dr	1G2JB54H7R7591710
	1991	Chevy	1500	P/U	2GCEC19K3M1116469
	1994	Ford	Crown Vic	4-Dr	2FALP74WXRX162738
ŀ	1998	Chevy	Lumina	4-Dr	2G1WL52M7W9226168
Š	1989	Ford	F-150	P/U	1FTHF25H8KLB28578
Ą	1999	Pontiac	Grand Prix,	2-Dr	1G2WP12K8XF308748
	1997	Ford	Taurus	4-Dr	1FALP52U8VG300556
	Publish:	January 8 and 1	1. 2009		

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Notice is hereby given that on Monday, January 19, 2009 @ NOON, TATE & CO. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Extra Space Storage, 6729 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187 @ NOON.

Kurtyzk, Wayne E162 20x20 Kitchen Set, Nordic Trak, 'retro" covered stroller, toddler bike, Halloween décor, 25+ Boxes, misc. household goods.

D157 10x10 Vacuum Cleaner, 27" CRT TV, Ray Schultz box-spring size: full, instrument case, misc. bedroom furniture, coffee table, copier and scanner,

Great Lakes Finance H310 20x20 Cubicle dividers, Pallets, c/o Tara Meabrod

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ladders, misc. boxes & totes, Many misc. tools.

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#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED USE OF THE 2009 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS JANUARY 20, 2009

Notice Is Hereby Given That A Public Hearing Concerning The Community Development Block Grant Program Will Be Held By The Board Of Trustees Of The Charter Township Of Plymouth At 7:00 P.M. In The Meeting Room Of The Township Hall Which Is Located At 9955 N. Haggerty Rd. On January 20, 2009.

The Purpose Of The Public Hearing Will Be To Afford The Public The Opportunity To Place Before The Board Any Proposed Use Of The 2009 Community Development Block Grant Funds.

Preliminary Indications From The Wayne County Office Of Block Grant, Wayne County Community Development Block Grant Program, Are That The Estimated 2009 Funding Allocation For The Township Will Be Approximately \$105,000.00. Wayne County Requires For 2009 That Our Request For Public Service Projects Not Exceed 19 % Of The Total Allocation. Based On That Special Requirement The Projects Are Proposed As Follows:

#### ESTIMATED ALLOCATION BASED ON 19 % PUBLIC SERVICE CAP

PUBLIC SERVICES Senior Services Council on Aging

Senior Alliance Transportation

Senior Transportation ADMINISTRATION

\$1,951.11 \$14,509.64 \$4,793.99 Disabled Van \$9,715.65 \$10,500.00

Allocation

\$19,950.00

\$3,489.26

\$10,500.00

\$11,806.44

\$2,224.00

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\$25,035.57

\$10,500.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$5,440.37

\$51,450.00

\$14,030.44

\$37,419.59

\$10,500.00

\$43,050.00

Administration Planning BRICK & MORTAR \$74.550.00

Multi-year Program: Expansion & Acquisition\* \$74,550.00 TOTAL ALLOCATION \$105,000.00 \* Previously Approved

If Wayne County Determines After All Applications Are Received That Additional Funds Shall Be Available For Public Service Projects The Proposed Allocations Shall Be As Follows:

ESTIMATED ALLOCATION BASED ON

#### TOWNSHIP PREFERENCE Allocation

PUBLIC SERVICES **Senior Services** 

Council on Aging Senior Alliance Disabled Van

Transportation ADMINISTRATION

Senior Transportation Administration

Planning BRICK & MORTAR Multi-year Program: Expansion & Acquisition\*

\$43,050.00 TOTAL ALLOCATION \$105,000.00 \* Previously Approved The Board Of Trustees Of The Charter Township Of Plymouth,

Upon Completion Of The Public Hearing, Will Determine The Use

Any Written Comments Regarding The Proposed Use Of The 2009 Funds Should Be Directed To Susan Vignoe, Community. Development Block Grant Coordinator, Charter Township Of Plymouth 9955 N. Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, Mi, 48170 And Must Be Recieved By Friday, January 16, 2009.

> JOE BRIDGMAN, CMC CLERK Charter Township Of Plymouth

Published: January 8, 2009

Of The 2009 Funds.

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### Be prepared, guard against financial scams

**™**he holiday season is behind us and we're all getting back to work and our normal routines. Unfortunately, the problems of 2008 are still here.

Southeast Michigan faces an uncertain economic future, particularly with the condition of the



**Rick Bloom** 

Most of what is happening in the global economic crisis is beyond your control and mine. However,

> there are certain things that we can control and in

those areas we must be more vigilant than ever.

At the end of 2008, a major financial scam unfolded. By now, most have heard about the Madoff scandal. Bernard Madoff instrumented one of the biggest Ponzi schemes in the history of Wall Street.

Typically, these schemes are set up by flimflam artists who promise unrealistic returns and who cook the books to fool investors. According to published reports, Madoff scammed some of the wealthiest individuals in the world. as well as businesses and charitable organizations, out

of a reported \$50 billion. Although much of the information about how the scam was perpetuated for years is still being discovered, it is clear investors let their guard down enticed by unrealistic

The average investor seems to believe that the wealthy are more sophisticated, immune to fraud. They can hire investment professionals who are supposed to be able to detect fraud. In my experience, the wealthy are just as susceptible as the rest of us. Investors, no matter what level of the ladder they are on, must be aware of unscrupulous individuals.

In reality it is impossible

to completely shield oneself from an investment fraud. However, there are some steps to minimize your risk.

1.) Don't invest in anything that cannot be checked independently. I like using mutual funds because I can look at a variety of independent sources regarding the fund. Investors with Madoff could not check out his investments independently. It has been reported his investment policy was a mere few lines.

2.) Don't invest in anything that does not have a track record. Three, five and 10 years are relevant.

3.) Don't invest in anything you don't understand. When it comes to an investment, take time to know how you can make money, how you can lose money and how to get your money out. One of the ways scam artists are able to perpetuate fraud is by convincing investors that the investment strategy is too complex to explain.

4.) Before investing, know the costs — what it costs to buy, hold and sell. One common thread that runs throughout every investment scam is fees.

5.) If something is too good to be true, it generally is. In the Madoff situation, investors were told that in good times, bad times, no matter what, they would get a 12-percent return. That should have raised a big red flag.

It is our responsibility to protect our money. We can't be influenced by what other people are doing or fooled by what fast-talking sales people want us to believe. Be proactive and protect yourself and your hard-earned money by doing your homework.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

### Zoo's a delight, even in winter

When the weather outside is frightful, the Detroit Zoo's Wild Winter Weekends are sure to be delightful. The annual series of events will be held on the second weekends in January, February and March, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Ford Education Center.

Wild Winter Weekends offer entertainment for the entire family and are a fun way to experience the magic of the Detroit Zoo in the wintertime. Visitors can enjoy their favorite animal habitats, both indoors and out, as well as activities such as children's music, keeper talks, games and crafts. All activities are free with regular zoo admission.

Wild Winter Carnival — January 10 and 11. Wild Winter Carnival kicks off the series of weekend events

Wild Winter Weekends offer entertainment for the entire family and are a fun way to experience the magic of the **Detroit Zoo in the wintertime.** Visitors can enjoy their favorite animal habitats, both indoors and out, as well as activities such as children's music, keeper talks, games and crafts.

with face painting, carnival games, ice carving demonstrations by **Henry Ford Community** College and the roaming entertainment of Zeemo's One Man Circus

Wild Winter Mardi Gras — February 7 and 8. Celebrate Mardi Gras the Detroit Zoo way. Live entertainment, storytelling and a colorful parade are just a few of the fun activities. Kids can create a special

Mardi Gras mask for the parade and collect a few prizes,

Wild Winter Zoobilee — March 7 and 8. Come celebrate the animal kingdom at Wild Winter Zoobilee. Enjoy animal arts and crafts, face painting, animal enrichment activities and talks by the zoo's expert keepers. Live performances by Gemini both days round out the weekend's festivities.

The Detroit Zoological Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. Situated on 125 acres of naturalistic exhibits, the Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak.

The Detroit Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October. Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free.

For more information, call (248) 541-5717 or visit www. detroitzoo.org.

### Boike elected Wayne County Commission chair

The Wayne County Commission Tuesday unanimously elected Commissioner Edward A. Boike, Jr., D-Taylor, as chairman of the commission. The election took place at the commission's organizational meeting for the 2009-2010 legislative session.

Boike will serve a two-year term as chair of the 15-person legislative body, and will be responsible for the commission's 72 employees and its \$11.3 million annual budget. The commission provides fiscal and legislative oversight of Wayne County's \$2.25 billion

"It is truly an honor to selected chairman," Boike said in his acceptance speech. "I will work to uphold the Wavne County Charter, set policy and provide financial accountability for the taxpayers of Wayne

FORD ROAD

County."

His agenda for the commission includes streamlining the organization and finding ways to make it work more efficiently and effectively.

With Wayne County facing its worst economic downturn since the Depression, Boike said the challenge facing the commission is to minimize the reduction in services and programs the county provides its citizens and its communities.

"Our task is to balance the needs and resources available for all 43 communities and be attuned to their needs," he said. "We must seek additional funding sources to improve roads, maintain drains, fight foreclosures and redevelop underutilized properties."

A common denominator for all 43 communities is

the need for jobs, and Boike pledged that the commission would work in partnership with County Executive Robert Ficano to diversify Wayne County's economy, create new employment and generate additional tax base.

Boike said Wayne County would emerge from the current economic storm by being strong and united. "We are not a county of city and suburb. We are one Wayne County," he said.

Boike is the longest-serv-

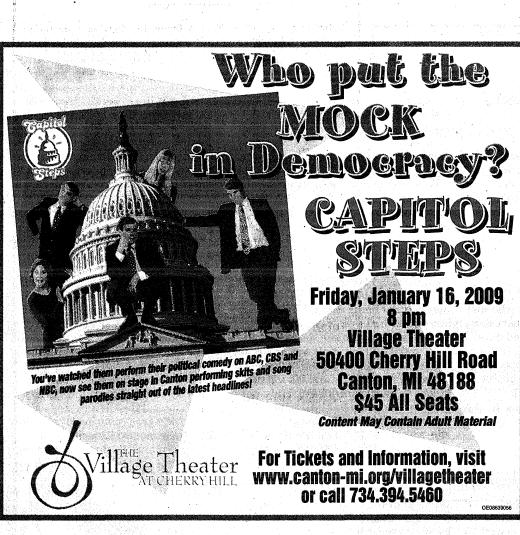
ing member of the commission. He was first elected to his seat in 1988, and has been re-elected 10 times by the voters of district 15. His district includes Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Huron Township, Rockwood, Romulus, and Taylor.



**Edward Boike** 

At the meeting today, commissioners also elected Keith D. Williams as vice chair of the commission and Ilona Varga as vice chair pro tem-









From an all-electric car to a mobile alarm clock, see what everyone will be talking about in 2009.



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**OUR VIEWS** 

### **Schools should have** moved with S'craft

When the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education voted last month to move its elections from odd-year May to every November, Trustee Dianne Gonzalez was the only dissenter, arguing instead for even more cost savings by moving to even-year Novembers.

We agree with Gonzalez.

Plymouth-Canton had been splitting the \$100,000 cost of an odd-year May election with Schoolcraft College. However, Schoolcraft trustees recently voted to move to even-year November elections to reduce their cost to zero, because they would coincide with national elections.

Had they chosen to remain with odd-year May elections, Plymouth-Canton would have had to absorb the \$100,000 price tag themselves. By moving to oddyear Novembers, district officials estimate elections will cost \$84,000 in the odd years, when there is no national election.

As trustees were making the decision to move to

remain with odd-year

May elections, Plymouth-

**Canton would have had to** 

tag themselves. By moving

district officials estimate

there is no national

election.

elections will cost \$84,000

every November, Gonzalez was arguing — correctly, in Had they chosen to our estimation — that some \$16,000 in cost savings wasn't enough.

Shifting to even-year Novembers certainly has its complications. It would absorb the \$100,000 price have meant pushing the next election to November 2010, which would have to odd-year Novembers, added 2.5 years to everyone's term. Trustee Nancy Eggenberger's argument "We need to give (the in the odd years, when community) the opportunity to vote on school board members" - is a valid one. However, considering voter turnout is generally in single digits, one can wonder whether voters would really

care if terms were extended.

The other argument against even-year November elections doesn't hold much water, in our opinion. The idea that even-year elections "would encourage political parties to influence our elections" suggests they don't already. Would a political party be dissuaded from exerting its influence, if it so chose, just because the elections are in off-years? We don't think so.

The problems with a move to even-year November elections were easily solved. The district, which has for years decried its dearth of cash, had the opportunity to save itself \$100,000 every two years.

Gonzalez was right — they should have taken it.

### Legislature has to begin work on holdover issues

The state Legislature has no time to waste as it digs in for a session that's bound to be both complex and controversial.

While the budget will be an ongoing struggle, there are other issues for legislators to address immediately, without waiting for the governor's State of the State address. Consider the following three holdovers from last year.

■ Smoking ban: If ever there was ample evidence of the influence of lobbyists, it was found in the struggle over whether to ban smoking in all work places. But there are two clear facts that legislators need to focus

First, smoking and indirect smoke kills people; and, second, other states have found that prohibiting smoking doesn't kill business.

Obviously, exceptions need to be made for such businesses as smoke shops, but this isn't rocket science. ■ Absentee voting: The concept is clear — namely,

to increase voter participation by making voting more accessible to all through absentee voting. Given today's technology, there is no logical reason

why people have to stand in line, sometimes for hours in heated contests, to vote. Voting should not be a test of fortitude, but a commitment to democracy.

■ School aid: State funding for education is like buying a car and not knowing whether you'll have enough to pay for it. Here's why: School budgets uniformly run with a budget year that begins July 1. State school aid, however, isn't approved until October and even then there are sometimes cuts made mid-year.

The problems have been exacerbated by the poor economy and a Legislature that can't make up its mind, but the real solution is to pass legislation requiring that districts be given solid numbers before their new budgets go into effect.

All it will take is leadership, good common sense and the right attitude to resolve all three issues.



**Brad Kadrich Community Editor** 

Susan Rosiek **Executive Editor**  **Jeannie Parent** 

**Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor**  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.



#### **LETTERS**

#### **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

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

> **Debbie Baudino-Dowling** Plymouth Lions Club

#### Taking business elsewhere

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, I shopped in downtown Plymouth and enjoyed lunch with two longtime friends. My reward for supporting the local Plymouth economy was a \$15 ticket for parking in the same spot for over two

When I called City Manager Paul Sincock to complain, he conceded the two-hour parking rule is intended to discourage employees from monopolizing parking spaces, but is usually relaxed during the holidays.

I told him I was a customer who just spent \$200 supporting the local establishments. Mr. Ŝincock rejected my request to rescind the parking ticket.

So, as I finished my Christmas shopping ... I will instead take my business to Canton, Northville, or Novi.

John Vraniak Plymouth Township

#### Don't renew parks millage

I would like to respond to the Observer's recent shallow and simplistic editorial ("Ordinance on park funds alters intent of millage," Dec. 25) regarding a proposed Wayne County Commission ordinance to return 25 percent of the parks millage to funding communities.

The editorial contends the ordinance represents bad public policy and would divest funds from the intended purpose. It also suggests that voters approved the millage for improvements to county parks.

Consider the following:

1. Special county-wide millages are bad public policy. They are typically vaguely written, widely interrupted and seldom deliver on their promises.

2. It is not unusual for 25 percent or more of the millage to be spent on noncounty projects.

3. The parks millage provides the

county's CEO with a taxpayer slush fund to "buy votes" or punish or reward commissioners or communi-4. County park funds have been used

on questionable projects, some may be contrary to the ballot language. 5. No legitimate county process

exists to consider and grant community projects.

6. A significant portion of the parks millage is spent on operations not capital improvements. 7. The county has not increased gen-

eral fund park funding in years. Given all the facts I believe that the commission's actions were justified. I also believe that in 2010 taxpayers should reject renewing this millage.

Tom Yack

#### Plowing decision wrong

I have lived on Ford Road since 1966. On Friday, Dec. 19, it was the worst I have seen it. I understand that there was a storm that day, but to only plow it once, and then to not clear the shoulder of the road ...

We didn't get our mail on Friday, I saw the mail lady, as I drove by her, get out of her vehicle and walk to a box, thinking to myself, is she really going to do that all the way down Ford Road. I got my answer a few minutes later, as she gave up and drove by my house and all of my neighbors. I can't blame her, the post office has strict rules about the shoulder being cleared. I don't know if we had a plow come by on Saturday, but again the shoulder was not plowed and our mail was again not delivered. The snow on the shoulder is not my responsibility and it's too dangerous to even consider shoveling it. Is this how it's going to be all winter?

Ford Road is a main thoroughfare. How can it be placed on the list as a "blue" road? The real question I have, is why, if we are only going to get minimal plowings, doesn't Wayne County at least do it right and include the shoulder of the road. I also got stuck on the shoulder of the road trying to back into my driveway on Friday, so I can get a "running start" to get out the next time. It is dangerous enough pulling in and out of a Ford Road driveway on a sunny, dry day. Having to "rock" my car or dig it out on the shoulder is a death trap.

Ford Road and its intersections have always been dangerous, how can Canton Township allow them to become even more of a hazard in inclement weather? Why can't Wayne County see the error of this decision? How many accidents or deaths will have to occur before someone does something to change this situation back to the plowing contract we had before?

I've seen a lot of accidents and deaths at Ford and Beck. It took years to get a light there. I sure hope that

this decision to "save money" doesn't end up costing anyone who travels Ford Road their life or the lives of their families.

Robyn Lamb Canton

#### We need to regain confidence

This economic crisis that we are in needs to be put to an end! Many homes are being foreclosed on here in Michigan. If we don't straighten all of this out soon, we may just enter another depression.

All of this is happening because our stock market is down (which makes it extremely hard for companies to make enough money they need to pay the workers and pay for the utilities they need). Until our confidence rises in the stock market, we could stay this way for quite a while. We need to put money back into the stock market in order for it to get better. Also, consumer confidence is what everyone needs right now. As soon as everyone is confident in the stock market, they will invest in it once again. This would also help people keep their jobs and stop from going bankrupt. Right now, everyone is scared, they fear that if they invest their money, that they will

People are crawling under a bunker and pulling metal sheets over their heads because they think the sky is falling. Also, in a recent study, students were asked the question of whether they would have \$3,000 in their pocket today, or have an 80 percent chance of getting \$4,000. Most of the students took the \$3,000. This is because the fear of losing money is bigger than gaining money. This is true about what is going on now because people are taking their money out of the stock market now before they lose all of their money. Remember, if we don't put money in the stock market now, it will only take longer for it to improve!

**Tommy Parrelly** Canton

#### **SHARE YOUR OPINIONS**

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

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

Fax: (313) 223-4650

E-mail:

bkadrich@hometownlife.com

#### QUOTABLE

"I'm a little shocked ... It's still a huge expense on the district, and it's only saving a small amount of money in changing to every November. The only true savings to the district and to the budget and to the students of this district is to do it even-November."

- Dianne Gonzalez, Plymouth-Canton Board of Education trustee on the board's decision to move to odd-year November elections, a move that will still cost the district some \$84,000 every two years

## Grief support center gets new home

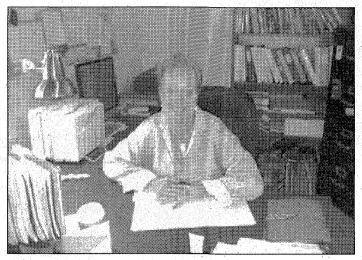
BY PAM FLEMING NORTHVILLE RECORD STAFF WRITER

Cathy Clough and her staff at the New Hope Center for Grief Support are got a nice Christmas present this year.

After coping with a toosmall space for years, the staff will move soon to a historic house at 315 Griswold Street.

Members of the Northville Historical Society will lease the home to the business. City council approved the lease agreement in a 3-1 vote on Monday night, and John Baird, chairman of the New Hope board, gave final approval on behalf on Tuesday. Michele Fecht voted against the proposal, and Nancy Darga was asked to abstain from voting as she is a member of the Northville Historical Society Board.

"There is some work that needs to be done on the home," Clough said. "We have a crew of skilled volunteers who will be doing the work, which includes making the building



Cathy Clough of Plymouth will soon see her New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville moving to its new home.

handicapped accessible and also putting in some support beams." The center director is not sure exactly when the move will take place. The goal is to perhaps move to the new location in February.

The long-term goal for the house on Griswold is for it to be turned into a historical museum. Archives are currently stored in the temperature-controlled garage of the

Historical society members entered into discussions with the center in the fall of 2007 regarding leasing the main floor of the city-owned house for an office for the center.

"We're anticipating this move with great joy so we can expand our services to the community," Clough said.

The space the center now occupies at 113 E. Dunlap since May 2000 is about 500 square feet for four paid staff and an abundance of volunteers. The center offers grief support services to adults and children who are grieving after the death of a loved one. All the services are offered at no charge. For more information, call (248) 348-0115.

In January, the Board of Zoning Appeals granted a use variance to allow an office use for the grief support center.

The same month, city council approved a rental agreement with New Hope, subject to review and approval by the city attorney, proof that the organization is nonprofit and that all building permits are obtained and an occupancy permit is issued prior to the staff moving into the house.

New provisions were later negotiated, including the extension of the lease from one year to four; the rent being

reduced from \$375 a month in the first year and \$400 month in the second year to \$325 in the first year and \$350 in the second, third and fourth years.

New Hope will now pay for electric and gas, with the city paying for water, sewer and garbage. (The city was responsible for all utilities under the original agreement.)

The center would also be required to give the city a year's notice if the staff decides to end the lease.

Society members want to lease the property to generate revenue to offset maintenance and utility costs for the building. The lease agreement will generate \$3,900 in new revenue for the society in the first year and \$4,200 in year two, less the expense of upgrading the house for office use.

Chris Gazlay, president of the historical society, said that the society's budget is zero for operating Mill Race Village, and that members have been forced to dip into the endowment to run it.

Fecht voted against the rental proposal because she thought it might set a dangerous precedent, with other counseling centers currently leasing property in the city at decidedly higher rents.

"I don't think we can be in the business of subsidizing counseling centers," Fecht said. "I think you're putting a Band-Aid on a much bigger issue (the lack of funding for Mill Race Village). The city owns the property and the building, and there are better ways of providing a better revenue stream (for the vil-

Mayor Chris Johnson, however, favored the deal.

"You do have the potential for a conflict (with other city businesses), but I think this is a real effort to squeeze every nickel that's out there (for the society.) I would be willing to try this out," he said.

pfleming@gannett.com (248) 349-1700, Ext. 260

## Patterson hints at run for attorney general

BY KURT KUBAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

State Sen. Bruce Patterson says he is seriously thinking about running for Michigan attorney general in 2010. The Republican senator from Canton, who is in his second term, says he is "kicking around the idea" and will make a decision in the coming

"I've got some people interested in helping me get elected to the position," Patterson said Wednesday from Texas, where

he is on a business trip. Patterson, who also served

two terms in the State House of Representatives before running for the Senate, said he has a long interest in law enforce-

ment, and running for attorney general makes sense for him. He will be term limited in the Senate after his current term expires in 2010.

"It's a logical progression for me," he said of the attorney general position. "I want to serve, but I don't need to serve. I just need some time to think it through."

Patterson turns 62 next month, and has had some health problems in the last year. He was diagnosed with diabetes in May, but has been taking medication. He said he has lost about 40 pounds and is exercising regularly.

At this point it appears his main opposition to get the Republican nomination will be former Congressman and outgoing Appeals Court Judge Bill Schuette, who is considered the frontrunner, and State Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, who has yet to announce his intentions. Patterson and Bishop, who will also be term limited in 2010, have had an ongoing feud over the course of the last year, beginning when Bishop failed to support Patterson's attempt to thwart Livonia's annexation plans of the former state psychiatric hospital property in Northville

Bill Ballenger, editor/publisher of the Inside Michigan Politics, said Schuette is the man to beat at this point, but that it is still early.

Township.

"Right now, hands down, I would say that Bill Schuette

would have the upper hand to get the nomination," he said. "But we still have 20 months before this thing plays out."

Ballenger points out that the winner of the nomination will be selected at the Republican convention, not by voters, so candidates will have to court support "among real insiders, not the rank and file Republicans."

He said not to count out Patterson, because he comes from an area that has clout in Lansing.

"Patterson has a chance. He comes from a better geographical area than Schuette.

Western Wayne County is a real fertile area. There are lots of voters, and they have influence on what happens in Lansing," Ballenger said.

Patterson said he has a lot of respect for Schuette, who hails from the Midland area, and has known him for the better part of 20 years. But Patterson said he is also respected in

"I think I have the credentials with people in Lansing. My reputation is one of being brutally honest and being tenacious when it comes to getting to the bottom of an issue," he said.



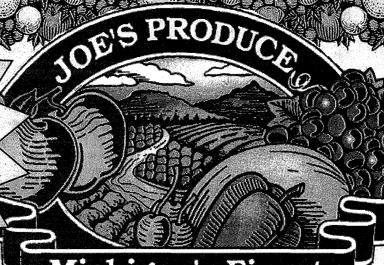
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## No, Mercy: Youthful Chiefs hook Marlins

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF. WRITER

With each game Canton's girls basketball team plays this season, the Chiefs are finding out how much they missed Carolann Sexauer last season.

The sweet-shooting sophomore, who missed the entire 2007-08 campaign with an injury, pumped in a team-high 11 points in Saturday's eye-opening 46-29 victory over Farmington Hills Mercy. which entered the game unbeaten.

The triumph improved Canton's record to 4-0 despite a formidable early-season schedule that has included the likes of Birmingham Marian and Howell. The Chiefs are PREP GIRLS HOOP

just one win away from matching last year's win total when they sorely missed Sexauer's dead-on

"This is a very competitive group of girls, so I knew we'd be in every game," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "Did I think we'd be 4-0 right now? Not necessarily, but I knew we'd be competitive."

The Chiefs' attack was the epitome of balanced as Sara Schmitt added 10, Kayla Bridges twined eight and Kari Schmitt recorded six.

Kari Schmitt excelled in all phases of the game, adding 11 rebounds and seven blocked shots.

Bridgette Hickey led the Marlins

"I thought Alyssa Cottrell and Sara Schmitt did a great job defensively on their leading scorer, Jordan Mueller," Samulski added. "And Robyn Mack did a really nice job running the point for us."

Canton led from the get-go and never looked back, building leads of 14-9 after one quarter and 24-13 at

The Chiefs padded their advantage to 36-20 with eight minutes to

Canton nailed six of nine free throws while the Marlins misfired on all six of their shots from the charity stripe.

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### Klonowski the hero in Plymouth's win

Stacey Klonowski sent the Plymouth girls basketball fans home happy Tuesday night when she converted a put-back with less than four seconds to play to lift the Wildcats over Southgate Anderson, 38-37.

Klonowski, who finished with eight points and six rebounds, grabbed the rebound following a missed Kelsi Robinson jumper and the ball into the hoop to cap an exciting non-conference game.

Senior center Shaakira Haywood played a pivotal role in the Wildcats' victory, too, netting 16 points and seven rebounds. Becca Jarvis led the Titans with 16 points.

Plymouth trailed, 22-14, at the half.

### Double dose of drama

#### Salem falls to Cougars in 20T

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

In a game overflowing with intensity and tenacity, it was only fitting that the most intense and tenacious player on the court in Tuesday night's thrill-a-minute showdown between Salem and Garden City made the loudest impact.

That would be Garden City senior guard Ronald Pummill, who was the ring-leader of the Cougars' high-drama 80-76 triumph over the

Pummill not only poured in a game-high 25 points — 15 were the result of five long-range triples — he repeatedly fired up his teammates and the large contingent of "Cougar Crazies" on hand with enthusiasm-injecting fist pumps and loose-ball-chasing floor dives.

"He's fearless," said Garden City head coach Greg Williamson, in reference to his wiry and fiery 6-foot-2, 175-pound senior captain. "With all due respect to Ron, he's not the quickest athlete out there, but he compensates in other

ways. He's a great leader and our best shooter." The victory improved Garden City's record to 4-1 while Salem slipped to 1-3.

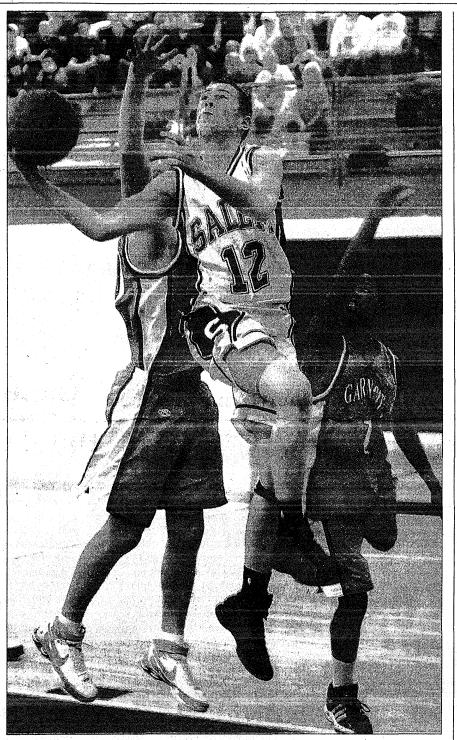
The contest's early hero was Rock junior guard Blake Hayes, who made quite a first

impression in his first career varsity start. Hayes, who suffered a five-stitch gash on his chin after absorbing an inadvertent elbow in gym class earlier in the day, hurt the Cougars by scoring all 13 of the Rocks' first-quarter points before tacking on four more in the second

Due in part to a defensive adjustment made by Williamson, who assigned Pummill to check Hayes after the half, Hayes cooled down after the intermission, but still finished with a teamhigh and career-high 22 points.

"Blake definitely has the ability to score," said

Please see HOOPS, B2



Salem's Blake Hayes drives through Garden City defenders Bryan Grace (left) and Chris Crawford Tuesday evening for two of his 22 points. The Rocks lost, 80-76, in double-overtime.

### Moss rolls in Wildcat cagers' win

ORSERVER STAFF WRITER

Once Southgate Anderson's basketball team realized it wasn't going to stop Plymouth's Justin Moss Tuesday night, the Titans attempted to at least contain him.

That didn't work very well either. Moss, only a sophomore, had a career night in the Wildcats' 45-40 road victory. The 6-foot-6 center exploded for 15 points, 10 rebounds, five blocked shots and two steals. "Southgate came out in a man-to-

man defense and they couldn't stop (Moss)," said Plymouth coach Tom VanWagoner. "After a while, they switched to a zone to try and slow it down. Justin played a great game." Another sophomore — Mike

Nadratowski — also turned in a stellar effort for the winners, registering 10 points two assists and two steals. Nadratowski and senior forward Brad Lineberry put the win on ice

by each swishing a pair of clutch free throws in the final minute. The victory evened Plymouth's record at 2-2 while the Titans fell to

"The most important thing about this game was that we finished what we started," said VanWagoner, whose team led 11-8 after one quarter, 18-16 at the half and 28-24 with eight minutes to play. "Once we got the lead, we never trailed after that. We made the plays we needed to

Nick Horiatis and Mike Kozar both scored 13 points to lead the

make to win."

### Guelph overcomes early deficit to upend Whalers

The Plymouth Whalers led 3-1 after one period of play over Guelph on Saturday night at Compuware Arena, but then the Whalers ran into a second-period Storm, when Guelph responded with three unanswered goals to build a 4-3 lead en route to a 5-4

Guelph improved to 22-13-2-3; Plymouth is now 17-18-4-0.

Whalers rookie forward Myles McCauley scored on Guelph goaltender Jake Fischer just 1:13 into the game for his third goal of the season.

Guelph captain Matt Kennedy led the Storm attack with a goal (17th) and two assists to earn the game's first star honors.

Peter Holland (18th), Tim Priamo (7th), Luke Pither (16th) and Nathan Martine (1st) also scored for Guelph.

Plymouth received single goals from McCauley (3rd), Beau Schmitz (3rd), Ryan Hayes (12th) and Patrick Lee (10th). Vern Cooper registered three assists and AJ Jenks contributed a pair of helpers.

The Whalers snapped a 1-1

tie late in the first period on an extended two-man advantage on goals from Schmitz at 16:49 (snap-shot high slot) and Hayes at 17:39 (one-timer from the lower rim of the left circle) to lead 3-1 after 20 minutes.

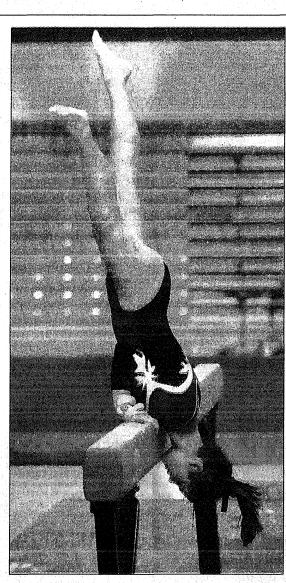
But Guelph came right back early in the second period with a three-goal flurry in the span of 2:13 to take their first lead of the

Guelph outshot Plymouth, 16-3, in the second period and led 4-3 after 40 minutes.

Martine gave Guelph a 5-3 lead at 2:20 of the third period with a one-timer from the high slot. Plymouth pressured in the period and got one back on Lee's wrap around at the left post at 14:52 to cut the Guelph lead to

The Storm outshot Plymouth,

Plymouth is on the road this week, playing in Kingston on Friday, Belleville on Saturday and Ottawa on Sunday before returning home on Friday, Jan. 16, against Barrie at 7:05 p.m. at Compuware Arena.





#### **Epitome of** concentration

Plymouth's Alisha Punjabi (above) and Salem's Katie Koetting (left) focus on the task at hand during Saturday's Salem Invitational gymnastics meet at Plymouth High School. Unfortunately, results of the competition were not available as of Tuesday night's deadline.

#### Martin nominated

Plymouth High School senior Connor Martin has been nominated to win the Old Spice Red Zone Player of the Year award.

This past fall, Martin anchored the Wildcats' defense from his middle-linebacker position, earning All-KLAA honors as well as first-team All-Observer accolades.

As a result of being nominated, Martin is among a select group of players who are eligible to be honored in a fullpage feature in USA Today in February.

For the eighth straight year, Old Spice® is recognizing high school football players who go above and beyond the call of duty, particularly in athletes who are able to elevate their play and step up when the heat is really on. These athletes embody leadership, performance and desire, and serve as examples to their teammates on and off the field.

Martin is also eligible to be named one of 50 national Players of the Year. The top 50 players nationwide will be named Red Zone Players of the Year and will receive a plaque and other awards.

#### **Ex-Rock harriers** excel at WSU

Dan Kapadia and Kevin deBear, both graduates of Salem High School, played major roles in the Wayne State University men's cross country team's 12th place finish at the NCAA Division II Championships held in Slippery Rock, Pa., in November.

Kapadia, a junior, placed 59th in 32:48 while deBear, a freshman, finished in 86th place with a clocking of 33:16.

#### Pistons clinic

The Detroit Pistons Youth Basketball Clinic will be coming to Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville on Saturday, Jan. 31.

Coach Steve Moreland returns for the 10th consecutive The first session for

boys and girls, grades one-three, runs from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The second session

for boys and girls, grades four-six, runs from noon to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per

child. Each participant will receive an authentic "Piston Basketball" T-shirt free. Plus, parents will

be able to purchase Piston tickets to a game at a special discount and have their entire family attend the pregame "shoot around" at courtside. For preregistration and church location, contact Margy Burkhart at (248) 374-5932 or margy. burkhart@wardchurch.

Salem coach Bob Brodie. "He's a good shooter and tonight he got some points inside even though he's not a real big guy.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, January 8, 2009

"Overall, our half-court offense was not very effective tonight and theirs was. They did a good job of moving the ball around then kicking it out to number 23 (Pummill) and number 40 (Bryan Grace), who killed us with the threes. We had some good individual efforts tonight, but we did not play well as a team."

Grace added 20 for the winners, who were also bolstered by the blue-collar effort of senior center Kevin Burek, who tallied eight points and seven boards.

"Kevin didn't have the big numbers, but he had a lot to do with us winning tonight," said Williamson.

Garden City senior point guard Chris Crawford not only excelled at distributing the rock through the Rocks, he netted 16 points, six of which came during the final 2:36 of the second OT.

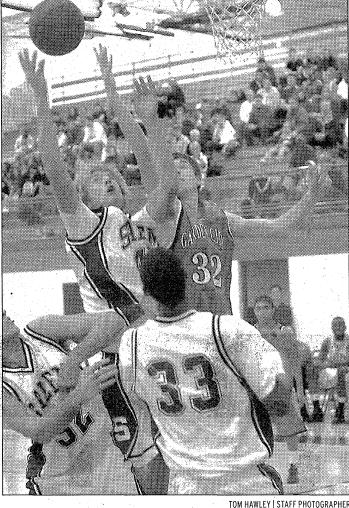
Hayes sealed his memorable first half by executing a stealand-lay-up with one second left to stake the Rocks to a 33-26 advantage.

Salem inflated its biggest lead to 37-28 early in the third quarter on a pair of Heath Parling free throws, but the Cougars clawed back to 47-46 at the end of the quarter.

The remainder of the game was about as much fun as a weekend-long stay at Cedar Point as the lead changed hands seven times over the final 16 minutes.

A three-point dagger from Grace with 2:15 left in regulation put the Cougars up 59-56, but Salem's Joe Posler countered with an oldfashioned three-point play 18 seconds later to knot the score at 59-all.

Fifty-six seconds later, Posler's driving layup gave Salem a 61-59 lead, which vanished on Garden City's



Salem's Jake Peterson and Garden City's Kevin Burek battle for a rebound during Tuesday night's match-up.

ensuing possession when Burek's put-back evened things up again.

Salem called a timeout with 32 seconds left in regulation, but Parling was forced to force an off-balance 17-footer as the buzzer sounded.

The Cougars jumped to a 66-61 edge in the first two minutes of the first overtime thanks to a Pummill three and an inside hoop from Burek, but Salem retaliated with a three from Jimmy Dexter and a steal and layup from Posler to pull to within 68-66 with 30.7 seconds left.

After the Cougars misfired on the front end of a one-andone free throw opportunity with 16 seconds left, senior guard Anthony Mullins forced a second OT with a driving layup through the heart of the GC defense with 0:01 left.

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Junior center Jake Peterson gave Salem a 70-68 lead with a put-back one minute into the final overtime, however, the Cougars countered with a 12-3 run over the next 2:52 to seal the win.

Posler netted 15 points and eight boards for Salem while Dexter added 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Mullins (11 points) and Peterson (four points, nine rebounds) both played well in reserve roles.

Demetrius Burton was stellar for the winners, chipping with nine points and 30-plus minutes of hustle.

Garden City connected on 21 of 27 free throws (77.7 percent) while the Rocks knocked down 10 of 17 freebies (58.8).

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### Slow start dooms Chiefs in low-scoring setback to RU

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Entering Tuesday's varsity boys basketball contest against visiting Canton, the game plan designed by Redford Union head coach Brett Steele was pretty simple.

Limit the damage done by Chiefs' sophomore point guard Deitrich Lever, who earlier this season helped trigger a 73-66 victory over Ferndale.

The game plan worked to perfection as the Panthers (3-1) held Lever to just seven points while earning a 42-32 nonconference triumph. Canton (2-1) managed just six points in the first half.

"They're very good with drill penetration, especially the sophomore kid Lever," Steele said. "We knew that we could not allow him to get going.

"... Lever's really good with the basketball, he made a lot of threes against Ferndale but we thought that was the lesser of two evils: Don't let him penetrate and create for others."

Canton head coach Dan Colligan credited RU's defensive savvy in holding down his squad.

"I give a lot of credit to Redford Union for halting our rhythm," Colligan said. "They are so good at making sure you're efficient on offense.

"And defensively, this is one of the best teams in the area every year and they knew exactly what they had to do."

Canton also played well on defense, especially center

George Muresan, who grabbed six rebounds and blocked RU senior center Leonard Wernette-Leff twice during the Chiefs' excellent third quarter.

#### **WORTH REMEMBERING**

In that frame, a 9-0 Canton burst opened up the third, with guard Kyle Biega nailing two treys and guard Marlan Green hitting another.

Canton outscored the Panthers 13-6 to trail just 20-19 entering the fourth.

"To be a real good, solid team, you can't relax," said Steele referring to Canton's run, which quickly erased the Panthers' halftime edge. "Especially with the way we play the game. So that was a good lesson learned.

Canton went up 23-20 early in the fourth on back-to-back buckets by Green (7 points) and Sherif Hassanien.

But Wernette-Leff (13 points) broke loose for a basket inside the paint and that seemed to get the RU offense back on track.

Senior guard Anthony Wash (17 points) connected on a couple layups with about five minutes to go to give RU a 26-23 lead and the Panthers did not relinquish it the rest of the

Helping seal the victory for RU (3-1) was tenacious play all over the floor by senior point guard Julian Rivera (5 points) and dead-on foul shooting by Wash, who hit eight of eight attempts in the fourth.

"That's what our senior play-

ers have to do," Steele said. "Leonard and Anthony are going to have to, as we say, tote

the mail all year long. "And I thought Julian Rivera was outstanding, he made a couple terrific penetration

plays." Rivera's ability to make the most out of every possible possession in the fourth, when the Chiefs got into early foul trouble, proved "essential to our

victory," the coach continued. Also chipping in for the Panthers were seniors Matt Macek and Quentin Peterson, who each connected on triples.

Canton's Colligan, meanwhile, said his team ran out of quality scoring opportunities against RU's defensive pres-

'We're a shooting team, and when we're shooting jump shots sometimes they're going to be in or they're going to be out," he explained. "It came down to getting possessions, trying to get as many possessions as possible and get enough shots to take back the

"Basketball is a game of runs, and once you make that run and get over, it's hard to keep it. Our team is working on doing that.'

Steele said the win gives his team some momentum entering Friday's Mega White opener at Wyandotte Roosevelt, last season's league champs. "We're looking forward to that challenge."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

### Ex-Rock Langham leads Ocelots over St. Clair

**OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Eight is more than enough for Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team, which methodically breezed to Saturday's 79-50 victory over visiting St. Clair County.

Sparking the No. 7-ranked Lady Ocelots (10-2, 3-0 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association) to another conference victory Langham (17 points) and freshman center April Goins, who tallied a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

They were augmented by sophomore point guard Brittany Collins' 14 points (along with five boards, five assists and five steals) and sophomore forward Sheray Brown (10 points, 11 rebounds).

"We lost some people so everybody was tired," said Langham, referring to ineligible players reducing the team's 12-player roster (as listed on handouts at Schoolcraft) to eight. "But we just did what we always do. It was a good game."

Langham - fresh off a 42point performance Dec. 21 against Glendale in Arizona is one of the major reasons why Schoolcraft head coach Karen Lafata is very optimistic that the Lady Ocelots can take care of the conference and regionals and qualify for the national tournament.

"Our style of play is perfect for her," Lafata noted. "She's like the Energizer Bunny, she just goes, goes, goes. You know, when we get a rebound and our point guard gets the ball, she (Langham) is our first look."

Having just eight players, meanwhile, isn't an issue with Lafata, who isn't worried about fatigue setting in.

I have eight players tnat are Plymouth Salem product Tayler in great shape, they love to run and that's what we're going to do. ... At the Ju-Co level, a lot of teams only have eight or nine players."

Against St. Clair (7-6, 1-2), Schoolcraft's speed, toughness and defensive pressure all over the floor sparked an early surge that the Skippers had no answer for.

Langham stole an in-bounds pass in the St. Clair end and sank a hook shot from inside the paint to make it 19-6 with 11:20 to go in the first half, and Brown followed up with a bucket.

With about nine minutes remaining, Langham went to work again.

She tallied back-to-back layups within seconds and

suddenly it was 25-9. The 6-0 Goins, who Lafata said can "jump out of a gym," took it from there by scoring 10

utes or so to help Schoolcraft take a 45-26 halftime lead.

"I think our first half really set the tone," said Lafata, listing speed, defensive pressure "and our ability to get out and finish and get the ball to where it needs to be" as factors.

The Lady Ocelots also were strong near the basket and zoomed to their defensive posts elsewhere on the floor, leaving the Skippers to errantly throw up too many snots to chip away at the double-digit deficit.

In the second half, the Skippers came out with more energy, with freshman guards Jessica Stevenson (9 points) and Chanahl Putnam (14 points, 5 rebounds, 6 steals) and freshman forward Charmaine Blessett (8 points, 8 boards) combining to key a brief rally.

But the closest St. Clair could get was 18 points (49-31) with about 17 minutes left.

Other solid performances for Schoolcraft were turned in by freshman forward and Southfield-Lathrup alum Amber Avery (8 points, 7 rebounds) and freshman sparkplug guard Angela Burrell (3

points, 5 boards, 4 assists). "Overall, I'll give the game a B-plus and go from there," Lafata said.

points over the final eight min- tsmith@hometownlife.com

### Salem icers fall to Churchill, 6-4

Livonia Churchill goaltender Adrian Motta stopped a penalty shot with only 1:05 remaining and Dan Bostick tallied an empty-netter off the ensuing face-off to give the Chargers a 6-4 boys hockey win Tuesday night over host Salem at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Brent Mishowski tallied a

pair of power-play goals along with an assist as Churchill improved to the 2-3-2 overall and 2-1-2 in the South Division of the Kensington Lakes

Activities Association. Drew Sieber also scored

twice for the Chargers, who led 2-0 after one period. Ryan Cioch had the other

goals, while Steven Kilsz, Alex Smythe and Bostick each contributed two assists. Stefan Kubas also had a helper.

Salem, which drops to 1-4-2 in the Kensington Conference's South Division, rallied with four goals in the second period - one each by Sam Ott, Mike Hochkins, Ed Nadorowicz and

"We had a great first period," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We've been struggling to score goals and we played more wide open and Salem took advantage in the second period. Then we did a good job of clamping down in the third

Motta stopped 8-of-12 shots, but none bigger than Ott's penalty shot attempt.

Adam Powers had 21 saves

for the Rocks.

#### at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.

**BOYS BASKETBALL** Friday, Jan. 9 Detroit Urban Lutheran at PCA, 7:30 p.m. Canton Agape at Luth. South, 7:30 p.m. W.L. Central at Canton, 7 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL Friday, Jan. 9

Calvary Christian at PCA, 5:30 p.m. Canton Agape at Luth. South, 6 p.m. Canton at Northville, 7 p.m. Franklin at Salem, 7 p.m. PREP GIRLS HOCKEY Friday, Jan. 9 PCS at Liggett at McCann Arena, 4:30 p.m Saturday, Jan. 10 W.L. Western at PCS at

Arctic Edge, 8 p.m.
PREP BOYS HOCKEY Friday, Jan. 9
Riverview Gabriel Richard at Canton

#### THE WEEK AHEAD

South Lyon at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m. Livonia Franklin at Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m. PREP WRESTLING Saturday, Jan. 10 Canton at Catholic Central Invite, 9 a.m. Salem at Adrian "8" Tournament, 10 a.m. Plymouth Wildcat Team "8" Invite, 10 a.m. PREP GYMNASTICS **Thursday, Jan. 8** Plymouth at Livonia Blue, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10 Canton at Rockford Invite, 8 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING Thursday, Jan. 8 Canton at Franklin, 6:30 p.m. Salem at Northville, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9 Plymouth at Tecumseh Invite, TBA
Saturday, Jan. 10

at Salem, noon

Plymouth at Tecumseh Invite, TBA MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Monday, Jan. 5 Schoolcraft at Flint Mott CC, 7:30 p.m Wednesday, Jan. 7 Indiana Tech at Madonna, 7:30 p.m. Kirkland CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 Cornerstone at Madonna, 3 p.m. Schoolcraft at Wayne Co. CC WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Rock Kilgore Invitational

Monday, Jan. 5 Schoolcraft at Flint Mott CC, 5:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Jan. 7** Kirtland CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m. Madonna at Indiana Tech, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 Madonna at Cornerstone Schoolcraft at Wayne Co. CC, 3 p.m.

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### Canton gymnasts display potential in early-season triumph

Considering it's early January, his team was coming off a two-week holiday break and it had just one meet under its belt. Canton gymnastics coach John Cunningham was more than pleased with the Chiefs' 138.725-point effort Tuesday night

The veteran mentor was even more pleased with his team's seven-point victory over Salem, which registered 131.600 points in its seasonopening dual meet.

"The girls did some very good things out there tonight - there is so much potential on this team," said Cunningham. "We had six exgymnasts there tonight with their parents, and after the meet they told me, 'Your team looks really good this year.' That was nice to hear, but I think we're going to be a lot better as the year

The most important thing to understand was that this was Salem's first meet and it was our second, although we were missing a lot of our team against Vassar, so, technically, it was our first meet as well. Both teams will only get bet-

Canton sophomore Robyn Piwowar picked up where she left off last year as she took allaround honors with 36.373 points, edging Salem's Katie Koetting, who racked up 35.60.

Piwowar won the vault with a score of 9.05 before tying Koetting for the top spot on the beam with a 9.175.

Canton's Cathy Huang captured first-place points on the uneven bars with a 9.3 while Koetting took gold in the floor-exercise competition with a 9.525.

Cunningham also noted the strong efforts of "B" team members Katelyn Rutherford, who scored an 8.5 on the vault; Lauren Martin, who notched an 8.35 on the vault and 8.275 on the beam; and Sam Buford and Brittany Granowicz, who earned 8.05's on the beam.

Tuesday at Plymouth H.S.

VAULT: 1. Robyn Piwowar (C), 9.05; 2. Nicole Jacobs (S), 9.0; 3. Kali Pierce (C), 8.8; 4. Cathy Huang (C), 8.575; 5. Alex Hamric (C), 8.55; 6. (tie) Marina Milad (C) and Mallory Hudak (C), 8.5.

UNEYEN BARS: 1. Cathy Huang (C), 9.3; 2. Robyn Piwowar (C), 8.8; 3. Katie Koetting (S), 8.7; 4. Nicole Jacobs (S), 8.05; 5. Mallory Hudak (C), 79; 6. Marina Milad (C), 77.

(C), 7.9; 6. Marina Milad (C), 7.7.

BALANCE BEAM: 1. (tie) Robyn Piwowar (C) and Katie Koetting
(S), 9.175; 3. Nicole Jacobs (S), 9.0; 4. Alex Hamric (C), 8.575; 5. Kasey
Winczkowski (S); 6. Mallory Hudak (C), 8.2.

FLOOR EXERCISE: 1. Katie Koetting (S), 9.525; 2. Robyn Piwowar
(C), 9.35; 3. Mallory Hudak (C), 9.225; 4. Cathy Huang (C), 8.8; 5. Alex
Hamric (C), 8.65; 6. Kali Pierce (C), 8.3.

ALL-ADILIND: 1. Pobyn Piwowar (C), 36, 375; 2. Katie Koetting

ALL-AROUND: 1. Robyn Piwowar (C), 36.375; 2. Katie Koetting (S), 35.6; 3. Cathy Huang (C), 34.525; 4. Mallory Hudak (C), 33.825; 5. Nicole Jacobs (S), 33.6; 6. Kali Pierce (C), 32.525.

OVERALL RECORDS: Canton, 2-0; Salem, 0-1.

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2009** 

**Baltimore at Tennessee** Arizona at Carolina

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2009 Philadelphia at New York Giants San Diego at Pittsburgh

**RELIGION CALENDAR** 

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

#### **JANUARY**

#### Clothing still needed

The senior highs' clothing drive at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton has been extended through Friday, Jan. 9. Warm clothing, blankets and toiletries may be dropped off at the church on Sheldon, north of Ford Road, in Canton. Items will be delivered to needy people at Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit.

Thursday forum Sponsoring a program presented by Harry T. Cook (Episcopal minister, journalist, author, and frequent lecturer in metropolitan Detroit) 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, northwest corner of Woodward and Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. Admission \$10, students free. Reservations not required. His lecture topic is "Religion in the Public Square: An American Conundrum: What's A Secular Democracy To Do?" (From Sarah Palin's promise to run for President in 2012 "if it is God's will" to the Church of Summun and It's Aphorisms).

#### Benefit dinner

Swiss steak dinner 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, in Guthrie Hall at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Eat in or carry out. Cost is \$8 adults, \$4 for mac n'cheese for children. Proceeds go to support homeless ministry, Call (734) 422-0149 for reservation or purchase tickets at the door.

#### Time change

Worship is 9:30 a.m. Sunday, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livônia. Learning hour is at 8:15 a.m. for all ages. For more information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Group support for widowed Widowed Friends of the AOD offer a grief support program, Grief Recovery, It began Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009 at Our Lady of Loretto Parish, 17116 Olympia, Redford. The six-week series meets 1-2:30 p.m. and offers information about grief, coping with loneliness, making it on your own and other issues related to the loss of a spouse. A \$20 fee covers all materials, payable at the first meet-

ing. To register, call Joan at (248)

#### Special needs Bible class

478-1084.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend our new Open Arm's Bible Class from 7-8 p.m., beginning Monday, Jan. 12, at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. The class will be held on the second Monday of every month and will include songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun. Registration is limited. Contact Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to elc-ed@ arounddetroit.biz.

#### Mobile food pantry

Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Church is partnering with Gleaners Community Food Bank to offer a mobile food pantry for those in need Saturday, Jan. 17. Recipients must register between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday, Jan. 13-15, by calling (734) 459-9557 for a pick up time.

#### **ENDOW**

■ St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia will host two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW. program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Course VI, called "Salvifici Doloris" addresses the Christian meaning of

suffering. Based on the writing of

Pope John Paul II, this is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays beginning Jan. 13, in the convent

meeting room.

Based on Pope John Paul II's "Mulierus Dignitatem" (On the Dignity and Vocation of Women), the Course II group, will meet 7-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays beginning Jan. 22, in the Convent Meeting Room behind the rectory, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Women of all ages and faiths are welcome. There is a \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, ext. 207 or online at www.endowon-

■ St. Aidan Catholic Church also offers ENDOW. The eight-session course will focus on the ideas about human beings and God that St. Thomas Aguinas explores in his work Summa Theologiae, 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, to March 5, in the parish office conference room at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$60 for materials. Registration required. Visit www.endowonline.com or call (734) 425-5950. Facilitator is Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or

#### mtschmidt@sbcglobal.net. He forgives you

line.com.

The Gospel of Life Committee of St. Michael the Archangel Church invites the public to attend a special program, "He Forgives You," featuring Mary Lockwood, a former corporate executive and local woman who has had multiple abortions, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, in the cafeteria of St. Michael the Archangel School, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. For information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200, or visit www. livoniastmichael.org. As a practicing Catholic, Lockwood experienced the profound love and mercy of God and she and her husband have begun to

publicly share their story of hope and forgiveness

#### **Couples prayer series**

7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, to Feb. 18, at St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia. Cost is \$55 per couple. Those unable to pay because of financial difficulty may register and join the group. To register, visit www. coupleprayer.org or send e-mail to davidjconrad@staidanlivonia.org. The six-week Couples Prayer Series is for married or engaged couples, and designed to nurture a life-long pattern of sharing daily prayer together. **Bethany Singles** 

#### ■ Bethany Suburban West meets at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Leon's, 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy at (734) 513-9479

■ Bethany North Oakland plans a dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Jan. 17, at St. Daniel's, 7010 Valley Park Drive, Clarkston. Admission \$12, includes beer, wine and refreshments. For information, call Tim at (248) 891

■ Sunday, Jan. 18, at No-Taps Bowling at Oak Lanes, 8450 Middlebelt, south of Joy. Westland, Cost is \$15, includes three games of bowling, pizza and prizes. Spectators and cheerleaders will pay \$5 for pizza. Games will start at 2 p.m., registration by 1:30 p.m. For details contact either Kathy at (734) 513-9479 or Judy at (734) 261-5630. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

#### Worship service

The Wayne-Westland Ministerial Association will sponsor a worship service to remember the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 18, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. There will be a combined choir from several churches led by Steve Holbrook. The preacher for the evening will be the Rev. Mike Wilson of the New Beginnings Church in Wayne. The public is invited. For more information call Neil Cowling at the Kirk of Our Savior, at (734) 728-1088.

#### All-you-can-eat pancakes

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

#### Dare to be holy

Parish Mission with Bill Wegner, conducted by Good News International. a Catholic lay ministry, 7 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday, Jan. 18-21, at St. Mel Parish, 7506 N. Inkster Road. Dearborn Heights. Refreshments. Offering will be taken. Special session after 8:30 a.m. Mass Monday-Wednesday. For more information, call (313) 274-0684.

#### Clothing bank

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.noon on the fourth Saturday of each month (Jan. 24), at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley.

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

#### **UPCOMING**

#### **Bethany singles**

Dance, 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 7, in Redford. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Call Diane for information at (734) 261-5716.

■ Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb.

21, at Leon's 30149 Ford Road, south

side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City, 48135. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy at (734) 513-9479. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to

#### Christian faiths. Music at St. John's

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

the divorced and separated of all

#### ONGOING Caregiver's support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients

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

#### Association. Worship

Sundays 8 a.m. worship: 9 a.m. Adult Faith Forum, 10 a.m. worship service, Sunday School and Nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

#### Sunday school

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

#### Hall rental

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

#### **Parkinson Support**

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

#### **Overeaters Anonymous**

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

#### Mid-week Service

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

#### New worship schedule

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

#### Bible study

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

#### Time change

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

#### Wednesday activities

Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt, one block south of Six Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebraic Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore. For information, visit www. gcfellowship.org or call (734) 525-6019.

#### Thursday fellowship dinner All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners

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

#### **Eucharistic adoration**

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

#### Worship schedule

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

#### Sunday worship The early service for the Anglican

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

#### **Reformed Protestant services**

The doctrines and teachings of solid,

Reformed Protestantism are preached by the Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge,

For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean.humby@att.net; or visit www.members.aol.com/rsi-

#### worship/detroit.html. Sanskrit chanting

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

#### Church schedule

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

#### Call (734) 421-7620. Single Place Ministry

Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org. Cost is \$5.

#### **Prince of Peace Church**

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

#### marthapaul@sbcglobal.net. Tai Chi and strength classes

Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes.

The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drop-ins welcome. For information, call (248) 626-

#### 3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org. Tai Chi class

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

#### Thrift store

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

#### New schedule

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

#### www.holycrosslivonia.org. Day of service

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

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

#### **Worship Service** 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class

at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Chur tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Please see CALENDAR, B5

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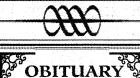
#### **DENNIS L. MARSHALL**

January 3, Age 67 of Garden City. Beloved husband of Gabriella. Loving father of Erik Marshall and Yvette (Jim) Napolitano. Dear grandfather of Audrey & Liam Napolitano, Funeral services will be held Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Jackson Funeral Services, 352 E. South St., Wheatfield, IN. Visitation will be Friday from 2-8 pm. Please see:



#### PATRICIA A. McDONALD

January 4, 2009. Age 61. Dear sister of Michael and Bill (Kathy). Beloved aunt of Brian and Anne. Services were held Wednesday, Jan. 7 at St. Anastasia Church, Troy. Memorial tributes to Multiple Sclerosis Society, 21311 Civic Center Dr., Southfield, MI 48076 or Medical Motor Service, 608 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14620. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



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

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadli

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sk for Jennifer or Charoletti



#### CHARLES W.

MULHOLLAND Age 86, of Birmingham died at home January 5, 2009, Mr. Mulholland was born February 19, 1922 in Royal Oak to parents Frank Mulholland and Mary Naomi Wright. Raised in Birmingham, Mr. Mulholland attended Baldwin High School. He was President of F.J. Mulholland Co. Department Store on Woodward Avenue until 1964 and eventually retired from Comerica Bank after a long and successful career. Mr. Mulholland was also a longtime member of the Birmingham Rotary Club and Holy Name Catholic Church and an avid train and railroad buff. He touched many lives and will be missed by all. Mr. Mulholland is survived by his loving siblings Frank W. (Kay) Mulholland and Mary Lou (Claude) Kidd and many nieces and nephews. Visitation at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Road (between 14-15 Mile Rds.) Thursday 4-8pm. Prayers 7pm. Funeral at Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon, Birmingham, Friday 10am. Friends may visit at church beginning at 9:30am. Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery, Royal Oak. Memorials appreciated to The Capuchins, 1820 Mt. Elliott Street, Detroit, Michigan 48207. Condolences at:

lynchfuneraldirectors.com

#### **GORDON C. RILEY**

Age 77, January 1, 2009. Beloved husband of the late Dolores. Dear father of Cynthia (Wayne) Cash, James (Kathryn), Kevin, and Constance Grandfather of Jacob, Jonathan, Scott, Joshua, Jennifer, and Lucas, Brother of Lee (Clyde) Atkinson. Brother-in-law of Dorothy Hallman. Gordon proudly served his country in the U.S. Army and the Army National Guard. He was active in the Garden City Police Reserve, Wayne Co. Sheriff's Auxiliary and the Garden City Senior Center. Services were held. Memorials suggested to Garden City Hospital Heart-wing. Arrangements by Santeiu and Son.





#### DOUGLAS J. MULLETT

Lost a courageous battle with Mantle Cell Lymphoma on January 5, 2009 at the age of 52. He fought the good fight and never surrendered. Beloved husband of Judy Cerett-Mullett. Loving father of Trevor, Brock, Chase and Cole. Dear son of Myron and Phyllis (Rupp) Mullett of Alliance, Ohio; and brother of Vicki (Greg) Vasto, Pam (Bruce) Hickinbotham, Cindy (John) Donelan and the late Greg Mullett. Mr. Mullett graduated from Mount Union College with a Bachelor's of Science in Geology, Wright State University with a Masters of Science in Geology, and Kent State University PhD. (abd) in Geology. He was employed by the Department of Resources, Division of Geological Survey. Mr. Mullett was active in the Boy Scouts of America for the last 30 years in many capacities, including Den Leader and Cub Master for Pack 45 of Longacre Elementary. He was also the recipient of the honorary Wood Badge Award and the John Burroughs Nature Award. He was also the holder of the Fifth Year Pipestone Award through the Ohio Buckeye Council and was a member of the Order of the Arrow. He will be remembered for his kindness, gentle soul and devoted love for his wife and sons. A funeral service will be held Friday 11 am (in state 10:30 am) at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Visitation is Thursday 2-8 pm at THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, 33603 Grand River Ave. (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.), Downtown Farmington. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Mullett Boys Education Fund, c/o Citizens First Bank, 33205 Grand

#### www.thayer-rock.com PHYLLIS DUNWALL **SMITH**

River Ave., Farmington, MI 48336.

Passed away at her home in Farmington, MI on January 3, 2009 after a second battle with stomach cancer. Born on June 20, 1923 in Belle Vernon, PA, she had raised her family in many states along with her husband Thomas Edward Smith who preceded her in death in 1998. She is survived by daughters: Eleanor, Marilyn, and Tammy, a son-in-law, six grandchildren, and nine greatgrandchildren. Per her request, there will be no services. Phyllis ashes will be scattered on her beloved childhood farm in Pennsylvania, Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154-5010. www.thayer-rock.com



#### Worship service

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

#### F.I.R.E. ministries

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

#### New worship schedule

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

Sunday worship 11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter Westland For information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services 10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy fol-

lowed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox

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

#### Men's breakfast

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

#### MOPS meetings

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

#### MOPS groups

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

#### **LOGOS Youth Club**

Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Sept. 26. For registration, visit www.fumcnorthville.org or call (248) 349-1144.

#### HeartCry

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

#### Women of the word

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

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

#### Bible study

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

#### **Fellowship Dinners**

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

### Pilot program to ease in new pastor

#### BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN **O&E STAFF WRITER**

It's never easy to move to a new town let alone a new church. Scott Sessler has done it twice before and he's happy this time to be part of a pilot program to help acquaint himself with the congregation.

Sessler accepted the call to **Emmanuel Lutheran Church** in Livonia in November last year and will be officially installed at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, but retiring Pastor Walt Dickinson isn't leaving just yet.

"There's usually an interim period of two years after a pastor retires and a new pastor comes in," said Sessler.

"We're trying something new, The retired pastor stays around. I think it makes it a little bit easier if there's someone there to help you, to fill you in on the church and you don't have to figure it out yourself. I've gotten to know Pastor Walt over the last several months and I'm looking forward to having a partner.

Dickinson has been pastor at Emmanuel since two Livonia churches — Sword

of the Spirit and Ascension Lutheran - merged in 1991, so he has years of experience not only at Emmanuel, but Sword of the Spirit where he served from 1974 until the church burned in 1990.

Three years ago he came up with a five-year transition plan for approval by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Southeast Michigan Synod.

'I wanted to give some stability in the transition and the bishop accepted it," said Dickinson, 66, of Livonia. "It gives us an opportunity to share a history of where we've been and gone. It's a volunteer position, no salary. It gives us teaching opportunities together, variety in preaching. I plan to be as helpful as he wants me to be.

"We don't want people to feel abandoned. If there's a wedding or funeral service they will have their choice."

#### **CHARITABLE PROGRAMS**

Sessler is not only looking forward to learning about his congregation, but reaching out to the community as well. The 42-year-old pastor had been active with Habitat | Ichomin@hometownlife.com for Humanity, the Salvation

Army, afternoon school programs, food pantries, and homeless shelters during ministries at Ascension Lutheran in Saginaw and

Good Shepherd in Manistee. He developed values early in life while growing up in a farm community in Sandusky where he attended a Lutheran church every Sunday. After earning a degree in Agricultural Economics from Ohio State, Sessler decided to go into the ministry. He graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary with a Master of Divinity. In 2004, he married Karen. They have two daughters, Isabella, 9 months, and Graciella, 2.

"I do a lot of things with Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, serve on the state wide board," said Sessler of Westland.

"It will be a little bit harder with the kids, but we'll eventually become involved. Previously Karen headed up the nursery and ran a book group at the church we were at. She's a kindergarten teacher by trade.'

(313) 222-2241

# Your Invitation to Worship

#### CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH **Immemorial Latin Mass** Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan

Telegraph • (313) 534-2121 Mass Schedule: Fri. 7:00 p.m. Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sat. 11:00 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

#### St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church

Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)
MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a

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

#### CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

#### **PLYMOUTH CHURCH** OF THE NAZARENE

Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196 DEGBS2851

#### **EVANGELICAL** COVENANT

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH (248) 661-9191

> **Sunday Worship** 9:15 A.M. Contemporary 11:00 A.M. Traditional

Child Care Provided At All Services Youth Groups - Adult Small Groups

SEVENTH-DAY

ADVENTIST

Cherry Hill Seventh-Day

Adventist Church

Pastor: Eddie Petreaca

Meetings on Saturdays for:

Early Morning Bible & Health Class - 8am Worship Service-English-9:30 am

Bible Studies English & Spanish (All ages) 11:00 am

Wednesdays Prayer Meeting-7 pm

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

CHURCH IN AMERICA

**Timothy Lutheran Church** 

8820 Wayne Rd.

Jill Heather, Pastor

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

**PRESBYTERIAN** 

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

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

Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire

Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall

36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia • Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft

Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

oncilina in Christ Congregation

een Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290

3144 Cherry Hill, Garden Čity, MI 48135 block mest of Venou) Phone: 734-524-0880

#### UNITED METHODIST

Clarenceville United Methodist 248-474-3444

Pastor Beth Librande Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided

www.redfordaldersgate.org

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

#### "More than Sunday Services"

**Worship Services** 9:00 a.m. & 11:30 AM Sunday School & Nursery 9:00, 10:30 & 11:30 AM Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III

Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert

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

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Worship

#### Worship 10:30 Prayer Hour Thursday 7:30 **NEWBURG UNITED**

**METHODIST CHURCH** "Open Hearts, Minds & Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.

734-422-0149 Worship Service and

Sunday School 9:15 am & 11:00 am Rev. Marsha M. Woolley

#### Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96
734-522-6830

Sunday Worship

8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditiona

9:45 am Early Childhood Center

Staffed Nursery Available Phone 734-513-8413 Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden

#### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD**

25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 13-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.

**Worship Service** 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. **Sunday School** 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

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

**HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL** 9600 Leverne • So. Redford • 313-937-2424 Pastor - Reverend Paul Undlin Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Evening Service 7 p.m. Education Hour 10:45 a.m.

Sunday/Bible Class

Christian School Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade For more information call 313-937-2233

**EVANGELICAL** PRESBYTERIAN

Immanuel Lutheran Church Pastor Milton Schemm 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights (just East of Inkster Road) (313) 278-5755 Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400

Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M.

Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m

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

#### Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road · Plymouth a rise w. of (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am

//ourchurch.com/member/i/immanueldbnhts
The Friendly Church on the Trail

Sunday School 9:30 \* Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are www.risenchrist.info

#### **LUTHERAN CHURCH** WISCONSIN SYNOD

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

#### **CHRISTIAN** SCIENCE

734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m Sunday School 10:30 a.m. d. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970

#### **PRESBYTERIAN** (U.S.A.)

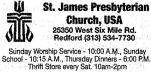
#### **ROSEDALE GARDENS** 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI

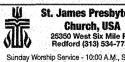


(734) 422-0494 www.rosedalegardens.org www.rosedaleganuc...
Chapel Worship Service
9:00 am
Traditional Service
10:30 am

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First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth

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# Strictly Business

#### Top showplace

This year Home & Garden Showplace recognized four exceptional retailers as Regional Members of the Year at True Value Company's Fall Market held in Atlanta, Ga. Among the businesses honored: Plymouth Nursery Home & Garden Showplace in Plymouth. The award recognizes stores with positive sales growth, program participation, and garden center excellence and leadership in 2008. Home & Garden Showplace also announced Transpac Imports, Inc. as the New Vendor of the Year and The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company as Allied Products Vendor of the Year. Yankee Candle Co. was named Home & Garden Showplace Vendor of the Year. Vendor of the Year Awards are given for sales performance and growth, as well as support for and participation with Home & Garden

Showplace and its retailers. Breakfast, anvone?

One of Plymouth's newest restaurants, Nico & Vali on Wing Street just east of Main Street, is now open for breakfast Monday through Friday starting at 7 a.m. They will continue to serve breakfast on Saturdays starting at 8:30 a.m. Chamber status

The annual State of the Chamber Breakfast takes place 7:30 a.m.

#### **BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS**

Thursday, Jan. 29, at The Inn at St. John's.

At this event you will learn from our leadership about what your Chamber has planned for this upcoming year and how you can become involved. Last year the breakfast attracted 180 members, making it one of the best networking opportunities of the year. The cost to attend the event is just \$5 and you will receive a full breakfast. Reservations must be made by Monday, January 26th. Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to the event, since the chamber is liable for all meals.

To register, please contact the Chamber at teri@plymouthmich.org or at (734) 453-1540. The Inn at St. John's is located at 44045 Five Mile.

**On-line services** Citizens Bank has launched its lat-

est convenient on-line banking tool. Online Account Opening. Personal checking, savings and certificate of Deposit (CD) accounts can now be opened through Citizens Bank's Web site banking program. Clients can visit www.citizensbanking.com to see the latest CD rates and account comparison charts to determine the best account for them, and then click to open the account. The new account can be funded from an existing Citizens Bank account or

from any other financial institution. Citizens Bank is part of Citizens Republic Bancorp, a diversified financial services company providing a wide range of commercial, consumer, mortgage banking, trust and financial planning services to a broad client base.

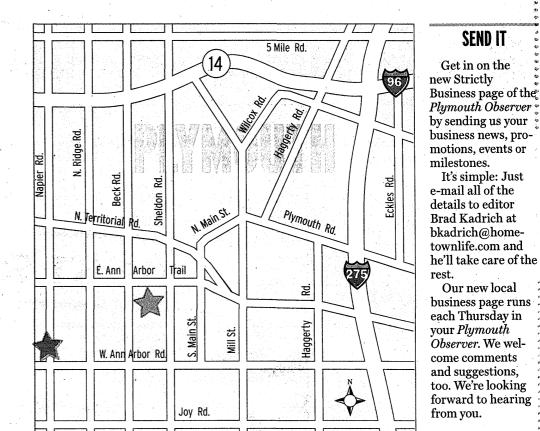
Web site launch

International Minute Press recently launched a new Web site (www. myprinter.intlminutepress.com) which features several customer utilities designed to enhance customer service and provide a more efficient way to do business with the company.

Customers now have 24-hour access to request estimates, place orders or send files directly from the home

The site was developed as a result of testing done by print buyers and their preferences. As a result, the site features an additional Resources & Support section filled with helpful information of interest to print buyers and marketing professionals.

International Minute Press provides a full range of printing and marketing services. The company, which began business on Five Mile Road in Plymouth Township in 2003, now operates in a larger facility at 1058 South Main Street in Plymouth. For



more information about their company, visit their Web site at www. myprinter.intlminutepress.com or call them at (734) 414-6203.

Making a difference

New Liberty Bank executives and employees hoping to make a difference in the lives of less-fortunate

families dressed the part in October, November and December, raising \$460 to purchase clothes and toys to donate to the Salvation Army. During this period, as part of the bank's Casual Fridays, employees were allowed to wear jeans if they donated to the cause. The bank also

held a "White Shirt and Tie" Day, in which the bank donated \$5 for each employee that participated. New Liberty Bank is located at 1333 W. Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. New Liberty Bank can be reached at (734) 455-1511, or on the web at www.newlibertybank.com.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

### **Eateries continue a family tradition**

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

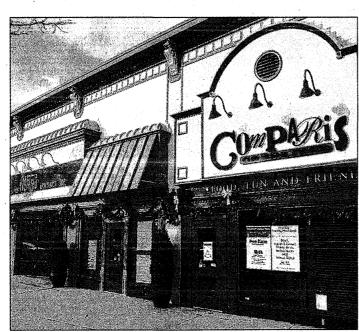
Compari's/Fiamma: We provide dine-in and carry-out, we also do private parties and catering.

Observer: What makes your business unique? Do you serve a special niche? Compari's/Fiamma: It's

family owned and operated. We pride ourselves on our customer satisfaction. Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?

Compari's/Fiamma: I carried on in my father's footsteps. Observer: How did you decide to

locate in the Plymouth community? Compari's/Fiamma: We loved the intimate and unique setting.



Compari's and Fiamma Grill are in the heart of downtown Plymouth.

#### CHAMBER CHAT

### Credit union opens middle school branch

Meads Mill Middle School in Northville recently celebrated the grand opening of the school's student-run credit union in partnership with Community Financial of Plymouth.

Meads Mill is the second middle school within Northville Public Schools to partner with Community Financial's student-run credit union program which provides students a convenient way to get into the savings habit and gives volunteers an excellent opportunity to learn career skills.

According to Mary Kerwin, education partnership coordinator at Community Financial, students who volunteer to work for the student-run credit union participate in an extensive application and interviewing process.

Seventh grade students from Laura DeMarti's Math Enrichment class were given the opportunity to learn valuable career skills when applying to fill the volunteer positions of branch managers, marketing representatives, tellers, bookkeepers and computer operators.

"We ask them a series of questions including what skills and qualities they can bring to their student credit union positions," said Kerwin. "By going through this process, they gain a better understanding of what it takes to prepare for the future."

"The credit union is a great



Community Financial and Meads Mill Middle School in Northville celebrate the grand opening of the student-run credit union. Principal Dr. Sue Meyer cuts the ribbon with the help of seventh grade student volunteers and, in the back row, (right to left) Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Mary Kay Gallagher, Teacher Laura DeMarti and Mary Kerwin, Community Financial education partnership coordinator.

learning opportunity for the students and helps to provide good personal skills, the importance of saving as well as a better understanding of finances, how banking works and the basics of how money circulates," said DeMarti.

"It's great to have this partnership with Community Financial," added Principal Dr. Sue Meyer. "The PTA helped out with the interviewing process and their support is also appreciated.

Five of Northville's elementary schools have student-run credit unions which feed into similar programs at Meads Mill and Hillside Middle Schools and, subsequently, to Northville High School.

Kerwin said, "Our program is designed to help students build on their financial skills

as they progress from elementary school to the upper grade levels."

Along with the studentrun credit union program, Community Financial team members give classroom presentations throughout the district to students about saving basics, various economic concepts and skills for making educated financial decisions.

Membership in Community Financial is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in the Michigan cities, townships or counties of Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Alpena, Otsego and Montmorency. For more information, visit the credit union web site at www.cfcu.org or call (734) 453-1200 or (877) 937-2328, toll free.

#### **BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS**



#### **Best and brightest**

For the second straight year, Soil and Materials Engineers has been named one of Metropolitan Detroit's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For by the Michigan Business and Professional Association. The awards honor companies in southeast Michigan for their 'exceptional work environment and exemplary human resources practices.' Accepting the award from the MBPA's Jennifer Kluge (right) were Elaine Nading and Sherri Fountain.

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

### Realtors push for affordable mortgage rates

**O&E STAFF WRITER** 

The National Association of Realtors — and local Realtors - applaud recent actions by the Federal Reserve and the Treasury making mortgage interest rates more affordable. However, further action is needed to help the thousands of people trying to buy a home or to stem off foreclosure to get a mortgage easily and quickly, according to the association and local pros.

"Our members tell us that families are once again looking to enter the housing market only to find that delays, process and bureaucracy are getting in the way," said NAR-President Charles McMillan, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Dallas-Fort Worth. "The federal government and the mortgage lending industry must address continuing problems that are impeding the delivery of mortgage credit to homebuyers and those trying to avoid

Local real estate pros are in wholehearted agreement with that assess-

Associate broker Nanci J. Rands, of Sotheby's International Realty in Birmingham, said, "Absolutely. If we begin to work through the number of homes which are currently on the market, the inventory, we're going to see a salutary effect on the economy in general."

Rands noted just over 30 percent of dollars spent on purchase of a home above purchase price "is an amount which ends up rippling through the economy in general, a reason the housing market is so critical to the economy in general."

Many Michiganders can afford homes "at that interest rate who might not have been able to afford homes at an interest rate which is higher. These are not subprime mortgages," Rands said. "These would be conventional mortgages."

"We have actually been quite busy," Rands said of colleagues. "There are a number of people who have made a commitment to staying in this area." Many have found it the best time to purchase a house.

"There are pretty remarkable values," said Rands, a past president of the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors, taking in Oakland and Macomb counties. "The decision to remain in our area is one which is buoyed up by the fact we've got good schools. Notwithstanding the



snow, we've got great opportunities for recreation." Many businesses Rands encounters are positioning themselves to be part of a Michigan comeback, which "for real estate is going to have lots of opportunities."

Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors outgoing President Gordon McCann agrees. "I think it's very important that affordable mortgage rates become affordable to all people," said McCann, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Schweitzer-Bake in Plymouth. Some had adjustable rate mortgages, McCann said, which caused problems.

"Each year the rate would go up a certain percent." In later years, the buyer faced escalating rates. "A conventional, long-term fixed rate is more advantageous. You have a fixed rate you pay every month.

"For people buying it gives them peace of mind. They look at the market more positively," McCann said. He agreed with Rands it's an advantageous time to buy, "especially for the first-time homebuyer because there are some additional programs available to them."

McCann sees a lot of activity, especially for this time of year. "As the rates go down more people are inquiring as to what they can purchase." "I think the attitude out there of the consumer is starting to shift to a positive mode," McCann said. They're seeing possible 4 percent mortgages. "It's looking to be a good year."

In a letter to the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and copied to President-elect Barack Obama's transition team, NAR notes that in addition to lowering interest rates, the federal government must work with mortgage lenders and credit reporting agencies to eliminate processes that are making it difficult to close on a mortgage loan so that the housing market and the nation's economy can have a robust

"Now really is a great time to buy a home. Inventory is high, prices are down and mortgage rates are near 50-year lows. We have to unclog the system and let people achieve and hold on to the dream of homeownership," McMillan said.

NAR is recommending that the Treasury Department provide additional TARP funds for the sole purposes of making additional loans and modifying mortgages to help prevent foreclosures.

28337 Peppermill Rd

"The housing market is clogged with short-sales that take frustratingly too long to clear. Though lax underwriting standards should never return, many lenders' credit score requirements have become overly stringent. Good people with good credit scores are finding it difficult to qualify for loans despite the historically low mortgage rates," said McMillan.

NAR is asking mortgage lenders and mortgage insurers to make sure they have not over-corrected their underwriting standards and added unnecessarily strict underwriting standards, such as excessively high credit scores to qualify for a mortgage. In addition, credit reporting bureaus should improve compliance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act, including providing prompt responses to consumers who want to correct errors in their file.

Lastly, NAR is calling on all mortgage lenders, their servicers, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and investors in mortgage assets to implement aggressive policies that result in more loan modifications to prevent as many foreclosures as possible, expedited processes for short-sales, and added liquidity to the nonconforming mort-

gage market.
"If rates stay low at near 5 percent or lower, home sales could rise nationally by 10 to 15 percent in 2009 and stabilize prices in many parts of the country," said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "That, in turn, will help reduce foreclosure pressures and lower the rate of re-defaults on recently modified distressed loans. Improved loan modification tools are also necessary. Everyone needs to work together so this can become a reality."

NAR continues to advocate for other measures that would help create longterm stability by ensuring that safe and affordable mortgages are available throughout the nation, including making the higher loan limits passed in the economic stimulus bill earlier this year permanent and extending the temporary \$7,500 tax credit for first-time homebuyers to all homebuyers and eliminating the repayment requirement.

The work is not yet finished, and NAR is committed to continuing its efforts with policy makers and the new Congress and administration to get the real estate market back on track — the nation's economy depends on it," McMillan said.

The NAR Web site contributed to this report.

21029 W Glen Haven Cir

\$332,000 \$105,000

\$85,000

\$325,000 \$195,000

\$283,000 \$284,000

\$337,000 \$195,000

\$399,000

\$45,000

\$367,000 \$274,000

\$325,000

\$170,000 \$325,000

\$162,000 \$335,000

\$390,000 \$375,000

\$59,000

\$71,000 \$73,000

\$88,000

\$185,000 \$118,000

\$365,000

\$145,000 \$111,000

\$141,000

\$192,000 \$142,000

\$150,000

\$164,000

\$236,000 \$153,000

### Taxman can be finicky

Q: I have a question about the principal residence exemption and what are the requirements in order to meet it as I have purchased a second home?

A: Michigan's General Property Tax Act provides the occupant owner of a principal residence with a principal residence exemption which exempts the owner from the 18-mill local school operating tax ordinarily



Robert Meisner

levied against non-homestead properties. To be eligible for the exemption, a taxpayer must file an affidavit with

the local tax collection unit on or before May 1, and must own and occupy the residence on the date the affidavit is signed. An assessor may deny the exemption if he or she doesn't believe that the property is being used as a principal residence, at which time the taxpayer bears the burden of establishing entitlement to the exemption by a preponderance of the evidence. In order to qualify

for a personal residence exemption, the statute does not require that the occupancy continue at all times; it is enough that the residence is in fact the taxpayer's principal residence. However, the payment of utility bills for the property and a check with the subject property address on it does not prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the property is being occupied as the principal residence. There

Q: I live in a condominium where the master deed and subdivision plan were recorded but the bylaws were not. Now the association is trying to enforce one of the provisions against me. Do they have a right to do so?

needs to be more!

A: Probably not because the Bylaws are inoperable if they were not filed along with the master deed as required by MCL 559.153. Obviously, the bylaws must be recorded in a condominium in order to be effective. Therefore more than likely they cannot be enforced by anyone including the condominium association. Better get a good condominium lawyer at your earliest convenience.

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

#### **BRIEFS**

#### **Appraising & Staging**

Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or non-experienced people in the real estate field. There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331. For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

#### Investors

"Strategies for Property Tax Assessment Appeals," presented by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland County, with David Nykanen as the speaker.

It will be 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake, Troy.

Call (800) 747-6742 or visit www.REIAofOakland.com.

#### On board

Jerry Moyer, CPM, CCIM, a property manager at Broder & Sachse Real Estate Services, Inc., in Birmingham, has been named to the Michigan chapter board of the CCIM Institute, a global association for professionals involved in commercial real estate investment.

Moyer holds the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation, conferred by the CCIM Institute after a professional completes a minimum number of projects of a certain size, a series of advanced real estate investment courses, and an exam.

HOMES SOLD 38540 Lancaster Dr 29200 Marvin Rd These are residential real estate clos-29533 Medbury St ings recorded Sept. 15-19, 2008, at the

	Principal State of
are cities, addresses, and sal	es prices.
Canton	
43282 Barchester Rd	\$175,000
50209 Black Horse Ln	\$165,000
7717 Chichester Ct	\$245,000
50453 Coolidge St	\$214,000
50467 Coolidge St	\$207,000
41575 Copper Creek Dr	\$125,000
3440 Empire State Dr	\$240,000
48711 Fifth Ave	\$238,000
44563 Forest Trail Dr	\$195,000
41460 Hanford Rd	\$126,000
2820 Hannan Rd	\$160,000
50165 Harding St	\$207,000
775 Harrison St	\$184,000
797 Harrison St	\$199,000
50072 Jackson Ln	\$212,000
50116 Jackson Ln	\$205,000
43679 Lotus Dr	\$170,000
1811 Maple Park Dr E	\$181,000
6663 Marshall St	\$200,000
41679 Metaline Dr	\$185,000
3526 Riverside Dr	\$229,000
131 Robyn Dr	\$162,000
7745 Rutherford Ct	\$322,000
265 Shana St	\$160,000
2207 Vanderbilt Rd	\$177,000
5843 Wedgewood Rd	\$192,000
41703 White Tail Ln	\$158,000
Farmington 35844 Smithfield Ct	\$227,000
Farmington Hills	\$221,000

Wayne County Register of Deeds office,

plus some from Oakland County. Listed

43282 Barchester Rd	\$175,000
50209 Black Horse Ln	\$165,000
7717 Chichester Ct	\$245,000
50453 Coolidge St	\$214,000
50467 Coolidge St	\$207.000
41575 Copper Creek Dr	\$125,000
3440 Empire State Dr	\$240,000
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50116 Jackson Ln	\$205,000
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1811 Maple Park Dr E 6663 Marshall St	\$200,000
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3526 Riverside Dr	\$162,000
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7745 Rutherford Ct	\$322,000
265 Shana St	\$160,000
2207 Vanderbilt Rd	\$177,000
5843 Wedgewood Rd	\$192,000
41703 White Tail Ln	\$158,000
Farmington	4007.000
35844 Smithfield Ct	\$227,000
Farmington Hi	
37788 Amber Dr	\$190,000
36724 Dina Ct	\$290,000
30071 Fiddlers Grn	\$230,000
29294 Geraldine Ct	\$170,000
and the second s	

	38272 Remington Park
	22276 Sheffield Ct
	29719 Sierra Point Cir
	29309 Sunridge
	34674 Valley Forge Dr
Ċ	28029 W Nine Mile Rd
٠.	29272 Wyndham Ct
	Garden
	30945 Block St
	32176 James St
	Livon
	34251 Six Mile Rd
	18891 Aspen Dr
	14226 Blue Skies St
	20027 Inkster Rd
	36056 Jamison St
	38141 Lancaster St
	16504 Marsha St
	29741 Nottingham Cir
	9930 Pere Ave
	31390 Pickford Ave
	19687 Saint Francis St
	31102 Schoolcraft Rd
	17851 University Park Dr
	18285 University Park Dr
	Milfo
	2712 E Commerce St
	1109 Eagle Nest Dr
	4330 Heatherwood Dr
	Northy
	42109 Baintree Cir
	44529 Broadmoor Blvd
	16271 Brook Trout Ln
	19714 Dearborn Ct
	47875 Florence Dr
	15980 Park Ln
	325 Pennell St
	46252 Pinehurst Dr
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	\$147,000	27485 Albert St
	\$180,000	24710 Bethany Way
٠.	\$177,000	24790 Christina Ln
	\$300,000	27650 Cromwell Rd
Y	\$145,000	23669 Dunston Rd
	\$298,000	23687 Dunston Rd
	\$235,000	40376 Franklin Mill St
	\$139,000	40784 Kingsley Ln
	\$225,000	51145 Mayfair Ter
		27015 Victoria Rd
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	\$125,000	45748 White Pines Dr
		Plymouth
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	\$156,000	1365 Hartsough St
	\$90,000	48997 Quail Run Dr S
	\$187,000	670 S Evergreen St
	\$181,000	12371 White Tail Ct
Ì.	\$185,000	Redford
	\$137,000	9606 Inkster Rd
٠.,	\$163,000	15852 Lola Dr
	\$264,000	12019 Marion
	\$148,000	18714 Poinciana
	\$105,000	South Lyon
	\$110,000	198 Eagle Way
	\$115.000	264 Gibson St
		61161 Palamino Ct
	\$185,000	Westland
	\$237,000	34747 Block
	\$235,000	39150 Brookfield Dr
,		32733 Hiveley St
	\$255,000	29072 Manchester St
	\$285,000	902 Mitchell Dr
	\$244,000	6820 N Farmington Rd
	\$115,000	450 N John Hix St
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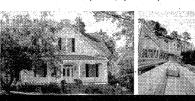
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SOUTHFIELD 1250 sq. ft., 2 bdrm, full bsmt, 12 Mile & Telegraph. \$699/mo. 734-968-6275, 734-722-6646 SOUTHFIELD All new! 2 bdrm 2 bath ranch condo. Carport c/a, appliances, pool, 1300 sq ft. \$1099/mo. 248-346-6108

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

Duplexes

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

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Flats

PLYMOUTH TWP Lg upper studio w/ gar. Free heat! Avail immed., \$575. One bdrm upper avail Feb 1, \$625. Pets welcome. 248-735-5464

4050

**Homes For Rent** 

BIRMINGHAM 1420 Emmons. Cozy, modern 3 bdrm home near downtown. Utilities included. \$1000

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call KEN W at 734-454-9211

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\$800, Call: (248) 788-1823

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Ft. 4 Bdrm, 2.5 bath Colonia

located on the 3rd hole of Great Oaks Golf Course.

Hardwood floors, all, appliances incl washer and dryer

2.5 car attached garage. Must see! \$2200/mo. 248-425-4853, See pics

www.bekamanagement.com

ROCHESTER HILLS, Walton &

Livernois area. 4 bdrm, 2 full baths, finished bsmt, 2 car

attached garage, all appli incl

washer & dryer, dishwasher. \$1350 Rent for a two yr lease,

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www.bekamanagement.com

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full bsmt. Updated kitchen &

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Security Deposit

equal to one month's rent

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or Jamie at

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clean, quiet neighborhood.

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WESTLAND 2 bdrm duplex, \$600. 3 bdrm duplex, \$700. <u>Manufactured</u> Exc. cond., 1.5 baths, carpet ed. 313-418-9905 WOODHAVEN Remodeled 3 EOR REN

bdrm brick ranch, finished bsmt, 2 car, C/A, 2 baths, option, \$900. (248) 788-1823

Mobile Home Rentals 4070

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FARMINGTON HILLS 1 & 2 bdrm. \$75/wk. & up. Appli-ances. Seniors welcome. No pets. Dep. req. 248-473-5535

4120

CANTON Executive home on 5 wooded acres, \$500 master suite w/private bath, incl. util-

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to downtown. 248-348-3897

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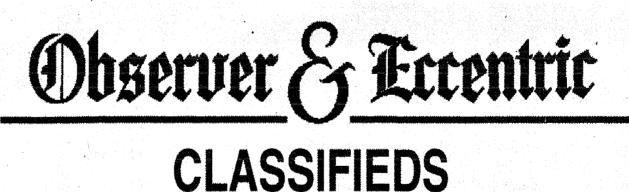
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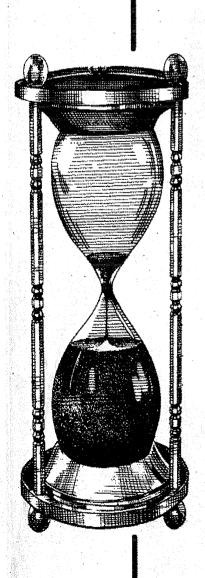
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7060

7100 Estate Sales

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jcauctionservices.com

WESTLAND - Jan 9th, 2 pm Court seizures, repossessed vehicles, cars, campers, hand-icapped scooter & golf cart. 6345 N. Hix, PREMIER AUTO AUCTION 734-721-2886

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**An Amazing Sale!** By: Everything Goes .-Sat., Jan. 9-10, 10-4 3453 Hidden Oaks Dr., W Bloomfield 48324- Woods of Orchard Sub. S. off Commerce., W. off Hiller,

7100

take Thousand Oaks Dr. "MAJOR" Sports Memorabilia Collection !!! 50's Furniture Custom & high end furnishings. AMI Juke Box, arcade games, electronics, appliances, neon signs, art & tons more. Don't Miss!!

AN INCREDIBLE ANTIQUES ESTATE SALE- PHASE I BY ANTIQUES ON MAIN & AOMestatesales.com 248-705-9665 FRIDAY-SUNDAY,

Jan. 9-11, 10-4

See www.EstateSales.net or 248-988-1077

168 HILLBORO, BLOOMFIELD TWP. S. of Maple, E. of Lahser Rd. Complete contents of the estate of antiques dealer, Jody Yates, from extensive busi-ness inventory to private collections- European cera-mics, china, crystal, sterling & silverplate, 19th century furniture, art, linens, many antique books, & tons of jewelry! Too much for one sale, & we are still unpacking more, so

Phase II to follow soon! For a complete list of contents, photos, & directions, visit www.AOMestatesales.com 7100 7100 Estate Sales

ANOTHER QUALITY ESTATE SALE! FRI.-SAT. Jan. 9-10 10AM-4PM 6305 Northfield, West

Bloomfield-N. of Maple, W: of Middlebelt. Take Wellesley off Maple to North-field. Happy New Year!

Beautiful antique & traditional contents! Furniture, clocks, antique silver, excellent china, vintage clothes, bronze sculpture, huge amounts of everything, what a good sale!

> Pictures and details at www.estatesales.net.

See you there! EDMUND FRANK AND ASSOCIATES 313-854-6000



1-800-579-SELL(7355) Observer & Eccentric 7100 **Moving Sales** 

ESTATE SALE 6697 Valley Spring Drive Bloomfield Hills East of Inkster, South of Maple off Whysall Road he estate of an avid collecto Chinese porcelain, cloisonné

uninese porceiain, cioisonne, art glass, Moser, bronzes, Art Nouveau style bronze lady lamps, African art, large painting of sea nymphs, cat, dog, after Bouguereau paintings, framed prints, Robert Kidd large woven wall hanging, Gothic torchieres, clocks, gar-den ornaments, French com-mode, hardstone plaques, modern metal sculpture, Oriental lacquer & stone screen, rugs, silver, reference & cook books, dragon carving, Dali, carved wood griffin ing, Dall, carved wood griffin plant stand, Harris Strong tiles, foo dog collection, linens, furniture, lots of misc housewares, tools, parts, etc. Entrance through garage only.

Thurs., Fri., Sat., Jan. 8, 9, 10, 10 am-4pm

Del Giudice Antiques 248-399-2608

Southfield ESTATE Closeout 29329 Prestwick, W/ Ever green, N/ 12 Mi. Sat 12:30-4 Sun 11-3pm. (248) 709-8855

Garage Sales

BIRMINGHAM •Estate•Moving•Garage Sale Antiques, furniture, art & more! Fri.-Sat., Jan. 9-10, 10-4pm. 1269 Willow Lane

Art, custom office furniture Gorman's custom king head board & matching bench, bed spread & matching pellows, nightstands, buffet, sofa, Ig end tables, trees, patio set, much more, 2006 silver Nissan Maxima, 8800 miles,

7110

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playground equip., office equipment. Everything must go!!! 248-862-2287. 7460

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7130

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505 Pine Way Circle,
Woodspring Pines
Sub. W. on Lahser, S. of Long
Lake. Sat & Sun, Jan 10-11,
10-4pm. High end kitchen,
bedroom, bathroom cabinets,
& foot solid manle doors, fire-

8 foot solid maple doors, fire

place, granite pieces, planta tion shutters, trims, moldings

Sherle Wagner bath fixtures BMI 248-225-9556

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for further information.

FARMINGTON HILLS, Jan 9-

11, 10-4pm, 29954 Beacon Tree St, off 13 Mi, btwn Drake

& Farmington. Everything from furn to Christmas items, etc.

Baby & Children Items 7150

Toys, cribs, cots, high chairs, tables, chairs, books, playground equip., office equipment. Everything must go!!! 248-862-2287.

CONTEMPORARY W/ STYLE:

loaded. Call: (248) 408-5087

Household Goods

CHILDCARE

CLOSING!

7160

**CHRISTMAS VILLAGES** (Miniature) 15 assorted buildings. \$10 each. Also, 3 vinyl desk chairs. Call: (248) 476-9398

JUKEBOX 1988, 496 Rockola. 200 play, restored near mint. \$600 or best offer. 734-788-1626

Cats

2 black cats 3 months old, looking for loving homes. Extremely friendly & loving. 734-432-9764.

FREE KITTENS 2 Tabbie Kittens- 4 months old, Mother also needs a home- 2 years old.

586-484-0049. KITTEN

10 wk. old, needs loving life-long home, female, black, with some tan. (248) 660-6604

7840 Dogs

**BOXER AKC PUPS** Fawn & white, vet certified. Tails & dews. \$500.

989.325.0829 **COCKER SPANIEL PUPS** 

AKC, chocolate. 3 female, 2 male, ready Feb 1st, now taking deposits. (734) 536-7704 **GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS** Parents have clearances Crate & clicker training start ed. Ready February \$800. 248-625-8667

LAB PUPS AKC Vet checked Dark chocolate or black. \$200-\$300. 517-548-0811 Howell Miniature Pinschers-AKC

9 wks. old, female & male, Black/ Tan, Chocolate/Tan, adorable, \$300-\$400. 313-295-3921, 313-802-2240 SHIH TZU AKC PUPS

Assorted colors, many solids \$400+ 248.636.5133

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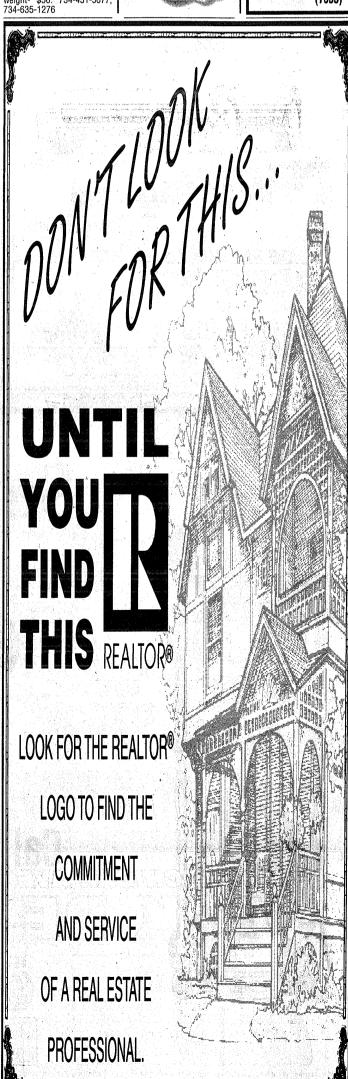
Look in The Observer & **Eccentric** Classifieds for a great deal!

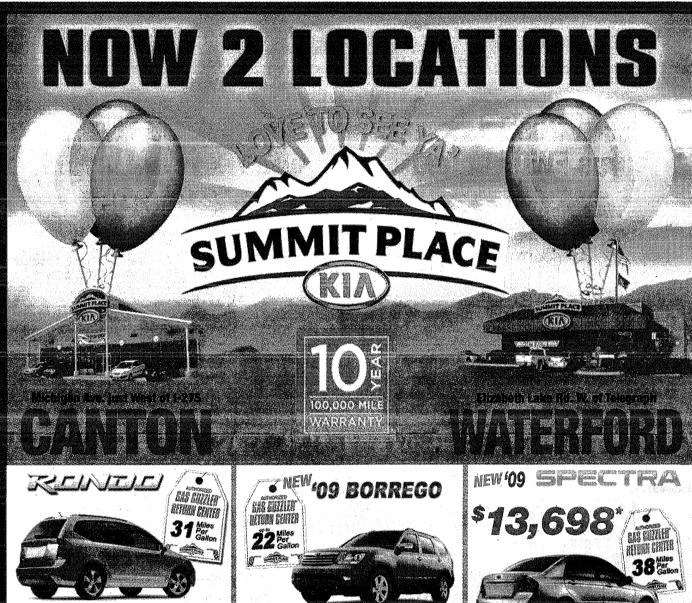


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'07 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT °12,997 6 cylinder, 42,950 miles '08 KIA SEDONA LX \*13,990 7 passenger, V6, 21,378 mi \$7,590 <sup>\$</sup>11,990 °15,650

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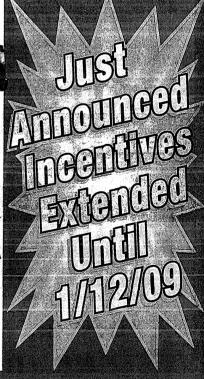


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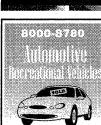
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	SHELDON RD	AGGERTY RD		NEWBURGH RD	LEGRAPH RD	OR OTHER	
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## Automotive

Observer Eccentric HOMETOWN life.com



8145 **Auto Auctions** 

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BUICK RENDEZVOUS CXL 2005 Moonroof, leather, 2-

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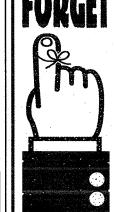
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**MISCELLANEOUS** 

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# Challenging fun for ALL ages

CRÖSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS** 

1 Noisy bird

Hilo guitar Swit co-star

11 Companion Headroom" 13 Wheedle

14 Cuba, to Castro 15 Miscellany 16 Rounded roof

sharply 19 Punch or kiss 21 Add- -

(extras) 22 Make blush 24 Bumbler

28 Weld 29 Stopped the

car 32 Calm 34 Mournful cry 35 Bath decor

36 That man 37 Hesitate

39 Boot lines

employer 56 Stein filler **DOWN** 

44 Rolex rival

46 She, in Seville 48 Mild brew

50 Desert dweller

51 Mild expletives

52 Royal pronoun

53 Small barks

Chicago

54 Town near

55 Masseuse

2 Map source

6 Reason

band

project 10 Hack

3 Date part 4 "Pulp Fiction" name 5 Sunflower state 12-13 @ 2007 United Feature Syndicate, Ind

to cram 7 Heavy-metal

1 He jilted Medea

8 Sentry

9 Beaver's

11 Japanese 25 Tool handle soup 18 Healthy wood

ATOM

**Answer to Previous Puzzle** 

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TAKEOFFS

26 Cost 27 Go-aheads 28 Opposing upstairs 20 Satisfied sigh force 29 Oompah-

> boxer 31 Climbing rose 32 Fam. member 33 Dairy-case buy

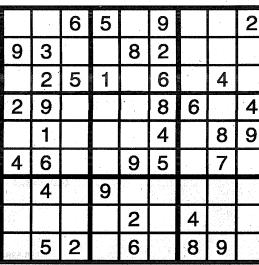
30 Rope-a-dope

35 Garage job (hyph.) 37 Movie rating 38 Pit stop sight Danger 40 Yawning

41 Taxis 43 No sweat 45 Yucatan native 46 Turtle-to-be 47 Grassy field

49 Scorpius'

neighbor



Fun By The **Numbers** 

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

Level: Beginner

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

### EEKANDFIN

MACAW MALLARD **MANTA** 

**MARMOSET** 

**MARMOT MARTEN MEERKAT** MONKEY

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

**MOORHEN MOOSE MOUSE MUSK OX** 

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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1 4 8 2 8 6 7 8 4 1 8 2 2 3 5 9 1882987 7 2 1 3 6 7 4 2 8 7 8 1 8 2 6 2 8 7 6 9 8 1 9 8 9 9 7 8 4

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE** 

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**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE** 



# Real Trusted by 14,934 families in 2008.

### Let us help yours. RealEstateOne.com



734-591-9200

Beautiful home & sub backing to tree line.



248-851-4100

WELCOME HOME! 4 BR,2.1 bath brick contemporary features 2 story foyer, French doors to library, large granite island kitchen w/breakfast rm, & great rm. Fantastic deck (27188915)\$270,000



734-455-7000 SPACIOUS UPDATED COLONIAL ON CUL-DE-SAC Pergo style flr in hall/kitchen, berber carpt & bay window in family rm, thermo windows '05, furn 02. FP w/raised hearth, crn moldings,



248-348-6430

Well Appointed Condo w/Numerous Upgrades from the HDWD FLRs, stone FP & lighting fixtures to the unilock paver patio. Maple KIT w/BRKFST nook. LG MSTR w/spa tub & closet organizer. Walking trail in sub. organizer. Wa (28115914) \$174,999



PRICED TO SELL AND READY TO MOVE IN! 4BR/2.5BA home w/impressive designer kitchen. Freshly painted. New carpet thruout. Hardwood floors in kitchen and family room.

\$169,900 (28200919)

GREAT CANTON RANCH! Newly listed 3BR/ 2.5BA ranch offers many updates,incl: redone kitchen, family rm w/FP, florida rm, huge fin bsmt w/bath. Quiet setting in sub., and much



SPECTACULAR CANTON CONDO in a golf course community w/2BRS & 2 full baths. Neutral all thru w/custom kitchen cabinets and attached garage w/opener. All SS appls +



734-455-7000 BETTER THAN NEW! 2 bedrooms/2 full baths; cathedral ceiling; lots of windows; all appliances; neutral decor; atttached garage;



Wow! What A Value! Well cared for townhouse. Cathedral ceilings, skylight, fireplace, finished basement, private courtyard. Pool, clubhouse. Appliances stay. Home warranty.

(28047641)



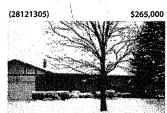
Wonderful site condo w/ 2 BR and 2 full BA up and BR/full BA in Fin W/O bsmt. GR w/ FP. Association fee includes yard, street maint, garbarge pick-up.

(28127373) \$249,000



Commerce 248-684-1065

Immaculate builders home on 1.67 acres. Wood windows/trim, GR w/ cath ceiling & FP, Gourmet island kit, 3 bd 2.1 ba. HRWD in den. Great view



Commerce 248-684-1065 Charming ranch on half acre parcel. Great location, new carpet, 6 panel drs., FR w/ FP, neutral decor, FF laundry, MBR w/ closet



734-591-9200 Beautifully maintained home! Updated roof, furnace, a/c, windows, vinvl siding, hwh, carpet a nice comfortable feel to this house

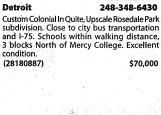


Dearborn Heights BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION IN DEARBORN HTS Prices slashed on this fabulous 3 BR 2.5 bath condo. Open floor plan, attached 2 car garage. Granite & hardwoods. For sale or lease



**Dearborn Heights** UPDATED BRICK RANCH Kitchen update in completion stage. Newer windows & furnace. Lower level with family room, wet bar & half bath. Backyard patio. Very clean, just move in!







**Garden City** BEAUTIFUL BRICK RANCH W/CUSTOM FEATURES is this 3 or 4 bedroom Garden City brick ranch with finished basement, 2 full baths, enclosed sun room, huge kitchen, central air



**Green Oak** 248-437-3800 Just Listed Woods, Water, Huge Workshop, W/O gourmet kitchen w/cherry cabinets, granite



**Green Oak** 248-437-3800 The Perfect Country Ranch on 1.27 Acres Built new in 2004 & still like new inside. Offering spacious & open flr plan, Irg spacious mstr suite, home office, Irg country kit. w/center island, full bsmt.



Hartland 248-684-1065 2-3 BR condo w/ 2 full BA. Many updates. Fin 2-car gar. GR w/ vaulted ceiling, gas FP, private deck, 1st flr MBR, open kit, 1st flr laundry, fin LL.



Highland 248-684-1065 Total remod on all-sports Duck Lake! HDWD firs, 6 panel drs, arch top windows, granite ctrs, maple cabs, 1st fir laundry, deck, patio,



248-684-1065 Highland Best buy in Highland. On cul-de-sac and Golf course front, 4 BR. 3.5 BA. New furnace.



248-684-1065 Highland Privs on Dunham Lake. LR w/ bay wndw & fp. ceil, ceramic flr & backsplash. Lg DR w/ D/W to

(28179730) \$200,000



248-851-4100 8 MI & NEWBURGH. BUILDERS SPEC CONDO Open Fri-Sun 1-5. Price slashed! Detached condo. Main floor master suite. 2300+ SF. Never lived in. Full daylight basement. Lots of upgrades. Other units available.



EXCELLENT, CLEAN & SHARP 4 BDRM 2.5 BATH brick & alum Colonial w/den/office. Updtd EatIn Kit w/oak cabs, corian entrs ceramic tile fir:all appls; Lg formal Dr, FR, nat FP french doors to



Outstanding location in Rosedale Gardens family room with vaulted ceiling. Hardwood floors under the carpet.



Solid Brk rnch, sptless &rdy to move in.Refin hardwds thru/out w/fam rm addit. Corner lot ylds yd spce & hicharact of side entry gar. New wind, and bemtwls. Ludted element

wind, prd bsmtwls, updted elec.



UPDATED RANCH ON A COURT IN LIVONIA 3 bedrooms,1.5 baths, full finished basement. Hot tub, fenced yard, 2 car garage, sidewalks.



734-591-9200 Orig Owners, Newer Roof, Updated flooring New Windows, Updted Kit, Newer Furn/ AC, Fresh pnted inter, Updted Elec, Grt curb appeal, Part fin bsmt w/rec rm & bar, Lg deck &



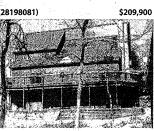
248-348-6430 Neat and Clean Ranch Nice brick home with HDWD Flrs. 3 bedrooms, BSMT, tiled floor, fenced yard, 1.5 car & carport too. High energy furnace, central air, close to Edward Hines Park.



248-437-3800 Architectural Elegance This graceful colonial has too many extras to mention! Extensive use of hrdwd, 3 fireplaces! Dream garden w/pond



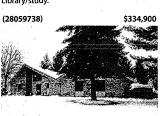
Lyon 248-437-3800 Hard To Find Ranch On 1.16 Acres Move in condition. Offering spacious open floor plan, a fully finished basement, an oversized 3 car



Milford 248-684-1065 Gorgeous Custom Cedar/Stone 3267 Sq Ft Home Paradise Tucked Amongst Pine Tree Acres w/Up North Feel in Quaint Milford. 3



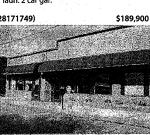
Milford 248-684-1065 Home with 3.9 acres. First floor laundry. Unfinished basement. Two car attached garage with side entry. Dining, living and family rooms. Library/study.



248-684-1065 Milford Country setting, beautiful, move-in ready ranch home on 2.36 acres across from Highland Rec. Area. Huge FR w/ fin. W/O LL. Barn, hay loft,



Milford 248-684-1065 well maintained home on 1.5 wooded acres. Huge LR w/ hdwd firs. DR w/ D/W to covered porch. Oak kit. Spacious FR w/ D/W to deck. 1st fir laun. 2 car gar.



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!! Retail, office, or commercial unit for lease in downtown Milford. Sunny, windowed space with parking. Great



248-348-6430 Custom Colonial Beauty Curved staircase & Brazilian HDWD flrs accent home. Lovely KIT. LR w/Cathedral clg, LG DR, Lib, Princess Ste, J&J BA,



Beautiful Remodeled 2006 Historic Home In downtown Northville, abundance of windows, fabulous new kitchen, elegant dining & living



734-455-7000 5 BEAUTIFUL ACRES! Home with lots of potential on natural beauty rd. Huge vaulted ceiling grand rm, 3 large bedrooms, att. garage plus out bldg. Enjoy nature and privacy.



Franklin 248-348-6430 This Ranch is a Gem with many updates! Large LR w/flpc, FR w/large windows that overlook a beautiful backyard & heated pool, updated bath & kitchen guite accurate. bath & kitchen, quick occupancy.



248-348-6430 Friendly Family Sub - Great Location Remodeled colonial w/LG GR & MSTR. Neutral Paint, Pella Windows, newer roof, furnace & A/C. MSTR w/WIC & therapeutic spa tub. Fenced yard



248-348-6430 Beautiful 2 Story Condo 1,936 sq ft of comfortable condo living! Charming KIT elegant 2 sty DR, den w/bay window, lg mstr, daylight basement, 2 car att'd side entry



248-348-6430 Airy 2 Bedroom Condo Enjoy this neutrally



Plymouth 734-455-7000 PLYMOUTH "FIXER UPPER"! Great potential in this 3 bedroom colonial near downtown Plymouth. Needs work but has some updates.



Plymouth YMOUTH CONDO WITH A GREAT FLOOR PLAN! Island kitchen, 1-1/2 baths, basement, deck & carport. Private entrance and walking distance to downtown!



**South Lyon** Newer Home Shows Well 2 story foyer, beautiful hrdwd in kit, breakfast, dining & foyer. Huge 29x18 vaulted mstr w/lrg closet. Bonus rm fin



248-437-3800 Just Listed! Ranch condo-clean, clean, clean. Come enjoy this clean2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Complete with garage and full basement.



**South Lyon** 248-437-3800 What A Fabulous Find This Home Isl So many updates, newer roof, furnace, A/C, Anderson windows, doors, hot water heater, water softener. Recent addition makes spacious kitchen a chef's delight.



This One Won't Last Long! Great price on this Phase V unit with large master suite, sun room and gas fireplace in nicely finished lowwer level. All Appl: stay along w/window treatments.



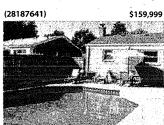
**Walled Lake** 248-437-3800 Look No Further! This charming ranch is move-in ready. Features include family rm w/hardwood floors & fireplace, finished bsmnt w/wine cellar & 3rd BR. Private yard.



Westland Lovely brick/aluminum home in quiet area Home is spotless. Seller offering a home warranty. 1870 sq ft 4 bedroom colonial has two baths, new kitchen with stainless steel appliances that stay.



Westland 734-284-5400 PRIDE IN OWNERSHIP Gorgeous 4 bedrm home This home offers updated kitchen, bath and windows. This home also offers a new roof.



Westland Well Maintain Home With Livonia Schools Features: Inground pool w/privacy fence to make you're perfect retreat from the summer heat! Updated KIT & BA, att deck, newer win, & the pool table stays. (28122220) \$120,000



Westland 248-348-6430 Set In Desirable Northwest Westland With Livonia Schools! Great opportuniy! Features: New furnace, only one block from Livonia, private backyard, 2.5 car garage and a full \$105,000 (28198359)



CUSTOM BRICK COLONIAL 3 possible 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath 1800 sq. ft. home. Nat. fplce in FR w/doorwall to deck & backyard w/2 koi ponds. \$20K Finished basement w/custom lighting &



Lake View From Rare 2200 SQ. FT. Ranch New listing! Wonderful open floor plan. Master suite opposite side of home from other bedrooms. Walkout BSMT. Set on beautiful low



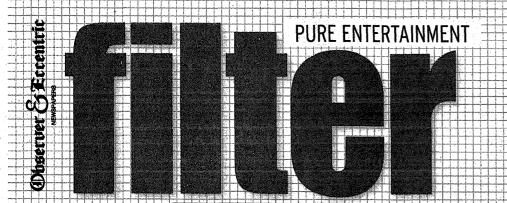
Lake Front Home! Over 150' of frontage on Round Lake! Home is very unique. Built in 1930. 3 BR, plus a full basement. 3 car garage features



Charming & well-maintained home. Open iff plan, LR w/ gas FP, Eat-in kit, HDWD firs new carpet, fin. LL w/ FM and half BA, All appl. Deck/wooded yd.



Ypsilanti 248-684-1065 Great starter home in historic Ypsilanti! Cute bungalow w/ many updates: roof, furnace, windows, HWH, paint. Kit appl. stay. 0.4 acre



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pink-08

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

# aux aux Folles

Show features showstoppers, gender-bending, and lots of heart

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

Stagecrafters hopes to warm hearts in the new year by presenting, for the first time, the wildly funny La Cage aux Folles.

The show, opening Jan. 16 in Royal Oak, follows a gay couple, George and Albin, who run a drag nightclub called La Cage aux Folles in St. Tropez. Albin, portrayed by Ferndale's Marc Meyers, headlines the club nightly under his alter-ego Zaza.

When George's son Jean-Michel returns home to announce his engagement to the daughter of a very conservative French politician, a hilarious charade ensues. Jean-Michel has arranged for both families to meet, relegating Albin to the status of "uncle." But when his mother cancels, Albin surprises the whole group, dressed to fill the role.

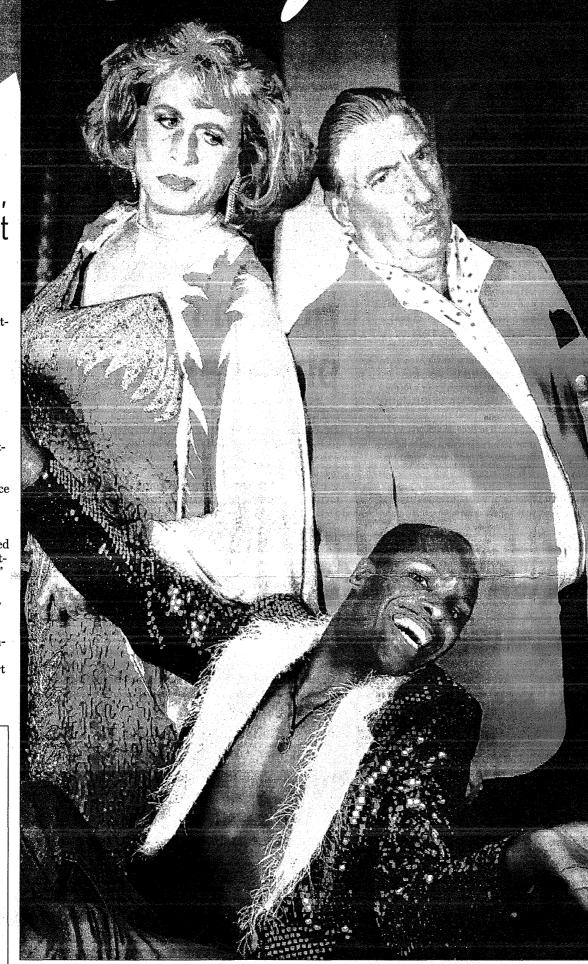
"I love this show. I love the music and the production is wonderful," said Meyers, during a rehearsal on Dec. 30. In an effort to prepare, he'd just been shoe-

Please see LA CAGE, D4

#### **LA CAGE AUX FOLLES**

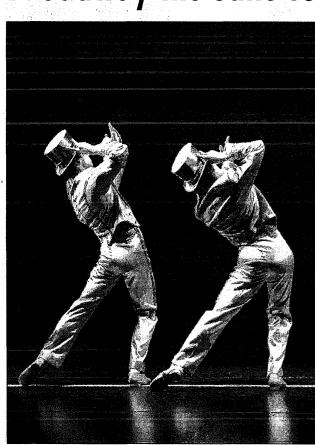
What: Stagecrafters presents this irreverent romantic comedy based on a book by Harvey Fierstein, with music and lyrics by Jerry Herman. Showtimes: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16-18, 22-25, 29, Feb. 1, 6-8. Where: The Baldwin Theatre, 415 S.

Lafayette, Royal Oak. Tickets: \$16 on Thursdays, and for students and seniors on Sundays; \$18 on Fridays-Sunday, call (248) 541-6430 or buy at the door one hour prior to curtain.



Drag yourself out into the snow for Stagecrafters's rendition of "La Cage aux Folles," opening Jan. 16 in Royal Oak.

### Broadway hit calls for Detroiters to jump in the line



Auditions are brutal in the classic stage hit, "A Chorus Line," coming to the Fisher Theatre.

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

Dancers and those who love the art won't want to miss a touring revival of the longest American musical A Chorus Line, coming this month to Detroit's Fisher Theatre.

"This is about the love of dance, a love of the experience," said director Bob Avian, speaking from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., on Dec. 31. "It's filled with heart.'

Avian served as a co-choreographer in the original production of A Chorus Line, which was conceived, directed and choreographed by his longtime friend Michael Bennett. The show debuted in 1975.

The business partners met as dancers, both starring in West Side Story, when Avian was 21 years old. "He asked me to be his assistant," Avian recalled. They worked together for some 25 years.

When A Chorus Line premiered, audiences had seen nothing quite like it. The show offered a backstage glimpse into the lives of 17 dancers trying out for a spot in the chorus.

"It's a dance audition," Avian said. "So the reality of it is what it looks like. When we did it in 1975, it was the peak

#### A CHORUS LINE

What: A new production of the longest running American musical in Broadway history takes its show on the road.

When: Showtimes 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29; 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, 25, for the production, running Jan. 17 to Feb. 1.

Where: Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd. in Detroit.

Tickets: \$30-\$84, includes parking, at www. ticketmaster.com or www.broadwayindetroit.com, or call (800) 745-3000.

More information: Visit www.AChorusLine.

of the sexual revolution."

The stories were all composites, all based and rooted in reality.

"We restructured it and put it in the form of an audition," he said. "We had no idea if it was gonna work or not. We were looking at it and thought maybe it

was going to be too inside. But the first night of previews, the show sold 299 seats and it was then that Avian was convinced it might be

Please see LINE, D2

### ure Picks

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA **0&E STAFF WRITER** 

Filtering your entertainment best bets for the weekend, beginning Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009:



start-

ing at 8 p.m., Jan 8, at 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Come early to hear Civic Jazz Live in the Allessee Hall at 6 p.m. Tickets \$19-\$60, call (313) 576-5111 or visit www. detroitsymphony.com.





City and Colour, aka Dallas Green, brings his folk-tinged rock to The Fillmore, Jan. 9. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the all-ages show begins at 8 p.m., at 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets are \$19.39, vişit www.livenation.com.

City and Colour's Dallas Green performs this weekend.

Under the direction of Bolshoi principal dancer Sergei Radchenko, The Russian Classical Ballet Theatre presents Don Quixote, 8 p.m. Jan. 10, at Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit. Tickets \$27-\$47, call (313) 887-8500 or visit www.musichall.org.



Jane Hammond

chance to

see Jane

Hammond:



Jane Hammond's "Martin House Me" is featured in her exhibit, "Paper Work." It is made from acrylic, gouache, graphite, crayon, solvent transfers, color Xerox, linoleum block prints, lithographs, and leaf prints on collaged Japanese papers.

Paper Work, at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The exhibition features the artist's works on paper completed over the last 15 years. It incorporates painting, drawing, borrowed images, and they come in sizes large and small. Museum admission is \$4-\$8, members enter free, call (313) 833-4005 or visit www.dia.org for more information.



Marisa Tomei and Mickey Rourke star in Fox Searchlights' "The Wrestler."

Marisa Tomei and Mickey Rourke star in *The Wrestler*, now playing exclusively at The Birmingham 8 cinema on Old Woodward, south of Maple in Birmingham. Director Darren Aronofsky takes us back to the late '80s, when Randy "The Ram" Robinson was a professional wrestler. Twenty years later, he ekes out a living performing for handfuls of diehard fans. Estranged from his daughter and unable to sustain any real relationships, Randy lives for the thrill of the show until a heart attack forces him into retirement. He's forced to start again, and begins a blossoming romance with an exotic dancer. This film is rated R.

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

### What's your passion? We're sharing ours

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, January 8, 2009

hat do you do outside of your busy job as a parent or bread winner?

Sometimes when I'm seeking entertainment, all I need to do is look at the writers and editors of the Observer &

Eccentric and Mirror newspapers.



Lana Mini

a cheesy promotion, but it's true: Some of the most interesting people I've met (and I've traveled a lot) work here

at your community newspaper. For example:

**■** Photographer Bill Bresler belongs to a group of photographers that practices "Lo-Fi" photography using old film cameras, pinhole cameras, home-made cameras and toy cameras. I love the club name: Ann Arbor Area Crappy Camera Club. The photography is quite good and they have had

See Bill's own photos at

shows in several art galleries.

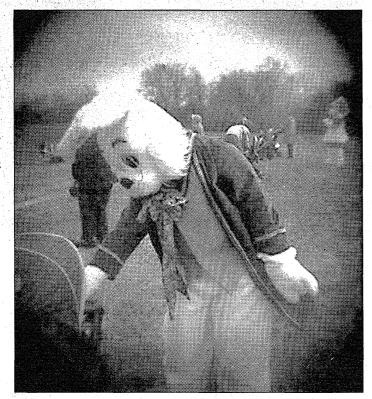
Visit www.crappycameraclub.

www.pbase.com/bbresler **■** Wensdy Von Buskirk, editor of Filter and Pink, plays bass in the all-mom rock band The Mydols. Band founder Judy Davids never picked up a guitar until she was inspired by Jack White of the White Stripes, who spoke at her son's elementary school in 2002.

Visit www.mydols.com ■ I'm into physical fitness and feel music brings people together. So, I combined and created a company called Detroit Bellydance to produce instructional dance DVDs and teach classes in our community. When I'm not doing that I volunteer at www.sashafarm. org, Michigan's only sanctuary that rescues abused farm animals.

**■ Karen Smith,** editor of The Mirror, teaches news writing and media editing at Oakland University.

**■ Canton Editor Kurt** 



A creepy bunny peers into a pram. Imagine the terror of the infant inside, jokes professional photographer Bill Bresler who is in a club that takes photos with handmade and toy cameras. See more at www. crappycameraclub.org

Kuban is co-owner and editor of Michigan Streamside Journal; a magazine that focuses on the outdoors. He likes to jump in his canoe and coast "as far away from civilization as he can get." Visit www. michiganstreamsidejournal.

**■** Greg Kowalski, Birmingham editor who also writes Filter's hilarious Beyond Bad column about scary films

is author of several wellresearched historical books about Hamtramck including Hamtramck: The World War II Years, (Images of America (Arcadia Publishing). Get it on Amazon or at Border's, Costco, Barnes & Noble, etc.

■ Joe Bauman, Eccentric managing editor, hosts wine tasting events for corporate and residential parties. He likes to teach the public to understand and appreciate wine. Sometimes he'll even bring dinner along with the

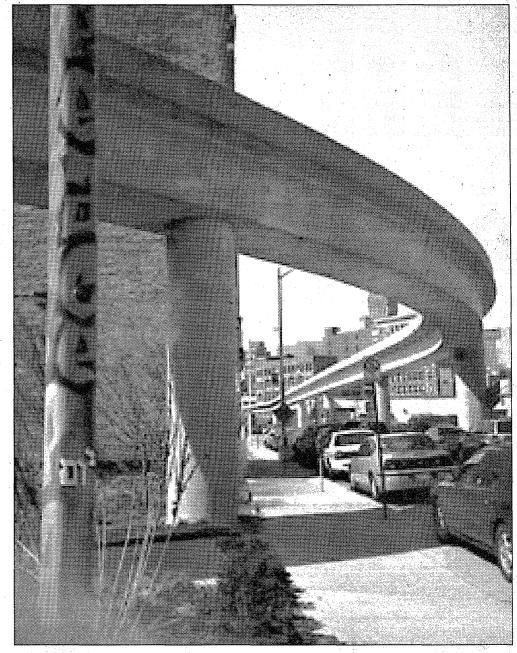
■ Stephanie Tardy, who

works on the copy desk, is one of the leaders of Handmade Detroit, a group of creative young crafters. They make retro, unusual, hip crafts. The website is a blast and filled with inspiring ideas wwww. handmadedetroit.com

**■** Features Editor Sharon Dargay is low-key about herself but we want to brag that she's a graduate of Second City's conservatory. Most people in our newsroom didn't even know that she's in two improv troupes — and one of them often does shows at Future Gallery in Center Line.

Your 2009 interests? How about making a New Year's resolution to dive into something new this year. It's not too late. Explore a new interest — actually get involved. Tune away from the

What do you want to explore this year? Share it with me. Email: Imini@ hometownlife.com subject line:



A photograph by Walled Lake Central High School's Morgan Snyder.

### Human rights group hosts photo exhibit in Canton

The photographic works of several metro Detroit high school students are on display in Focus: HOPE's exhibit, "Focus on the Mission 2008" through March 1 at Gallery @ VT in Canton.

Focus: HOPE is a nationally recognized civil and human rights organization based in

The group's goal is to fights racism, poverty and injustice with practical action. The photographers used Focus: HOPE mission's statement as a broad theme to think about the role of diversity in their lives and com-

This exhibit is the result of the group's diversity and photography workshops attended by 63 area high school students of different geographic, cultural, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds.

Students worked in diverse teams and were lagetheater. guided by mentors, all local professional

photographers or arts educators. The goal was to help students develop an awareness and respect for cultural differences to help build a stronger metropolitan Detroit, while simultaneously introducing them to the art of

The images include locations such as the Heidelberg Street Project, Elmwood Cemetery, St. Pat's Senior Center, The Bhaktivedanta Cultural Center at the Fisher Mansion, downtown Detroit via the People Mover, St. Anne's Church, Mexican Town, the Islamic Center of America, Belle Isle and the Henry Ford Estate.

The exhibit at the Gallery @ VT is free and open to the public. The gallery is located in the Village Theatre, 50400 Cherry Hill Road hours vary. Call (734) 394-5300, Ext. 8, for additional hours or visit: canton-mi.org/vil-

### Mark your calendar for Celtic fun

For 27 years, musician Terry Murphy has been playing his Celtic style of music throughout metro Detroit.

Michigan is filled with seasoned musicians of incomparable skill who can be found performing in little pubs. Their names shows aren't always publicized and names aren't

always in lights. An example is that Murphy will perform with his band The Bowzies on Saturday, Jan. 24 at

Dick O'Dow's in Birmingham. He plays a variety of instruments (and teaches) including six-string guitar, five-string banjo, mandolin, bouzouki, Bodhran (Irish drum) and the tin whistle. He also plays in a band called Bill Grogan's Goat (a Celtic rock band that plays a tough version of Danny Boy). The Bowzies are a Celtic folk band. And when Murphy isn't



Terry Murphy bring his Celtic sound with his band The Bowzies to Dick O' Dow's in Birmingham.

with the Bowzies he's with Leo Papa, a singing, guitar player. Check him out at Dick

O' Dow's, 160 West Maple, Birmingham, (248) 642-1135. - Lana Mini

"It's funny," he said. "The ones you do because they have a place in your heart, they're the ones that work." What worked then still

rings true in 2009. Of course audiences

today walk in more familiar with the idea of an audition. "Television has had so much to do with that," said Avian. "(Then) we had Miss America, now we see all these reality shows."

But reality television tends to feature a level of cruelty Avian said would never happen at an actual audition. 'We try to protect their egos," he said. Now, a new generation of dancers will take to the stage for a show that embodies both staying power and continued relevance. "It's still I Hope I Get It," he said, referencing a signature song and adding that these days the show is expected to resonate with people looking to find work.

Avian came out of retirement to direct this production, which was revived with a two-year run on Broadway that began at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre in 2006. He compared the new cast members to athletes, saying 'they keep getting better."

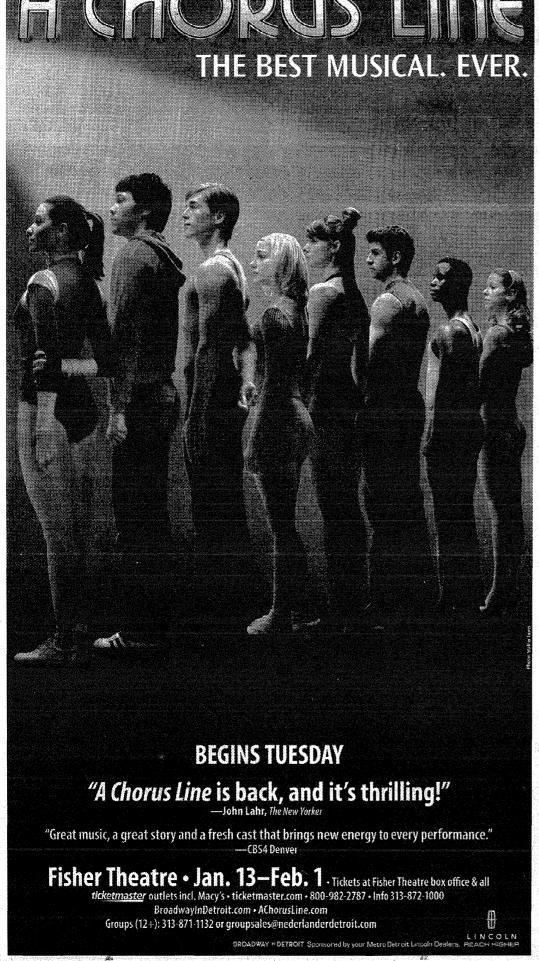
The show calls for a rather unadorned, simple set, but touring with it still means dealing with a complex system of lighting and mirrors.

"It's all about the talent," said Avian. "That's what the show is about.'

A Chorus Line follows 17 dancers at the audition of a lifetime. "It's all based on truth," said Avian. "All the stories are true and they're all taken from real dancers'

The show is meant for anyone who's had a dream and followed through to make it come true. Avian noted the show is suitable for children age 10 and older. It features music by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Edward Kleban. Baayork Lee has restaged the original choreography. Robin Wagner designed the scenery and Theoni V. Aldredge created costumes.

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### **Discover Port wine styles**

ypically, Port is a sweet, red, fortified wine made in the Douro Valley of northern Portugal. European laws require that it be labeled Port. For the U.S., Federal law mandates that

it be labeled
Porto or Vinho
do Porto.

There are two basic Porto styles: bottle aged and barrel aged. Vintage Porto, aged in the bottle, usually requires decanting before

Heald serving. Tawny
Porto is barrel
aged and ready
to drink when opened. Reserve
Porto is barrel aged for four
years, then bottled. It tastes like a
young Vintage Porto and is ready

to drink when opened.

Reserve Porto is a delicious dessert wine, especially enjoyable after dinner on its own or with a blue cheese like Stilton.

We recommend Graham's Six Grapes Reserve Porto, \$23, for its notes of ripe plums and cherries, great concentration and long finish. Dow's Trademark Finest Reserve Porto, \$20, shows strawberry fruit with subtle spice and a slightly dry finish. Smith Woodhouse Lodge Reserve Porto, \$20, boasts youthful

#### **WINE PICKS**

Tapena, at \$10 per bottle, is an innovative brand offering expressive fruit-forward, dry wines from SPANISH indigenous grapes -- best with tapas, small plates meant for sharing.
2007 Tapena Verdejo -- grilled salmon, lemon chicken and light cheeses, including chevre.
2007 Tapena Rose -- calamari frito, manchego cheese and panseared scallops.
2006 Tapena Garnacha -- lamb or beef satav.

2006 Tapena Garnacha -- lamb or beef satay. 2006 Tapena Tempranillo -grilled lamb skewers or garlic prawns,

blackberry fruit with a smooth, elegant finish that ends with a hint of mint. Burmester Jockey Club Reserva, \$32, is very drinkable with highlights of plums, dried cherries and cranberries.

#### **TAWNY AND CHOCOLATE**

Chocolate does not pair with red wine. The exception is Tawny Porto, which has lost its intense purple color while barrel aging a minimum of eight years and takes on a golden-amber hue and a silky, nutty character. Aged Tawny Porto has maturity levels, noted on the bottle, as 10, 20, 30

and even 40 years old.

All aged Tawny Portos are blends of older wines chosen for their complexity and younger wines selected for fruitiness.

Indicated age is the average of the blended wines used to achieve a desired belonge of flavore.

Indicated age is the average of the blended wines used to achieve a desired balance of flavors.

Colheita Tawny Porto is produced from a single harvest.

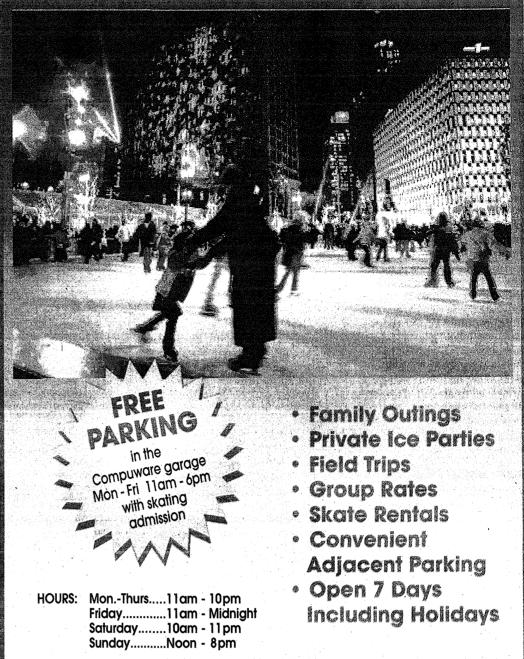
The following Tawny Portos

include suggested retail prices for a 750mL bottle. Purchase 375mL bottles and try more than one. It's also fun to try two from the same producer with different ages to notice style evolution with more barrel age.

Try: Dow's 10 Year Tawny, \$33; Graham's 10 Year Tawny, \$35; Smith Woodhouse 10 Year Tawny, \$31; Dow's 20 Year Tawny, \$56; Graham's 20 Year Tawny, \$57; and Smith Woodhouse 1994 Colheita, \$46.

Since Porto is fortified (18-20 percent alcohol), it will keep four to six weeks after being opened and older Aged Tawny may keep up to four months in the refrigerator. Bring it to cellar temperature before serving.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@ aol.com.







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shopping, trying to find just the right shoes to match the array of colorful ensembles his character wears throughout the two-hour

Costuming is key — from the showgirl-style of the drag chorus, called the Cagelles, to the elaborate coats worn by Zaza to a more traditional look for the conservative in-laws-to-be.

Michael Ameloot of Detroit took on the task of costuming for this show. He began researching the piece during the summer and sewing began as early as August even before auditions were held. He was able to borrow some elaborate opera robes from Stages St. Louis professional theater company, which lend a lavish look to the performers. Ameloot guessed there will be about 60 costumes in the show, including a Ziegfeldinfluenced finale full of feathers. He said the show lends itself to a certain level of glitz and opulence that audiences don't normally see on stage.

#### **FUNNY IN PINK**

Costuming reveals much about characters and in this rendition, Ameloot chose to draw subtle parallels between Jean-Michel and his father-in-law to-be Edouard Dindon, played by Gary Mach of Beverly Hills. "It ties him to his father-in-law as opposed to his parents."

Mach's attire isn't all triedand-true. His character will find his way into a pink polka-dotted "Shirley Temple dress," too.

"I was familiar with the movie," said Mach, "not really the play." He said the message is much more

personal in this format, and the music — hardly present in the 1996 film *The Birdcage* — makes for a "beautiful score."

Mach said: "I find myself humming it, and I really only sing one song. It's a great story."

Meyers said he spent time honing his vocal skills on songs like Mascara, with six complicated verses. "It keeps going and going," he said.

Bloomfield's Betsy Todd directs the show, working closely with choreographer Valerie Mould of Royal Oak and musical director Priscilla Benson of Beverly Hills. Todd promised a happy ending. "Its definitely more of a comedy," she said.

#### **ROYAL OAK GEM**

Todd is proud to be a member of Stagecrafters, working with the troupe since the 1980s. She is also proud of The Baldwin Theatre. "There is no other theater like this. It is a 'Little Fisher.'

La Cage aux Folles features a cast of 27. Todd said the dance scenes are sure to delight audi-

Meyers, who has performed with Stagecrafters since 1997, said the audience is "going to love the Can-Can. It's a wonderful number."

Overall, the show shares a message of love and family. And that remains a timely topic, according to Meyers. "The world is changing," he said. "I hope the audience sees the humor of the story and, especially with the passage of Prop. 8 (banning same-sex marriages) in California, I hope they see that love is not limited to a male and a female. There is all sorts of love in the world."

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#### **GET OUT**

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 Imini@

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

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. ngham 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.

Detroit Artist Market: 4719 Woodward, Detroit. **D&M Art Studio:** Bob Ross-style painting classes, 1-5 p.m. one Sunday per month; free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound students, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com Farmington City Gallery: Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, (248)

Farmington Community Library: 23500 Liberty, (248) 553.6261, www.suzannebauman.com.

First United Methodist Church: 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham. Gallery@VT: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Canton. (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater, www.wsg-art.com.

Galeria at Orchard Lake: Building 8, Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, (248) 683-0345. Habatat Galleries: 4400 Fernlee, Royal Oak, (248) 554-0590, www.habatat.com.

Janice Charach Gallery: Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (238)

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 Lunchtime on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusartsgallery.com. Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser

Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Beiner and

many others, 530 Hilton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www. nextstepstudio.com. Northville Art House: 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.north-

#### Oakland University Art Gallery: at 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland

University, Rochester, (248) 370-3005. Paint Creek Center for the Arts: 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org.

Paul Kotula Projects: 23255 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3020, www.paulkotula.com.

Pewabic Pottery: 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, (313) 822-0954, www.pewabic.org. Plymouth Community Arts Council: 774 N. Sheldon Road.

Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com The Print Gallery: 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, (248)

356-5454, www.everythingart.com. Progressive Art & Frame Design: 1511 North Main, Clawson, (248) 435-0944, www.progressiveart.net.

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, through Feb. 15, 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. Milwaukee St., Detroit. (313) 877-4377, www.tangentgallery.com The Community House: 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-

5832, www.communityhouse.com. Visual Arts Association of Livonia: Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic

#### Center Dr., (248) 348-4550. BOOKS/LITERATURE

Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council and Center: 2121 Midvale, Birmingham, (248) 203-5270.

Borders Ann Arbor: 612 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 668-7652. Borders Dearborn: 5601 Mercury Dr., Dearborn, (313) 271-4441. Borders Farmington Hills: 30995 Orchard Lake Road, (248)

Borders Novi: 43075 Crescent Blvd., (248) 347-0780 Barnes & Noble Royal Oak: 500 S. Main, Royal Oak Campus Martius: Saturday Book Club, Campus Martius, next to the Compuware Building, Detroit, http://www2.wsupress. wavne.edu/news.php/

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.detroitcham-

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.

BeckRidge Chorafe: 45700 Six Mile, Northville, www.beckridgechorale.org or call (734) 416-9885. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts: 350 Madison, Detroit. (313) 887-8500, www.musichall.org. Farmington Community Chorus: Seligman Performing Arts Center

of Detroit Country Day High School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, at

Lahser, in Beverly Hills, (248) 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; Pipedusters 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 x 136, ttrennev@comcast.net. Plymouth Oratorio Society: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth, (734) 455-8353. Monday the 12th. (And every Monday until April 27). Rehearsals for their 23rd season that includes Performing Beethoven's "Ninth Sym." with the PSO March 14. Pieces by Mozart, Pachelbel, Holst and Parry, performed on May 3. Scores can be purchased at the rehearsal. For more info., call (734) 455-8353. Rackham Choir: "An Affair To Remember," Feb. 14, Club Venetian, Madison Heights: "Dear Mrs. Parks" with the

#### 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,

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, March 6-8, Orchestra Hall,

original film, April 5, Ford Center for the Performing Arts,

Detroit; "The Armed Man: A Concert for Peace" with

Chamber Music at the Scarab Club: Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee Ave., Detroit, (248) 474-8930, www scarabclub.org/chambermusic Chamber Music Society of Detroit: Seligman Performing Arts

Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 855-6070, www.ComeHearCMSD.org. Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Max M. Fisher Music Center, box office at 3711 Woodward, www.detroitsymphony.com, (313)

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; Oundjian & 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

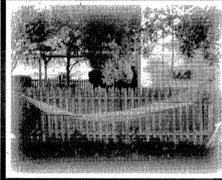
19; A John Williams Adventure, March 14-17, 3711 Woodward,

Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitsymphony.

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#### **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**FILTER** 

Opening Friday, Jan. 9: Bride Wars: Liv (Kate Hudson) and Emma (Anne Hathaway), best friends since childhood, are always there for each other, through good times and bad. Even their respective bridal engagements happen within hours. Together they plan their weddings, each to take place at New York's ultimate bridal destination, the Plaza Hotel. But a clerical error and subsequent clash in wedding dates pits the two brides against each other in a competition that quickly escalates into all-out war. Also starring Kristen Johnson, Bryan Greenberg, and Candice Bergen. Directed by Gary Winick for 20th Century Fox. This film is rated PG.

Not Easily Broken: This uplifting drama about love and family is adapted from the book of the same name by renowned pastor and author Bishop T. D. Jakes. It stars Morris Chestnut & Taraji P. Henson. This film is rated PG-13.

The Reader (Expands): In post-WWII Germany, teenager Michael Berg becomes ill and is helped home by Hanna, a stranger twice his age. Michael recovers from scarlet fever and seeks out Hanna to thank her. The two are quickly drawn into a passionate but secretive affair. Michael discovers that Hanna loves being read to and their physical relationship deepens. Hanna is enthralled as Michael reads to her from The Odyssey, Huck Finn, and The Lady with the Little Dog. Despite their intense bond, Hanna mysteriously disappears one day and Michael is left confused and heartbroken. Eight years later, while Michael is a law student observing the Nazi war crime trials, he is stunned to find Hanna back in his life - this time as a defendant in the courtroom.

As Hanna's past is revealed, Michael uncovers a deep secret that will impact both of their lives. The film stars Ralph Fiennes, David Kross and Kate Winslet, and is directed by Stephen Daldry. This film is rated R.

Revolutionary Road: Adapted from the revealing novel by Richard Yates, this is an incisive portrait of an American marriage seen through the eyes of Frank (Leonardo DiCaprio) and April (Kate Winslet) Wheeler. Yates' story of 1950's America poses a question that has been reverberating through modern relationships ever since: Can two people break away from the ordinary without breaking apart? Frank and April have always seen themselves as special, different, ready and willing to live their lives based on higher ideals. So, as soon as they move into their new house on Revolutionary Road, they proudly



After finding a place to hide their dog, Friday, Andi (Emma Roberts) and her brother Bruce (Jake T. Austin) wind up giving shelter to most of the strays in town in the DreamWorks Pictures comedy "Hotel for Dogs."

declare their independence from the suburban inertia that surrounds them and determine never to be trapped by the social confines of their era. Yet for all their charm, beauty and irreverence, the Wheelers find themselves becoming exactly what they didn't expect: A good man with a meaningless job whose nerve has gone missing; a less-than-happy homemaker starving for fulfillment and passion; an American family with lost dreams, like any other. Driven to change their fates, April hatches an audacious plan to start all over again, to leave the comforts of Connecticut behind for the great unknown of Paris. But when the plan is put in motion, each spouse is pushed to extremes — one to escape whatever the cost, the other to save all that they have, no matter the compromises. Directed by Sam Mendes from a screenplay by Justin Haythe, this movie is rated R.

The Unborn: Casey Beldon (Odette Yustman) hated her mother for leaving her as a child. But when inexplicable things start to happen, Casey begins to understand why she left. Plagued by merciless dreams and a tortured ghost that haunts her waking hours, she must turn to the only spiritual adviser, Sendak (Gary Oldman), who can make it stop. With Sendak's help, Casey uncovers the source of a family curse dating back

to Nazi Germany, a creature with the ability to inhabit anyone or anything that is getting stronger with each possession. With the curse unleashed, her only chance at survival is to shut a doorway from beyond our world that has been pried open by someone who was never born. Writer/director David Goyer gives a terrifying glimpse into the life of the undead in this supernatural thriller that follows a young woman pulled into a world of nightmares when a demonic spirit haunts her and threatens everyone she loves. This film is rated PG-13.

The Wrestler (Exclusively At The Birmingham 8): Back in the late '80s, Randy "The Ram" Robinson (Mickey Rourke) was a headlining professional wrestler. Now, 20 years later, he ekes out a living performing for handfuls of diehard wrestling fans in high school gyms and community centers around New Jersey. Estranged from his daughter (Evan Rachel Wood) and unable to sustain any real relationships, Randy lives for the thrill of the show and the adoration of his fans. However, a heart attack forces him into retirement. As his sense of identity starts to slip away, he begins to evaluate the state of his life — trying to reconnect with his daughter, and striking up a blossoming romance with an exotic dancer (Marisa Tomei) who is ready to start a new life. Yet all

this cannot compare to the allure of the ring and passion for his art, which threatens to pull Randy "The Ram" back into his world of wrestling. Director Darren Aronofsky presents a powerful portrait of a battered dreamer, who despite himself and the odds stacked against him, lives to be a hero once again in the only place he considers home, inside the ring. This film is rated R. Opening Friday, Jan. 16:

Chandi Chowk To China (at the AMC Livonia 20): The first ever Bollywood Kungfu comedy takes you on a madcap Journey from the bylanes of Chandni Chowk in Delhi, to Shanghai, the Great Wall and rural China, marrying in its wake hilarious gags, breathtaking action, spectacular locations, and heart stirring emotions. Directed by Nikhil Advani, stars Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukobe, Mithun Chkraborty, Ranvir Shorey and Gordon Liu.

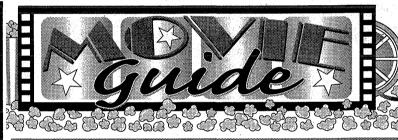
Defiance: Based on an extraordinary true story, this is an epic tale of family, honor, vengeance and salvation in World War II. The year is 1941 and the Jews of Eastern Europe are being massacred by the thousands. Managing to escape certain death, three brothers take refuge in the dense surrounding woods they have known since childhood. There they begin their desperate battle

against the Nazis. Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber and Jamie Bell star as brothers who turn a primitive struggle to survive into something far more consequential — a way to avenge the deaths of their loved ones by saving thousands of others. This is rated R.

Hotel For Dogs: Emma Roberts, Jake T. Austin, Lisa Kudrow, Kevin Dillon and Don Cheadle star in this smart, funny comedy adventure that shows how far love and imagination can take you. When their new guardians forbid 16-year old Andi (Roberts) and her younger brother, Bruce (Austin) to have a pet, Andi has to use her quick wit to help find a new home for their dog, Friday. The resourceful kids stumble upon an abandoned hotel and using Bruce's talents as a mechanical genius, transform it into a magical dog-paradise for Friday - and eventually for all Friday's friends. When barking dogs make the neighbors suspicious, Andi and Bruce use every invention they have to avoid anyone discovering "who let the dogs in." Based on the book by Lois Duncan and directed by Thor Freudenthal, this film is rated PG.

My Bloody Valentine 3D: Ten years ago, a tragedy changed the town of Harmony forever. Tom Hanniger, an inexperienced coal miner, caused an accident in the tunnels that trapped and killed five men and sent the only survivor, Harry Warden, into a permanent coma. But Harry Warden wanted revenge. Exactly one year later, on Valentine's Day, he woke up... and brutally murdered 22 people with a pickaxe before being killed. Ten years later, Tom Hanniger returns to Harmony on Valentine's Day, still haunted by the deaths he caused. Struggling to make amends with his past, he grapples with unresolved feelings for his ex-girlfriend, Sarah, who is now married to his best friend, Axel, the town sheriff. But tonight, after years of peace, something from Harmony's dark past has returned. Wearing a miner's mask and armed with a pickaxe, an unstoppable killer is on the loose. And as his footsteps come ever closer, Tom, Sarah and Axel realize in terror that it just might be Harry Warden who's come back to claim them... Presented in stunningly real, cutting edge 3-D projection, the film stars Jensen Ackles, Jaime King and Kerr Smith. A remake of the 1981 horror classic, it is directed by Patrick Lussier and produced by Jack Murray. This film is rated R.

Notorious: The life and death story of Notorious B.I.G. (a.k.a. Christopher Wallace), who came straight out of Brooklyn to take the world of rap music by storm. This film is rated R.



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## Clean and green

Nature is the new best seller when it comes to soaps, lotions and potions

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER STAFF WRITER

of you're seeking to use lotions, potions and soaps this year that are safer for the environment—and you—there's an increasing number of products to choose from

Just keep in mind that when a product says organic or natural, it doesn't always mean the same thing.

"There's definitely a spectrum of natural and organic products," said Bridget Peters, assistant manager and cosmetic buyer at Troy's independently owned Good Food Co.

Andrea Brassert of Troy, who founded her online luxury soap company, Lavandrea, in 2007, would agree. "Organics is a loosely defined term," she said, and there are few governmental regulations.

A company committed to being organic often has products, packaging and practices that reflect its product.

They include Lush, a fastgrowing fresh handmade soap and cosmetics company founded in England.

"Lush has been passionate about the environment since it was founded 13 years ago," said Jennifer Graybeal, representative for Lush. She termed it "greenwashing" when a company labels itself organic without being so.

Lush has locations in The Somerset Collection, Troy, as well as Macy's in Novi and Sterling Heights.



#### **CLOSE TO NATURE**

Simply stated, high-quality organic skin care products are made with organic, or natural, ingredients, they say.

They differ from most commercial soaps and beauty products in that they're made without harsh chemicals, dyes, fragrances and detergents. Those can irritate the skin and are not healthy for the environment.

Peters suggests that "a good place to start" when buying organic products is to buy those with recognizable ingredients.

"If you can tell where things come from," that's a good thing, she said.

"Read the labels," Brassert said. "Any reputable company will list them."

Brassert had allergic reactions to dyes and fragrances in commercial soap. She uses

homegrown herbs and pure, essential oils distilled from organic, freshly harvested herbs. She grows the lavender for her products in the back

over moisturizer made with Community Trade ingredients.

#### A GOOD VALUE

yard of her home.

The purer the product, the higher the price can be. Reasons include that it may be made in small batches to ensure quality and freshness.

Peters tries to bridge the gap at Good Food Co. "We have soaps by Pure Life Soap Co. They are reasonably priced," she said of the organic soaps, which are petroleum-, paraben- and alcohol-free.

Brassert said with organics flooding the marketplace, resulting organics can be "insipid," losing their original appeal of revitalizing and restoring the body as a whole.

She said her premier collection of goat's milk soap, body butter, body dust and bath bombs will allow people to really enjoy "the benefits of aromatherapy and the therapeutic benefits of essential oils." (available at www.lavan-

drea.com.)

That makes her soaps a bargain, she said, with the most expensive priced at \$12.

The English

Countryside Lush bath bomb is vegan and petal-packed, with geranium, precious orris( made from iris

roots) and sandalwood.

At Lush, Graybeal said the handmade, vegetarian ingredient soaps are "a great value." The price depends on the kind bought and how big a piece is sliced from a main bar.

In contrast to mass market soap with a 70-percent soap content, Lush has a 30- to 35percent soap content, she said — healthier for skin and the environment.

They contain "the finest essential oils we can get," as well as fresh fruits, vegetables and other natural products.

Bath bombs are the most popular item at Lush. The vegan, petal-packed English Countryside bath bomb is \$5.95.

#### **HELPING OTHERS**

Buying organic can also mean that the business contributes to "ethical" business practices.

Founded in England, The Body Shop, a worldwide natural beauty products shop, was a pioneer in such practices in trade suppliers and helps thousands earn a sustainable income. Its vegetable-based products include Body Butter,

Andrea Brassert wants people to

and the therapeutic benefits of

essential oils through her high

quality line of handmade, organic bath products, Lavandrea.

the beauty industry. It works

globally with community

enjoy the benefits of aromatherapy

ucts include Body Butter, Peppermint Foot Lotion and Hemp; area stores are in major malls in Troy, Sterling Heights, Novi and Auburn Hills.

The Lush founder, previously associated with The Body Shop, has similar beliefs. Proceeds of Lush's Charity Pot of skin-softening hand and body cream go into a fund to support animal rights, environmental protection and humanitarian concerns.

Typically, organics also don't test products on animals and use recycled products and minimal packaging.

#### ORIGINAL APPEAL

The appeal of organics is catching on. Graybeal says Lush is rapidly growing.

More than 30 stores opened in the U.S. in the past few months.

Brassert said in the last two

years, people have become "more receptive" when she talks about organics. "People understand more

"People understand more about organic products. I think people are definitely seeking it. If we don't start thinking and living in those terms, the planet will be in trouble and so will we."

ssteinmueller@hometownlife.com

