

Plumbing success not just pipe dream

Strictly Business, B6

Chiefs edged in crosstown rivalry - Sports, B1



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Addicted to helping

Former addict turns life around with program to aid others

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

When Scott Harris was in high school and on into college, he was always the cool friend or the awesome relative who gave great gifts on holidays or birthdays.

Being able to give clothes, CDs, video games and other presents not only made Harris popular with the recipients, but it also helped feed the one need he'd felt all his life: to feel worthy.

The problem with Harris' largesse, however, is that he wasn't really doing much to earn those gifts he gave away.

He was stealing them.

He didn't necessarily want to; he simply couldn't help himself. Harris was addicted to shoplift-

"It started with wanting things other kids had that I couldn't afford," said Harris, now 37. "For me, it struck a chord on my focus in life. For other people, it's drinking or drugs. For me, having those things made me feel I was an equal ground with those people I felt inferior to.'

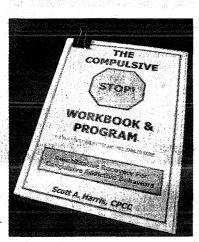
He started as a young teenager, boosting stuff from places like Meijer and other stores. By the time he got into college, Harris knew he had a problem, but he couldn't do anything to stop it. He could stop for a while, sometimes for months at a time, usually when he was feeling a little bit better about himself.

But eventually, he needed something or his insecurities were retriggered.

There were times he got caught, and he'd do the time, because he'd done the crime. The legal system always took care of him. Unfortunately, the bigger question was never being addressed,

COMPULSIVE STOP!

- **Who:** Scott Harris of Plymouth What: Compulsive Stop! and
- Compulsive No More!
- About: Sécular and Christianbased programs designed to help those with addictive, destructive behaviors
- Find out more: Information about Harris' programs can be found at www.compulsivenomorestop.com
- Contact: Harris can be reached via e-mail at scott@compulsivenomorestop.com or by calling (248) 767-2482

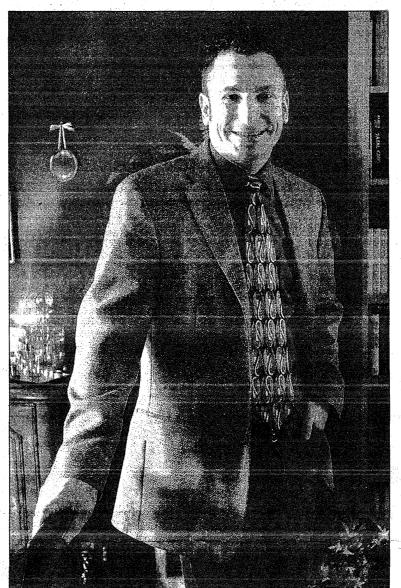


Scott Harris's Compulsive Stop workbook and program is a secular version of his Christian-based support program.

much less answered.

"People would always ask me why I did it," Harris recalled. "Nobody ever stopped and said, 'Wait a minute, there's a (bigger) problem here."

Harris moved into a "normal" life, snagging a job in 1996 as a teacher in the South Lyon school district, where he also coached



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scott Harris has turned his life around and developed programs to help people with addictive, destructive behaviors.

track and football. "Normal," such as it was, lasted about seven vears. His marriage began having trouble, he was still shoplifting and it was all about to come

crashing down. It happened in 2003. Harris was arrested for DUI and cocaine possession, did 90 days with an Oakland County work-release program, but lost his job in South Lyon because of the conviction.

"By summer 2003, I had grown to hate my life so much, I had stopped caring about much, and my decision-making got worse," Harris said.

A few months later, shopping at Meijer for his son's first birthday party, Harris loaded his cart

Please see ADDICT, A5

Signs of the times light up businesses

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA

Justin Draplin plans to build on the sense of community that already exists in Plymouth. And he'll do so digitally.

As founder of City Drip Digital Signage, the Plymouth native is kicking off his business in the town he knows best. Draplin plans to install a growing network of LCD screens within local businesses.

The screens, ranging in size from 19 to 50 inches, will display everything from traffic and weather to local news and information for area patrons to use.

"The original concept was to put these in businesses and promote what's going on in Plymouth," Draplin said.

More than six months ago, Draplin met with Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Wes Graff and the idea took off. As early as late February, visitors to the chamber office in downtown Plymouth, as well as patrons of Leo's Coney Island on Ann Arbor Trail, may notice panel screens showing information about community events and businesses.

"We're going to have one in the side window," Graff said. The screen will take the place of a computer monitor visitors might have noticed during the holidays. "It let people know when Santa was in the park and that gift certificates were available," Graff said.

The City Drip signs will go further, with video technology and graphics. "It's a good way to promote not just businesses, but activities and events," Graff said.

The technology will be of no cost to the Chamber, other than the electricity it takes to run it — which is well worth the investment, according to Graff.

"Long term, we'd like to put up as many as we can," Draplin said. "The location has to make sense."

Leo's Coney Island marked a good spot because it brings in about 15,000 customers a month. And they spend some time in the restaurant. "We want to be in front of as many people as we can," Draplin said.

The information is provided and funded by local businesses looking to add value and reach out to the community. Though it works like paid advertising in a network of digital displays, Draplin envisions this sort of signage will be customizable and useful. He said he imagined local doctors offering health tips or sports organizations and movie theaters listing event times. And, he said, it's purely local.

Though Draplin is launching this project in Plymouth, he has hopes for expansion in other cities. Moving away from DVDs and using the Internet to update and change the display information allows the messages to be adjusted in real time. Draplin said businesses can target the morning breakfast crowd of business people at one time of day and a younger clientele at Leo's at night, for example.

To learn more or advertise, visit citydrip.com or send e-mail to justin@citydrip.com.



City Drip Digital Signage owner Justin Draplin with one of the digital signs he hopes to put up in a variety of Plymouth businesses.

Million-dollar gown meant to raise autism awareness



Former Plymouth resident Val McFarland, who still has family in the area, will wear a gown studded with \$1.75 million in diamonds to the auto show charity preview to heighten awareness of autism.

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

When it comes to dressing for the North American International Auto Show Charity Preview, attendee Val McFarland is sure to look like more than a million bucks.

The former Plymouth resident and current Commerce Township married mother of two will be sporting a gown coated in \$1.75 million worth of diamonds, representing the 1.75 million people whose lives are impacted by autism. McFarland's 4-year-old son, Callahan, was

diagnosed with autism and currently undergoes about 40 hours a week of therapy. "We are personally spending \$100,000 on our

son's therapy," she said, pointing out insurance doesn't cover such needs in Michigan. "The fact is that we are seeing amazing results.

That was incentive enough for McFarland to found Celebrities Against Autism one year ago. "Our number one objective is to create more public awareness," she said. "The funds we generate help families."

Autism is a complex neurological disorder that impacts development in social and communication skills. McFarland believes strongly that "intensive early intervention" is the best means for those with autism to recover.

To spread that message, she chose to make a serious fashion statement at "the largest blacktie event in the world," the Charity Preview. "It was one of those ideas I had in the middle of the night," she said. Her longtime friend Kimberly Petros is a Southfield-based jewelry designer and helped make it all possible.

"It's kind of amazing," McFarland said of wearing the gown. "I feel like a movie star. I feel like a rock star, literally, with all these rocks."

Though Celebrities Against Autism is not a direct beneficiary of this year's Charity Preview event, it will be strongly represented, beginning with McFarland's gown, designed by Dearborn fashion designer Zaynini.

"Our hope is to drive people to our Web site," McFarland said. The site, www.celebritiesagainstautism.org, is currently selling puzzle pieces for \$1 each, which will contribute to the World's Largest Puzzle, to support families affected by autism. Patrons may also be on the lookout for therapy dogs provided by Golden Ticket Puppies. The puppies made a splash last year and will return to the event this year. McFarland has partnered with celebrities Jenny McCarthy and Jim Carrey, whose Generation Rescue Organization also works to fight autism and support research and treatment for families.

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Number 43

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.*



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Lawyers meet before murder case goes to trial

Attorneys involved in the case of a 28-year-old Plymouth Township woman accused of killing her newborn baby are scheduled to meet Friday for a final conference before the case goes to trial.

Emily Portellos faces felony murder, first-degree murder, second-degree murder and first-degree child abuse charges. She could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted of the murder charges.

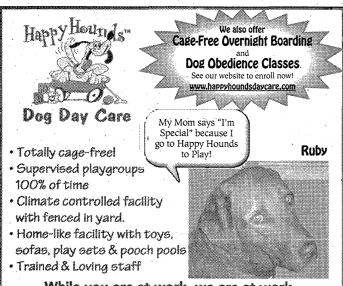
Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, January 15, 2009

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road Canton, MI 48188

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NEWS BRIEFS

Police said staffers at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia notified authorities around 8 p.m. Oct. 15 they had treated a woman who had apparently given birth and was hemorrhaging. Portellos eventually told investigators where to find the baby.

The infant, a girl, was found wrapped in towels in a plastic bag in the woman's bedroom, police said.

Lawyers are scheduled to pick a jury Feb. 26, and the trial is scheduled to start March 9. Portellos, denied bond, is in Wayne County Jail until then.

Graduate instructor

Wayne County Environment Director Kurt L. Heise of Plymouth Township will be a graduate-level instructor in the University of Michigan-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jury selection in the murder trial of Emily Portellos, 28, of Plymouth Township is scheduled for Feb. 26.

Dearborn's Masters of Public Policy program starting this month.

Heise, an 18-year attorney and University of Michigan graduate, will be teaching an evening seminar course in environmental policy and politics of Southeast Michigan.

The course will provide insight on a variety of local

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton,

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address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening.

The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all

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environmental topics for students interested in public service careers, on issues from water quality and infrastructure funding, to recycling

Heise

policy and environmental jus-

"Kurt's addition to the teaching staff underscores U-M-Dearborn's metropolitan vision and our commitment to providing leadership on our urban environment, said Professor Trevor Thrall, Director of the school's Public Policy Program. "He brings a hands-on, real-time perspective on government and environmental policy that will enhance the learning experience for our students.

For information, call Heise at (313) 224-3631.

Exhibit and classes

Award-winning author and photographer Cheryl A. Vatcher-Martin's Solo Art Exhibit, "Expressions," runs through the end of January at the Flat Rock Public Library. Her fine art photography has been a popular exhibit at the library this month.



"I've enjoyed placing my work at the library," said Martin, a Canton resident. "My pictures are a collection of some of my favorites. Two of my favorite pieces are 'Crimboli's Pond' and 'Canton's Cows,' both are local photographs."

In addition to that her fine art photograph of "Charlestown's Rhode Island's One Room School House" is there, which is the cover of her third book, "Haiku For You -With Some One Room School House History," which will be released shortly.

Martin is also happy to have three of her pieces showcased in the Northville Art House through Jan. 25. The art house has plenty of hours for individuals to go see the artwork on display right now.

With the beginning of the new year brings many new classes that Martin teaches. The classes she is offering at the end of January and beginning of February include Creative Writing, Writing Haiku & Poetry, and French. Contact Wayne-Westland Community Schools for registration for these classes and her other courses at (734) 419-

She's also the owner of Pero Inc., a full service writing, editing, consulting, photographic and publishing company. In addition she tutors in many languages and a variety of subject matters inclusive of reading comprehension and writing. She has a Master's Degree through the University of Michigan, through the Rackham School of Education.

Those looking for one-onone instruction or need writing or consulting services, e-mail Martin at peroinc5@ comcast.net or call (734) 397-

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY SAVINGS!

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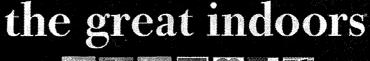
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cheryl Vatcher-Martin.

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

Send correspondence to P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909, or call Constituent Services at (517) 335-7858. The fax number is (517) 335-6863.

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-

Canton Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48909; by phone at (517) 373-7350; toll-free at (866) 262-7307; or by e-mail at senbpatterson@sen-

ate.michigan.gov. State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-

Northville Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514; by phone at (517) 373-3816; or by e-mail at

MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov. Plymouth Mayor Phil Pursell Call him through City Hall at (734)

453-1234 or send an e-mail via the city Web site at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

Plymouth Township Supervisor **Richard Reaume**

Send correspondence to him at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth, MI 48170. Call his office at (734) 354-3200. E-mails can be sent via the township's Web site at www.plymouthtwp.org.

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin His Washington, D.C. mailing address

is 269 Russell Office Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-2202. Call him at (202) 224-6221. The fax number is (202) 224-1388. He also has offices in Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Room 1860, in Detroit. The local phone number is (313) 226-6020, TTY (800) 851-0030 and fax at (313) 226-6948. He also has a Web site - levin.senate.

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow In Washington, D.C., the address

is 133 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Call her there at (202) 224-4822, TTY (202) 224-2066, or e-mail her at senator@ stabenow.senate.gov. In Detroit, her office is at 243 W. Congress, Suite 550. Call (313) 961-4330. She also has a Web site - stabenow.senate.gov.

Library storytimes add new chapter

BY JULIE BROWN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Carol Champagne knows local families like to get out in the winter. The storytimes at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, offer just that opportunity.

We have nighttime ones that are for the whole families," said Champagne, head of youth services for the Plymouth library. "A lot of daddies come.'

Storytimes are divided by age, with younger children attending with a caregiver. The preschoolers attend on their own, with a caregiver elsewhere in the library.

The library offers four-week sessions every other month. Summer drop-in sessions draw big crowds, but winter attendance isn't quite as strong.

"By March, it'll be crazy again," she said. "Everybody wants to get out of the house."

Storytimes are divided by age, with younger children attending with a caregiver. The preschoolers attend on their own, with a caregiver elsewhere in the library.

Sessions vary, featuring finger plays, and rhymes done with fingers.

"Something different each week," said Champagne, listing musical instruments, movies, crafts and puppets. There's a small parachute used to play games. "We bounce it up and down and play games with it," she said. "Each week we do something different just to keep it nice and fresh."

Most other libraries also offer children's storytimes, she said, and you don't have to be

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a Plymouth city or township resident to attend Plymouth's. The Plymouth District

Library offers the following: ■ Lap Sit Storytime for children 6 to 24 months — Lap sit storytime is a 15-minute songand-rhyme time for babies on their caregiver laps. Storytime will be held Saturday, Jan. 17, at 10 a.m. Registration is under way. There's a limit of 16 children per session. A waiting list is available. The session is for a registered caregiver and baby only.

■ Preschool/Family Evening storytime for children 2 to 5 years old — These programs allow siblings and other family members to attend as long as one member is between the ages of 2 and 5. Storytimes start at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, through Jan. 27, and Wednesdays, through Jan. 28. Registration is under way.

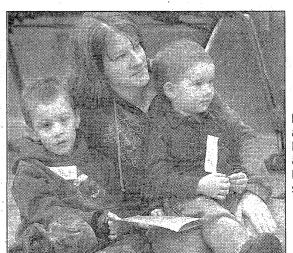
■ Toddler/Parent storytime for children 2 to 31/2 years old — Two programs will be offered. The 10 a.m. program is for one adult with each toddler. Exceptions are made for twins, otherwise you should

make other arrangements for siblings. The 11 a.m. program allows other family members to attend as long as one member is between the ages of 2 and 3½. These programs run on Tuesdays, through Jan. 27. Registration is under way.

■ Preschool storytime for children 3½ to 5 years old — Two storytimes will be

offered; one at 10 a.m. and the other at 1 p.m. These programs run on Wednesdays, through Jan. 28. Children must be prepared to attend without an adult; caretakers must remain in the library. Registration is under way.

Call (734) 453-0750, Ext. 5, to register.



Lisa Carey and sons Elliott, 5, and Wyatt, 2, listen to the stories.

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Youth librarian Dana Bussard leads the toddler storytime.

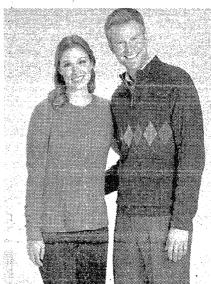
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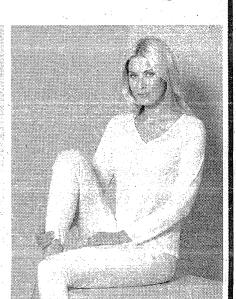
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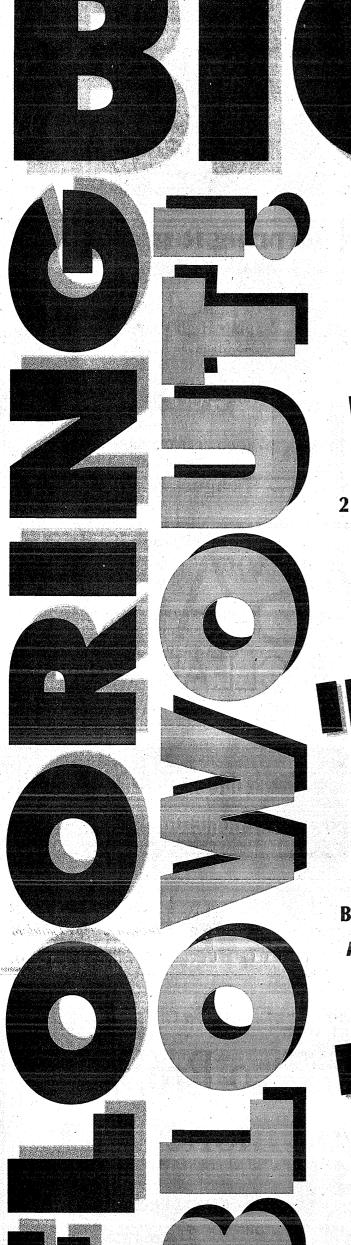
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as high as he could and, even though he knew security was watching him, he pushed the cart right out the door

"I gave up my whole life by walking out those doors," Harris said. "I knew they were watching me. I didn't care. I couldn't cope with my life any-

The cocaine arrest and job loss had already stunned Harris' family, and when he turned himself in following the last shoplifting episode, Harris' mom, Plymouth Township resident Barbara Harris, said her emotions ran the gamut.

"I was devastated," Barb Harris said. "I was sad, horrified, angry at him. 'How could you do this to us, to yourself?' At the same time, I thought, 'This is my fault, I failed him.' I beat myself up for a long time."

Scott did 13 months in a workrelease program, with his mother by his side nearly every day. The conditions of that program made it nearly impossible for him to go into stores where temptation might lie in wait. Finally, he got into a support group he credits with helping him start to

straighten himself out. "I was able to stop," he said. "If I had continued, not only would it have destroyed my family and friends, I felt a responsibility to God.'

He attended a retreat with NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township, where a. pastor noted Harris' connection to God.

"He asked me, You've been taking God into your life, but have you given your life to him? What are you doing?'

Now Harris, who lives in Plymouth, is doing something to help others in the same boat. He developed a Christianbased support system and workbook, "Compulsive No More!" designed to help people with rehabilitative recovery for compulsive addictions and destructive behaviors.

The program drew rave reviews and Harris was approached to develop a secular version. He did, and now he and his mother are shopping it around to local district courts as a potential tool. According to Barb Harris, judges at both the 48th and 36th District Courts are interested.

It all leaves Harris, now a certified life coach, in an "interesting place," struggling financially "because I'm not working a regular job," but believing he can finally have a life worth living.

"I believe in what I'm doing, I believe it's going to happen for me," Harris said. "I like myself now. It's a daily challenge, a daily goal of mine to be a better person every day. I like myself now."

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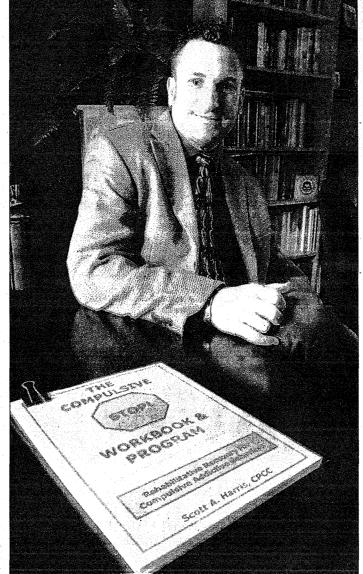
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scott Harris is trying to convince local district courts his program could work for them.

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Spring Registration Walk-in Registration

Jan. 24, 2009 12-5pm • High Velocity Sports 46245 Michigan Avenue, Canton

Feb. 14, 2009 11am-4pm • Plaza Lanes 42001 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Registration also available online at: www.ply-canll.com

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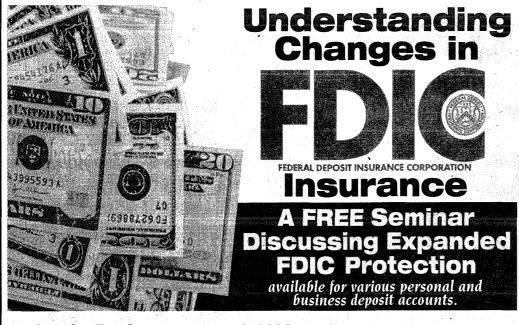
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Thursday Afternoon, January 22nd, 2009 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

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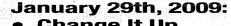


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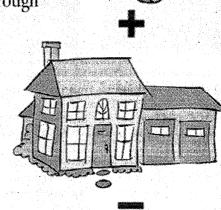


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OUR VIEWS

MacDonald served with pride, grace

The Plymouth-Canton area is made up of an endless number of people whose caring attitude and involvement make up the "hometown" feeling upon which we pride ourselves.

John MacDonald is certainly one of those.

MacDonald, forced to retire at the age of 72 from the 35th District Court bench, ended nearly a quarter-century of judicial excellence dispensed from high upon his seat atop the court.

He's replaced by Jim Plakas, the Northville attorney who beat Plymouth's own Joe Barone in the November general election. Plakas has large robes to fill.

MacDonald presided over a court that was generally well-run, fiscally responsible, never operated in the red and added programs and processes that ensured the smooth dis-

pensing of justice in his courthouse.

It wasn't all moonlight and roses during MacDonald's tenure. His relationship with fellow longtime Judge Ron Lowe deteriorated to the point where MacDonald openly campaigned against Lowe the last time Lowe had to seek re-election. You could argue — and some observers to whom we spoke agreed — such politicking was out of bounds for a sitting judge.

The animosity between the two is legend in the realm of off-the-record conversations, and that probably hurt the administration of the court.

But it never entered MacDonald's courtroom, where the veteran jurist ruled with charm, good humor and grace. He took the time to explain what was happening to those who came before him, listened to their stories and seemed genuinely caring about the people who found themselves in trouble.

He was active in the community, ranging from his annual benediction at the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce auction to his judging of the old *Observer* pieeating contest during the fall festival.

It's a level of involvement Plakas would do well to emulate. The strike against Plakas has been that his involvement in the community didn't start until he wanted the job. You decide whether that bothers you; community involvement has to start somewhere; just because you just began doing it doesn't make it less genuine.

In the hallways, Plakas, the candidate MacDonald supported against Lowe a few years ago, must have a better working relationship with Lowe and fellow Judge Mike Gerou than MacDonald had at the end. But in the courtroom, Plakas will do well to simply match MacDonald's service.

King would be proud of Obama's election

On Tuesday, Barack Hussein Obama will be sworn in as the 44th president of the United States. That historic event will follow the day we set aside to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr., the martyred civil rights leader who helped set in motion the profound changes that made it possible for Obama to reach the nation's highest political office.

It has been a long, violent and often bitter struggle for African Americans to assert their place in America, moving from slavery to Jim Crow laws in the South to widespread de facto discrimination in the North. It's a story of hardship that still afflicts the black community, where grinding poverty, limited opportunity and crime still separate many African Americans from the white majority.

But each year, this nation moves closer to King's dream. In large ways and small, black Americans have taken their place as national, state and local leaders, prominent professionals and artists and prospering members of a growing black middle class.

In 1963, King set the mark — not just for black Americans, but for the United States as a whole. He challenged this great country to make real its vaunted claims of liberty and justice for all, to open the doors of opportunity, to break down the walls of racial separation and create a dialogue on what the promise of America really means.

means.

George W. Bush, a Republican, appointed many cabinet members from minority communities, most notably his two secretaries of state, Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice. Now Obama, a Democrat, assumes the position of the nation's leader at a time of great economic, political and military strife.

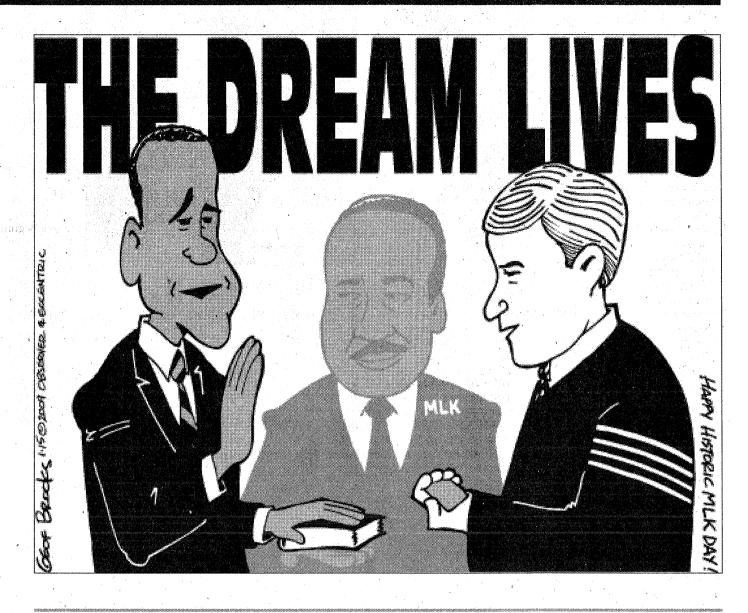
The nation looks toward this man of mixed racial heritage with overwhelming expectations. Martin Luther King Jr. would have been proud that the United States would choose to place its faith in this man at this time. It is a piece of the dream fulfilled.



Brad Kadrich Community Editor Susan Rosiek Executive Editor Jeannie Parent Senior Director of Sales & Marketing

Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor

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

Board misses point

The school board is missing the point, as did the American car companies. The budget needs to start with the top, which is all the employees and their benefits.

There is NO doubt that the budget should include drastic cuts in administration salaries, and benefits. All teacher salaries and benefits should be reduced immediately. By reducing the legacy cost (pensions) that alone would create millions of additional revenue dollars in the budget.

With the addition of these cuts, we would not have to reduce any services to the students. We need to start thinking of the students, not keep raising teachers' salaries and benefits. Everyone and every company is cutting salaries and benefits, why are the administrators and teachers excluded from cuts? The Plymouth-Canton Schools employees need to start contributing more of their own dollars to cover health care and pension cost.

Let's stop just trimming the fat, and counting on state funds. Judy Mardigian has been protecting the teachers and administrators long enough. All Judy Mardigian cares about is

getting new money. As stated in your article today, "One of the difficult things in not getting new money is where are we going to be with union negotiations and salary."

I would love to read in the *Plymouth Observer*, Plymouth-Canton Schools have reduced their budget by cutting salaries and reducing employee benefits. I have NEVER read where salaries and benefit cuts were even considered.

It's time the Plymouth-Canton Schools made the right cuts, and started spending less.

Keith Martin
Plymouth

No heed taken

Evidently, City Manager Paul Sincock did not take heed to the letter my husband sent on Dec. 12 suggesting "free" parking in Plymouth during the holidays to encourage people to shop in Plymouth.

After reading the letter to the editor from Mr. Vraniak stating he spent \$200 in Plymouth and then got a \$15 parking ticket (and that he plans to take his business elsewhere) which he was denied any leniency.

When are you all going to get it that people will NOT shop in Plymouth just because it is Plymouth ... those days are over. You MUST make it appealing for people to come to downtown Plymouth and handing out parking tickets is NOT the friendly or smart way to do it.

Have you noticed the lack of foot traffic in Plymouth?

Mary Lockwood

Ducking responsibility

Among those assembled at our president's inauguration will be the drag along special interests, the manipulating environmentalists, the UAW, WOW, and gay lobby each committed to defined objectives, followed tightly in line by the drunk politicians from American cities and states who have guided spending well beyond resources.

Jumping into the mix seeking attention are Hollywood hot dogs, trial lawyers, and the mainstream media too, all expecting to collect. Facing the barbarians at the gate, our new president may be run ragged by the often unhappiest Americans. While unanticipated, in control of the bully pulpit, it would be simply masterful if the president turned the tables and push serious detoxification of groupie expectations.

I do not envy our next President Obama and wish him well at receiving President Bush's weak punt in the auto industry bailout. More concerned about saving jobs, the president saved the UAW. What awaits is the unions "card check" initiative. In view of the economic and political decay with a "highly unionized' and the unstable European populations, aggressive liberals may be given pause.

Are these conditions best reflected by segment of a significant European military program recently declared "unfit." A little messy!

The government might produce winners with a "payoff program" like a 'thumb on the scale trick" to prop up sales of union-produced vehicles? The better idea is to get commerce working by igniting industries that bring a perennial compounding effect of action. Manufacturing! Eliminating corporate taxes and the capital gains works in the lubrication of business and commerce. Throwing cash at infrastructure projects simply bails out poor governance found in abundance in patronizing blue states. Cash that might be better directed to protect a Federal Pension Benefit Guarantee Program. As with FDR problems may be punted as long as angst is politically useful. Still curious how AIG had such speedy and enormous support making us wonder if it has to do with underwriting governmental benefit programs.

Congress spends. Can even a strong president hold back more schemes authored or promoted by a Congress heaping heavier debt upon Americas young? Our national debt must be eventually covered by empty dollars or heavy taxes on Americans' food and fuel. The U.S. Congress is responsible for this raw deal swindle and surge of debt facing this nation. In their largess will their chosen affected by Madoof's scheme be bailed out as well?

George W., however, provides a

convenient excuse for any pre-exist-

ing or forthcoming problem. Costly government is a political industry bent upon spending. The tenured education mugging particularly, shows unbridled growth and its population held unusually safe and harmless by the wavering economic fortunes. Especially in recent promotion of vaporous science beliefs for financial support. In difficult times, citizens fully locked up in struggles of the private sector could become unhappy with nesting sanctuaries. Hard to unravel the tightly entrenched and politically couched even if functionally phony and unsupportable. In politics bluster is common actual leaders are rare. Too many of the elected tax easily, duck responsibility, and never, ever accept failures

> Jim Nowka Northville

Open the books

as their own.

No way should Chrysler expenses stay secret since it has been given public funds to survive this downturn in the automotive industry.

The process of loaning Chrysler taxpayer money was a huge misstep in policy making. The arrogance of their CEO to dictate to the public that their expenses stay secret after the fact that \$4 billion in public funds has allowed them to continue their mismanagement is absurd.

Cerberus is a private company, and that rubs me and a million others in this country as plain old cronyism in Congress that they would loan this company any funds at all. We have thousands, and the number is growing across this country, in food and unemployment lines that could use that \$4 billion to help their life struggles.

I expect full disclosure of the books, and the original books, not cooked books that so commonly are used in business practices today. This is just plain good business practice.

Ron Austin Franklin

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

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QUOTABLE

"We're trying to look at every line item to determine what's really in the budget and determine if there are any chances for reductions. The board has done this so long there's just not much to cut without affecting programs and services to students. We try to stay away from those as much as possible, but you can only do that for so long without funding."

- Plymouth-Canton Schools Supt. Craig Fiegel, discussing the district's financial predicament, which has been exacerbated by the fact that state funding has not kept up with the rate of inflation

"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

Kiwanis euchre party

The Plymouth Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club is sponsoring a euchre party to fight off the winter doldrums Saturday, Jan. 24, at the VFW Post 7575 at 33011 Ford Road in Garden

All proceeds of the event will support community wide service programs such as their dictionary project that provides a personal dictionary to all third graders in Plymouth Canton Community Schools.

The entry fee is only \$10 with signin at 7 p.m. and games beginning at 7:30 p.m. There will be lots of prizes and a cash bar with refreshments available for purchase. Call Debby at 734-282-2340 or e-mail at dtorzy@hotmail.com to register or to get more information. Walk-ins are also welcome.

ACT workshops

The Plymouth District Library will host two workshops for high school students preparing for the ACT test.

Test Strategies for the ACT will be held Thursday, Jan. 15, from 7-8:30 p.m. Writing workshop for the ACT Essay will be held the following

Thursday, Jan. 22, from 7-8:30 p.m. Register for these free programs by calling the Library at 734-453-0750,

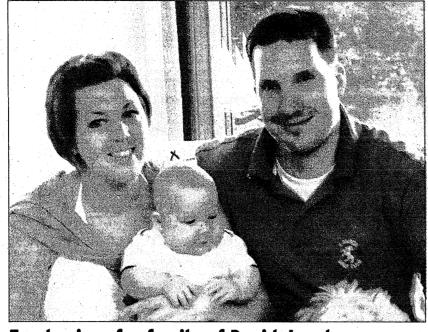
Senior party fund-raisers

The PCEP Senior Party Committee is inviting diners to dine out for "a wonderful cause," supporting the senior party by dining out at one (or more) of the area restaurants which have agreed to donate 20 percent of the purchases made during a specific time and date.

Fund-raisers take place at the following restaurants on the following dates: Thursday, Feb. 12 at Caravel; Max & Erma's, Tuesday, March 10, all day, a flyer is needed, which can be downloaded from our web site. They will donate 20 percent of their profits to the senior party; Monday, April 6 at Palermo's; and Thursday, May 7, also at Palermo's. All restaurants are on Ford Road in Canton.

Detail information and a flyer is available at http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof/2009/senior-party09.htm (this flyer must be presented at time of purchase for us to receive 20% credit of your purchase)

Visit the committee's blog at http://pcep09seniorparty.blogspot.com/



Fund-raiser for family of David Jacobs

The family and friends of David Jacobs, who passed away because of cancer on Dec. 20, are hosting a spaghetti dinner benefit for his wife, Megan, and their 8-month-old son, Joshua, on Jan. 18 from noon to 5 p.m., at Summit on the Park in Canton. David and Megan (Sielaff), who were high school sweethearts, both graduated from Salem High School in 1998 and married in March of 2004. It was a typical love story until cancer took David's life leaving his wife and son to continue on without him. Ironically, David's mother, Jan Jacobs, chaired Canton's Relay for Life for a number of years — an event that raises funds for cancer research. David had no life insurance to help pay the many medical bills associated with his illness. The cost of the fund-raiser is \$5. For more information, contact Cathy Hulett at (313) 715-2535. If you are unable to attend the fund-raiser, donations can be sent to: Community Financial Credit Union, PO Box 8050, Plymouth, Michigan 48170-9864, Att: Connie Poremba for Jacobs Family Fund.

or its Web page at http://web.pccs. k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof/2009/ senior-party09.htm

To volunteer or for questions, contact pcep-senior-party@comcast.net

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.

Chorale auditions

The BeckRidge Chorale 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

Grief to New Hope

Ward Presbyterian Church is sponsoring an eight week grief workshop, From Grief to New Hope, beginning Feb. 9. This free workshop is open to the community and will be presented by Plymouth's Cathy Clough, Director of New Hope Center for Grief Support. Each session will begin with a presentation about one aspect of grief followed by small group participation led by trained facilitators. Attendees will be placed in groups with others who have had similar losses. The workshop will meet for eight consecutive Monday nights from 7-8:45 p.m. at Ward Church located on 6 Mile & Haggerty Roads in Northville. For registration information call Barb at Ward Presbyterian Church at 248-374-5943. For information about other age and loss specific grief support groups offered by New Hope Center for Grief Support call 248-348-0115.

Ladies' night

New Hope Center for Grief Support in cooperation with Carolyn Dicomo of Arbonne, Carol Massey of Cookie Lee Jewelry, and Carol Clark of Margo's Salon will be host-

ing a Ladies Night at Pulte Home's Arcadia Ridge Villas in Northville 7-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23.

Join us for makeup tips, beautiful jewelry, massages and facials. Refreshments will also be served and music will be provided by Lew Perrotta of BEAT CRAZY. Cost is \$30 per lady at the door.

The Model Condo is located at 49285 Freestone Drive, Northville, MI 48168. Enter on Arcadia Lane off of Ridge Road between Five and Six Mile Road. To RSVP call New Hope at (248) 348-0115 or e-mail at griefhelp@newhopecenter.net by Jan. 21.

Free ballet classes

Metro Dance Company is offering a free Beginning Adult Ballet class

3:30-4:45 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31.

This class will focus on the basics of ballet including barre and center work and is perfect for the novice dancer or the dancer looking to refresh their skills.

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

PUPS performances

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is proud to present the Plymouth Uptown Players in productions of "Beggar and the Wolf," "Mother Goose has flown the Coop," and "The Enchanted Cottage."

"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.

Financial seminar

Catholic Parishes Federal Credit Union sponsors a free financial seminar, Keeping Your Deposits Safe, 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at its Plymouth branch, 8817 Sheldon.

Learn how the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (an agency of the Federal Government) protects your deposits, what limits are in place, and how you can maximize your options. To RSVP call (734) 432-0212, Ext. 301. Light refreshments and handouts provided.

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 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 "Mothers 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.

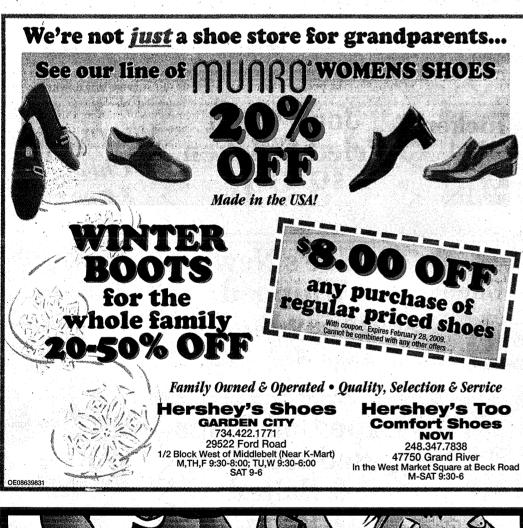
For further information, visit the group's Web site @ www.rootsweb.com/~miwwcgs/

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 Chautauqua 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.









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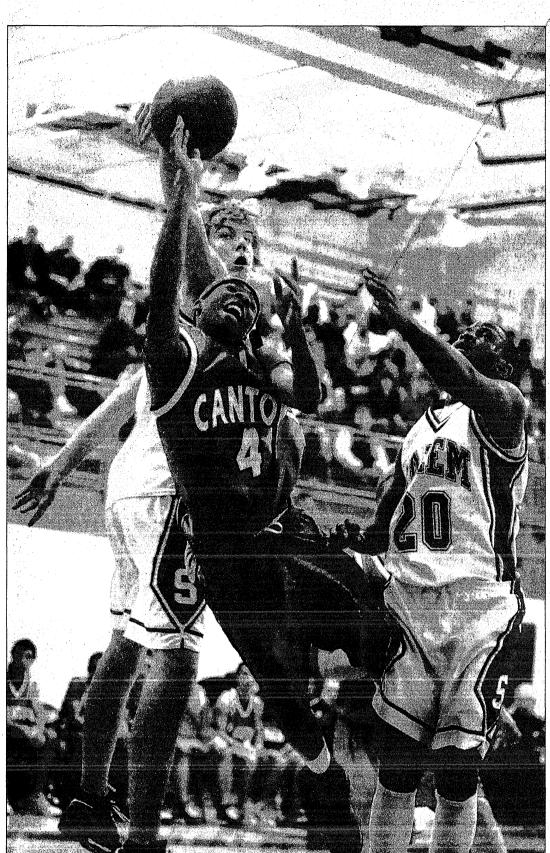
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Thursday, January 15, 2009

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com



Ed Wright, editor . (313) 222-2047 . ewright@hometownlife.com

Canton sophomore guard Deitrich Lever is denied by Salem's Jake Peterson during the waning moments of Tuesday night's cross-campus clash. Salem's Anthony Mullins is pictured at right

Riveting Rivalty

Rocks' late free throw edges Chiefs in down-to-wire battle

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

At least four times during the closing moments of Tuesday night's Salem-Canton boys basketball game, players from both teams hit the Salem gym floor hard in pursuit of loose basket-

What's a floor burn or two* when a one-year lease on crosscampus bragging rights is at

This year's lease has the Rocks' signatures on it — but iust barely.

Salem erased an 11-point halftime deficit to pull out an exhilarating 59-58 victory — less than a week after dropping an equally-exciting double-overtime decision to Garden City.

Salem improved to 2-3 while the Chiefs slipped to 3-2.

'I love playing in games like this," said Salem senior forward Jim Dexter, whose 13point/10-rebound effort paced the Rocks' balanced attack. "Big" rivalry games like this are fun - whether you win by 20 points or one point. The close ones are definitely more fun, though.

"Coach (Bob Brodie) told us at halftime to just chip away, chip away, don't try and get it all back at once. He told us to try to get some little runs and play good defense, and that's what we did."

Ironically, on a night when both teams' late-game freethrow shooting was Ben Wallace-esque, the contest was decided by Heath Parling's freebie from the charity stripe that broke a 58-all draw with 15.3 seconds left.

The Chiefs rushed the ball up the court before calling a timeout with 7.1 seconds left. Senior guard Marlan Glenn then secured the in-bounds pass from underneath the basket, but his driving six-footer was blocked by Salem junior forward Jake Peterson, who has the wingspan of a 747.

A jump ball was called with two seconds left with the possession arrow pointing toward the Chiefs.

Following another timeout, Canton's in-bounds pass bounced out of bounds without touching a player. Salem missed a free throw

with 1.7 seconds to play, but the Chiefs were unable to get off a potential game-winning or game-tying shot.

"This win was huge for this team, especially coming off some tough losses, plus with it being against a rival," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "Hopefully, it will be a springboard for us.
"We had great balance

tonight. A lot of guys contributed. This was a good team win."

Led by Dexter's baker's dozen, five Rocks scored between 13 and eight points and two teammates nearly joined Dexter in the exclusive double-double club.

Joe Posler finished with

Please see HOOPS, B4

Demolition tryouts Tryouts for the

Detroit Demolition, a member of the Independent Women's Football League, will be from 9-11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17 and 31, at the Total Sports Complex, located at 30900 Wixom Road, Wixom.

The tryout fee is \$35 (cash, credit card or money orders accepted; no checks). Each tryout participant must bring a driver's license and a copy of their active health insurance card.

For more information, call tryout coordinator Alecia Sweeney at (248) 765-3419; or e-mail asweeney@steelfishdesign. com. You can also call owner Al Seder at (313) 299-1277; or general manager Kevin Kramis at (734) 427-2962.

Pistons clinic

The Detroit Pistons Youth Basketball Clinic will be held at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville on Jan. 31.

The first session for boys and girls in grade first through third will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The second session for boys and girls in grades fourth through sixth will run from noon to 2:30 p.m..

The cost is \$20 per child. Each participant will receive an authentic "Piston Basketball" T-shirt.

For pre-registration and church location, contact Margy Burkhart at (248) 374-5932 or margy. burkhart@wardchurch.org.

Lacrosse meeting

An informational meeting for all athletes (and their parents) who are interested in playing for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls lacrosse team this spring will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. in the Canton High School library. The meeting is for all varsity and junior varsity players and their parents.

For more information, visit www.pcsladywarriors.com.

Strong second Canton gymnasts runners-up

to only Farmington at Rockford meet

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

The roads to and from Saturday's Rockford Invitational were at times snow-covered and slippery for the Canton gymnastics team.

But it was smooth sailing for the Chiefs during their several-hour stay in the Rockford High School gymnasium. Canton led the talent-rich competition for much of the day before settling

for a second-place finish to perennial

power Farmington United. The Chiefs

racked up 140.60 points, just over three less than the winners. Sturgis placed third with 137.95

"I was thrilled with the way the girls performed," said Canton coach John Cunningham. "On the way there, one of the kids asked, 'So, how are we going to do today?' I said, 'Well, we probably won't win it because Farmington will be there, but if we perform well, we could finish fourth.' I'm very pleased with finishing second, especially considering it's only our third meet of the

The Chiefs were paced by sophomore

Cathy Huang, who placed second in the Division 1 all-around with a scintillating score of 36.375. Huang placed in three of the four events, including a second-place showing on the balance beam (9.25).

'Cathy had an outstanding day," said Cunningham. "On the floor exercise, she executed a double full twist on her first pass and her last pass, and still only got a 9.225."

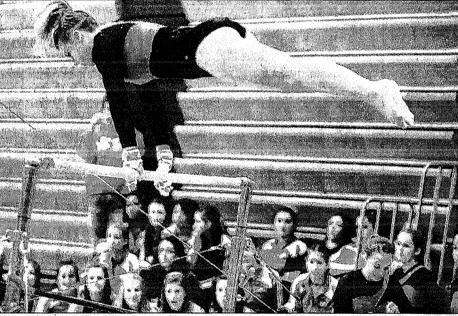
Robyn Piwowar also excelled for the Chiefs, placing sixth in the D1 allaround with a 36.075. Piwowar's best event was the balance beam, on which she posted a 9.2, which was good enough for third place.

Canton's Division 2 standouts were Mallory Hudak, who placed second in the all-around, and Kali Pierce, who was 10th in the all-around. Hudak won the D2 floor exercise event thanks to a routine that garnered her a score of 9.175.

Cunningham also praised the performances of Alex Hamric, Marina Milad, Brittany Granowicz and Kylie Hakala.

ewright@hometownwlife.com | (313) 222-2047

National City.



Canton's Mallory Hudak, pictured above on the uneven bars, was instrumental in the Chiefs' impressive second-place showing at Saturday's Rockford Invitational. At left, Cathy Huang's outstanding performance at Saturday's Rockford Invitational lifted Canton to a secondplace finish. Huang was runner-up in the allaround.



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THE WEEK AHEAD

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, January 15, 2009

BOYS BASKETBALL Thursday, Jan. 15 alley at Canton Agape, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16 Canton at Novi 7 pm Friday, Jan. 16
Canton at Novi, 7 pm.
Plymouth at Salem. 7 p.m.
A at Oakland Christian, 8:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Jan. 15
Huron Valley at Agape, 6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 16
PCA at Oakland Christian, 7 p.m.
Novi at Canton, 7 p.m.
Salem at Plymouth 7 p.m. Salem at Plymouth, 7 p.m. PREP GIRLS HOCKEY Friday, Jan. 16 Ann Arbor Pioneer at PCS at Arctic Edge, 6 p.m. PREP BOYS HOCKEY Friday, Jan. 16 Plymouth at Canton, 8 p.m. Livonia Franklin at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Saturday, Jan. 17
Canton at Warren Woods Tower, 8 a.m.

Plymouth at Williamston Tournament, 8:30
PREP GYMNASTICS
Thursday, Jan. 15
Canton at Walled Lake Gold, 6:30 p.m.
Livonia Blue at Salem, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 17
Canton and Salem at Canton and Salem at
Farmington Invite, 9 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Jan. 15
Churchill at Canton, 6:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Salem, 6:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Salem, 6:30 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 17
Aquinas College at Madonna, 3 p.m.
Schoolcraft at OCC-Orchard Ridge, 3 p.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 17
Aquinas College at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Schoolcraft at OCC-Orchard Ridge, 1 p.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, Jan. 16
Barrie at Plymouth (Compuware), 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 17
Owen Sound at Plymouth (Compuware), 7 p.m.



Salem lady cagers stumble at Churchill

BY BRAD EMONS **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

It was a signature victory Tuesday night for the Livonia Churchill girls basketball team despite what the records indicate.

The host Chargers improved to 4-3 overall with a surprising 35-32 triumph over Salem, a preseason top 25-ranked team which was coming off its first win of the season last Friday against stateranked Livonia Franklin (26-23).

Darcy DeRoo, a 5-foot-10 junior forward, led Churchill with a game-high 15 points, while senior point-guard Lindsey Graciak chipped in with 10.

Churchill trailed 10-7 after one quarter, but took a 23-17 halftime advantage with a 16-7 second-period run and kept the Rocks at bay during the final 16 minutes.

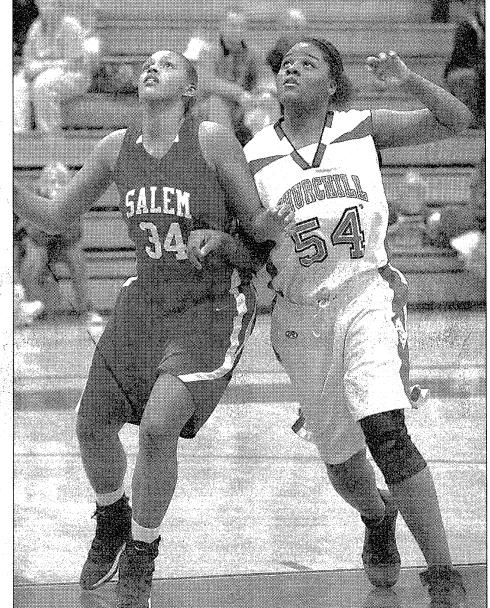
"It was our patience on offense and defensively we were able to take away the middle because of their size," Churchill coach Chad Jenkins said. "We wanted to take away the 'paint' and force them into perimeter shots. We did an excellent job of rotating defensively and not giving them easy looks. We limited them to one shot a lot and we took away the secondchances for them."

Tracy Whalen, a 6-foot senior transfer from Farmington Hills Mercy, led the Rocks (1-5) with 10 points. Chelsea Davis, a 5-11 senior, added eight, while 5-10 junior guard Sara Stone added seven.

"I'm having a hard time figuring this team out," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "I thought we turned the corner with our win on Friday and we started well tonight, but they took it to us in the second quarter."

"As a whole we were working together as a team and everybody did their part,' Jenkins said. "Offensively we were very patient. We waited for the best shot and got some lavups."

Churchill was 4-of-9 from the foul line, while Salem made 1-of-3.



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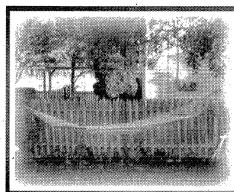
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Salem's Chelsea Davis tries to keep Churchill's Nakia Griffin from rebounding a foul shot near the end of the game Tuesday night.



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Last-second three dooms Wildcats, 35-32

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday night, for the second time in the past week, a Plymouth girls basketball game was decided with a SportsCenter-caliber shot.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, the latest one was not as memorable as the earlier one.

Northville's Katherine Jansen drained a three-point shot just before the buzzer sounded to lift the Mustangs to a 35-32 victory. One week earlier, Plymouth's Stacey Klonowski's last-second putback edged Southgate Anderson, 38-37.

GIRLS PREP HOOP

The setback dropped the Wildcats' record to 2-5 heading into Friday night's home game against Salem. The opening tip is slated for

Kelsi Robinson led a balanced Plymouth attack with eight points. Shaakira Haywood contributed seven points and 14 rebounds. Jansen paced the Mustangs with 11 points

while Chelsea Atzinger twined seven.

CANTON 56, STEVENSON 37: Kari Schmitt led a balanced scoring attack with 13 points Tuesday to power the state-ranked Chiefs (7-0) to a win

over visiting Livonia Stevenson (3-4).

Sara Schmitt and Kayla Bridges chipped in with 10 and nine, respectively, as Canton led 35-15 at intermission.

"They're a young, disciplined team doing all the right things," Stevenson coach Paul Tripp said of the Chiefs. "And they'll be a special team for years to come.'

Stevenson made 19-of-26 free throws on the night, including 16-of-22 in the second half.

Senior center Kaylee McGrath had 10 points (4-of-4 free throws) with six rebounds. Freshman Jordyn York and sophomore Sarah Smith each added eight. The two were 6-of-8 and 6-of-6, respectively, from the line.

"We hope to build on this going into the conference (KLAA) schedule," Tripp said.

CANTON AGAPE 48, FRANKLIN ROAD 28: On Tuesday at Garden City United, the host Wolverines improved to 2-5 overall and 1-1 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference with an impressive triumph over Franklin Road.

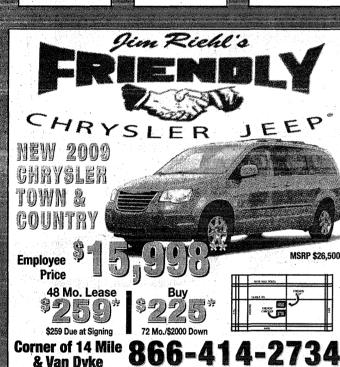
Brooke Purcell led the winners with 18 points and nine rebounds.

Sequoia Hood also shone, adding 12 points and 15 boards.

Ayanna Martin chipped in with 13 points and nine rebounds while Madison Miller chalked up four steals.

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WEEK #20 GAMES CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUNDAY, **JANUARY 18, 2009**

Philadelphia at Arizona

Baltimore at Pittsburgh

Plymouth boys cagers upend Vikings with strong second half

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, January 15, 2009

Combine a monster game by a spectacular sophomore, near-perfect free-throw shooting and a second half of lock-down defense and what do you get?

After Plymouth's basketball team threw all three of those factors into a blender, it came out with a 66-58 victory at Walled Lake Central Tuesday night.

The win improved the Wildcats' record to 3-2 while the Vikings dropped to 2-4.

Sophomore center Justin Moss paced the winners with 22 points - six of which were the result of three rim-rattling dunks. Possibly more impressive was Moss's 8-for-8 effort from the free throw line.

Fellow sophomore Brennen Bever also shone, netting 15 points.

Senior Cliff Buttermore added 12 points and Brad Lineberry twined nine. Moss (eight) and Beyer (seven) topped the

winners' rebounding ledger. Jake Paulson led Central with 22 points. Joe Diamond added 15 and Jordan Anderson it done defensively in the third quarter." contributed 10.

Central built a comfortable 35-25 halftime after three quarters before outscoring their lead thanks in large part to pin-point three-

The Vikings drained six first-half triples, including one stretch of four in a row in the second quarter.

"We started in a match-up zone, but once they started hitting those threes, we switched to a straight man-to-man," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "We got ewright@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2047

The Wildcats knotted the game at 45-all

hosts 21-13 down the stretch. Plymouth was 13-for-16 from the line. The

'Cats hit their first 13 free throws. Van Wagoner praised the play of reserve guard Marquee Taylor, who added five points, including a pivotal triple during crunch-time.

register. Selection may vary by store. See store for details.

11 points and nine boards including a couple of huge offensive putbacks in the fourth quarter - Parling and Courtney Frazier added nine points each, and Anthony Mullins came off the bench to score eight.

Frazier was huge on the boards, too, pulling down a game-high 13.

Glenn sparkled for the Chiefs, netting a career-best 21 points and three steals. Junior forward Kevin Weisz excelled in a reserve role, posting 14 points — 10 in the first half - and seven rebounds.

Sophomore guard Deitrich Lever chipped in with six points and four steals.

"Because we had a great second quarter (the Chiefs scored 25 points in the frame), I think maybe we thought we were playing better than we actually were," said Canton coach Dan Colligan. "Salem did a fantastic job in the second half. My hat is off to coach Brodie and his players. They owned the offensive boards in the second half."

Overall, Salem outrebounded Canton, 40-23. The Rocks pulled down 19 offensive boards to the Chiefs' nine.

Salem needed the rebounding dominance to off-set 19 turnovers -13 more than the Chiefs committed.

The Rocks led 16-14 following a well-played first quarter. Fueled by a turnover-forcing full-court press that produced

several fast-break layups, Canton surged to a 39-28 halftime advantage. A slicing drive by Lever with

'Because we had a great second quarter (the Chiefs scored 25 points in the frame), I think maybe we thought we were playing better than we actually

DAN COLLIGAN, Canton coach

one second left in the third quarter gave Canton a 50-42 lead heading into the fourth, but that's when the Rocks starting chipping away at their deficit like a patient, but efficient, sculptor.

Posler registered five straight Salem points during a 70-second span mid-way through the final quarter to bring Salem to within 56-53.

With 1:46 left, Glenn buried a pair of free throws to extend Canton's lead to 58-55, but Parling answered 11 seconds later by grabbing a slick backdoor pass from Peterson and, converting a driving layup while getting fouled to bring his team to within 58-57.

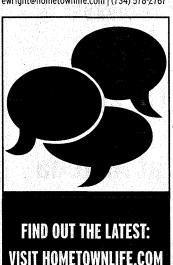
Thanks to a succession of off-target free throws, Canton maintained a one-point lead until Dexter hit 1-of-2 from the line to knot the game at 58-all with 20.4 seconds remaining.

Five seconds later, Parling hit his game-winner.

Salem shot better from the field (45.3 percent) than it did from the free-throw line (39.1). Canton connected on 23-of-

51 field goals (45 percent) and 7-of-14 free throws.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 578-2767



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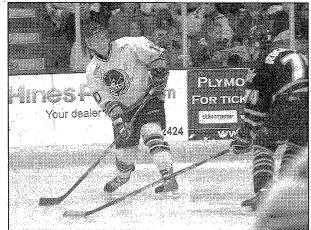


Prices may vary after 1/19/09 if there are market variations. "Was" prices in this advertisement were in effect on 1/9/09, and may vary based on Lowe's Everyday Low Price policy. *FINANCING PROMOTION DETAILS: Ask for Zero Monthly Payments and Interest for 12 Months applies to any single-receipt, in-store purchase of \$299 or more made 1/15/09, through 1/19/09 on a Lowe's Consumer Credit Card account. No monthly payments will be required and no finance charges will be assessed on this promotional purchase if you pay the following in full by/within 12 months: (1) the promotional purchase amount, and (2) any related optional credit insurance/debt cancellation charges, If you do not, finance charges will be assessed on the promotional balance from the date of the purchase and monthly payments will be required Standard account terms apply to non-promotional purchases. APR is 21.99%. Min. Finance charge is \$1.00. Offer must be requested and coupon presented at time of purchase. Offer is subject to credit approval. Excludes Lowe's Business Credit Accounts, Lowe's Project Cards Accounts, Lowe's Canada Credit products. **Ask for 10% Off any single-receipt in-store purchase and cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon or discount. This coupon is good for a single receipt purchase of any in-stock or Special Order merchandise only up to \$5000 (Maximum discount \$500). Coupon is not redeemable for cash, is nontransferable and cannot be replaced if lost or stolen. Void if altered, copied, transferred, or sold through any on-line auction. Limit one coupon per transaction. Not valid on sales via Lowes.com, previous sales, purchase of services or gift cards. Offer must be requested at the time of purchase. Offer is subject to credit approval. Excludes Lowe's Business Credit Accounts, Lowe's Project Cards Accounts Accounts

basic installation require purchase of both carpet and pad from Lowe's for installation in single-family residential homes. Additional charges may apply for services not included in basic installation. Prices do not include cost of materials to be installed. Not valid on prior purchase. See store for details. We reserve the right to limit quantities. While Lowe's strives to be accurate, unintentional errors may occur. We reserve the right to correct any error. Prices and promotions apply to US locations only. @ 2009 by Lowe's. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the

Points well taken

Plymouth's Ryan Hayes, pictured above in a game earlier this season, notched a goal and an assist in the Whalers' 7-3 victory over Ottawa on Sunday. The Whalers play 10 of their next 11 games at Compuware Arena, beginning Friday with a 7:05 game against the Barrie Colts. For the complete Whalers schedule, visit www.plymouthwhalers.com.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seroka, Zhangs shine at Rock Kilgore meet

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In a meet dripping with state meet-caliber swimmers, the Salem and Canton boys swimming and diving teams more

than made their presence felt at team field, a number of local Saturday's 10th Annual Salem Rock Kilgore Invitational.

Although the host Rocks and the Chiefs placed fifth and sixth, respectively, in the sixswimmers excelled against four

of the state's elite programs. Shining the brightest was Salem sophomore Adam Seroka, who touched first in both the 200- and 500-yard freestyle races. Seroka nipped Ann Arbor Pioneer's Matt Gauthier by less than a half-second in the 200 before outlasting Pioneer's Seiji Osawa by nearly

five seconds in the 500. Canton's standouts were the Zhang brothers — senior Richard and freshman Victor, who both turned in a pair of top-three finishes.

Richard Zhang took second in the 50 freestyle and third in the 100 freestyle while his younger brother earned a second in the 200 individual medley and third in the 100 breaststroke.

10TH ANNUAL SALEM ROCK KILGORE INVITATIONAL Saturday at Salem

FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 308; 2. Zeeland, 244; 3. Livonia Stevenson, 231; 4. Northville, 195: 5. Salem, 109: 6. Canton, 92.

200-yard medley relay: (Heat 1) 1. Zeeland (Dylan Zwiers, Gregg Elhart, Jason Vander Plaats, Zac Kraai), 1:40.10; 2. Stevenson, 1:42.13: 3. Pioneer, 1:42.69: (Heat 2) 1. Stevenson (Bryan Bielicki, John Loria Adam Dabkowski, Ryan Scott), 1:45.44; 2. Pioneer, 1:46.93; 3. Zeeland, 1:48.68; (Heat 3) 1. Pioneer (Thomas Deegan, Karl Schwinghamer, Peter Court, Zach Averill), 1:49.67; 2. Stevenson, 1:50.93; 3. Northville,

200 freestyle: (Heat 1) 1. Adam Seroka (S), 1:48.46; 2. Matt Gauthier (AAP), 1:48.88; 3. Zac Kraai (Z), 1:50.18; (Heat 2) 1. Kevin Naud (AAP), 1:49.47; 2. Matthew Collingwood (S), 1:50.73; 3. Charles Turlo (LS), 1:52.32; (Heat 3) 1. Kyle Anderson (AAP), 1:51.12; 2. John Blickle (N), 1:56.22; 3. Daniel Schoff (LS), 1:56.67; (Heat 4) 1. Patton Doyle (AAP), 1:53.61; 2. Noah Santer (S), 1:53.79; 3. Alex Miller (N), 1:58.10.

200 IM: (Heat 1) 1. Josh Geschwendt (Z), 2:00.10: 2. Victor Zhang (C), 2:02.13: 3. Kellen Schoff (LS), 2:02.80; (Heat 2) 1. Dylan Zwiers (Z), 2:05.41; 2. Seiji Osawa (AAP), 2:08.55; 3. Bryan Bielicki (LS), 2:10.92; (Heat 3) 1. Ethan Eaton (AAP), 2:14.27; 2. Chad Stears (Z), 2:10.56; 3. Ryan Winkler ((N), 2:20.20; (Heat 4) 1. Eli Cornblath (AAP), 2:14.27; 2. Alec Wagner (N), 2:16.88; 3. Eric Schuman (LS), 2:18.52.

50 freestyle: (Heat 1) 1. Drew Coffin (Z), 22.25; 2. Richard Zhang (C), 23.12; 3. Nik Mrdalj (AAP), 23.13; (Heat 2) 1. Jason Vander Plaats (Z), 22.49; 2. Grant Cole (AAP), 22.82; 3. Ryan: Scott (LS), 23.40; (Heat 3) 1. Gregg Elhart (Z), 23.63; 2. Chris Behler (LS), 23.72; 3. Todd Truran (N), 24.31; (Heat 4) 1. Adam Dabkowski (LS), 23.71; 2. Edward Lee (AAP), 24.28; 3. Luke

1-meter diving: (Heat 1) 1. Tyler Keelean (Z), 395.75 points; 2. Nick Nemetz (AAP), 392.15; 3. Kevin Bain (N), 392.15; (Heat 2) 1. Will Price (N), 306.40; 2. Riley Reiffer (Z), 302.85; 3. Jacob Rachford (AAP), 291.10; (Heat 3) 1. Ben Weber (AAP), 286.55; 2. Jonah Heemstra (Z), 230.75; 3. Ryan Kilgore (C), 214.40; (Heat 4) 1. Daniel Goldstein (AAP), 255.35; 2. Derek Walters (Z), 199.15; 3. Philip Bondy (N), 187.26.

100 butterfly: (Heat 1) 1. Josh Geschwendt (Z), 52.18; 2. Robert Nichols (AAP), 55.47; 3. Michael Cruce (LS), 55.63; (Heat 2) 1. Dylan Zwiers (Z), 55.65; 2. Kyle Gunderson (AAP), 56.18; 3. Jereme Pesta (LS), 56.84; (Heat 3) 1. Kevin Naud (AAP), 56.52; 2. Kellen Schoff (LS), 57.44; 3. Sam Borgman (Z), 1:02.34; (Heat 4) 1. Adam Dabkowski (LS), 59.58; 2. Peter Court (AAP), 1:00.34; 3. Austin Davidson (N), 1:01.50.

100 freestyle: (Heat 1) 1. Drew Coffin (Z), 48.42; 2. Nik Mrdalj (AAP), 49.89; 3. Richard Zhang (C), 49.94; **(Heat 2)** 1. Jason Vander Plaats (Z), 49.26; 2. Matt Gauthier (AAP), 50.05; 3. Clay Malloure (N), 51.72; (Heat 3) 1. Grant Cole (AAP), 50.20; 2. A.J. Aquinto (N), 51.78; 3. Ryan Scott (LS), 53.25; **(Heat 4)** 1. Zach Averill (AAP), 52.64; 2. Mike Hagan (N), 52.81; 3. Brandon Bielecki (LS), 52.93.

500 freestyle: (Heat 1) 1. Adam Seroka (S), 4:53.75; 2. Seiji Osawa (AAP), 4:58.30; 3. Zac Kraai (Z), 4:58.82; (Heat 2) 1. Kyle Anderson (AAP), 4:57.67; 2. Matthew Collingwood (S), 4:58.56; 3. Daniel Schoff (LS), 5:04.28; (Heat 3) 1. Max Boyea (AAP), 4:55.79; 2. Max MIIIs (S), 5:09.08; 3. Joey Wingett (LS), 5:10.87; (Heat 4) 1. Patton Doyle (AAP), 5:14.40; 2. Adam Laporte (LS), 5:18.44; 3. Tim Shea (N), 5:20.58.

200 freestyle relay: (Heat 1) 1. Zeeland (Josh Geschwendt, Jason Vander Plaats, Gregg Elhart, Drew Coffin), 1:29.26: 2. Pioneer. 1:31.10; 3. Stevenson, 1:31.53; (Heat 2) 1. Pioneer (Kevin Smith, Ethan Eaton, Edward Lee, Matt Graziano), 1:34.20; 2. Stevenson, 1:34.83; 3. Northville, 1:36.24; (Heat 3) 1. Pioneer (Zach Averill, Michael Ferrara, Nick LeVeque, Max Boyea), 1:36.23; 2. Stevenson, 1:39.25: 3. Zeeland, 1:41.48.

100 backstroke: (Heat 1) 1. Robert Nichols (AAP), 54.63; 2. John Lubisco (N), 56.93; 3. Jonathan Mackey (Zeeland), 57.36; (Heat 2) 1. Kyle Gunderson (AAP), 56.83; 2. Bofeng Zhang (N), 1:00.82; 3. Zac Lindeman (Z), 1:00.83; (Heat 3) 1. Ty Daugherty (Z), 1:00.49; 2. Thoams Deegan (AAP), 1:02.42; 3. William Greenlee (N), 1:03.74; (Heat 4) 1. Ryan Winkler (N). 1:02.51; 2. Mohamed Ghoteimi (LS), 1:02.61; 3. Kurt Jensen (AAP), 1:03.50.

100 breaststroke: (Heat 1) 1. Joey Wingett (LS), 1:03.24; 2. Gregg Elhart (Z), 1:04.50; 3. Victor Zhang (C), 1:06.48; (Heat 2) 1. Charles Turlo (LS), 1:03.73; 2. Chad Stears (Z), 1:06.68; 3. Eli Cornblath (AAP), 1:09.79; (Heat 3) 1. Eric Schuman (LS), 1:06.01; 2. Ethan Eaton (AAP), 1:07.82; 3. Jeremy Schaumann (N), 1:09.67; (Heat 4) 1. John Loria (LS), 1:07.98; 2. Karl Schwinghamer (AAP), 1:08.24; 3. Andrew Roelofs (Z), 1:12.70.

(Dylan Zwiers, Zac Kraai, Josh Geschwendt, Drew Coffin), 3:16.02; 2. Pioneer, 3:17.32; 3. Stevenson, 3:24.01; (Heat 2) 1. Pioneer (Max Boyea, Patton Doyle, Kyle Gunderson, Kyle Anderson), 3:25.76; 2. Stevenson, 3:30.64; 3. Northville, 3:35.93; (Heat 3) 1. Pioneer (Michael Ferrara, Zach Averill, Matt Graziano, Seiji Osawa), 3:35.12; 2. Stevenson, 3:40.17; 3. Northville, 3:41.16.

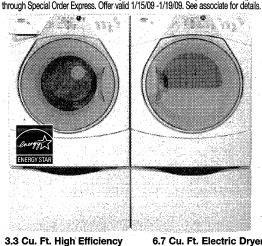
400 freestyle relay: (Heat 1) 1. Zeeland

HURRY IN FOR LIMITED-TIME VALUES

January 15-19, 2009



(Whirlpool Duet Sport Washer (WFW8300SW) and Matching Dryer Pair) Gas dryer at a higher price (\$1068) for the pair). Pedestals sold separately. Limit 1 laundry pair per customer. Price reduction taken at register. Offer valid on Washer Item #232560, Electric Dryer #232563, and Gas Dryer #232564. May be available through Special Order Express. Offer valid 1/15/09 -1/19/09. See associate for details.



15-1/2" Storage Pedestal

6.7 Cu. Ft. Electric Dryer

\$248



25.3 Cu. Ft. Refrigerator #112638 \$848

B. Stainless-Look

Over-the-Range Microwave #296289 \$198

now

was \$998

Gas Range was

\$548 D. Stainless-Look now

\$598

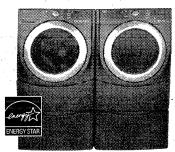
Dishwasher

was \$348 \$398

\$228 May be available through Special Order Express.



Receive 10% off in-stock and Special Order ENERGY STAR major appliances priced \$397 or more (before taxes). Offer valid 1/15/09 - 1/19/09. Discount taken at register. Not valid on previous sales, installation and delivery fees, extended protection plans, water heaters, select Fisher&Paykel® or Electrolux items See store for details



\$1198 MAYTAG

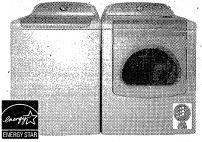
4.0 Cu. Ft. Crimson High-**Efficiency Front Load Washer** (MHWE300VF) #298208 7.0 Cu. Ft. Electric Dryer \$1198

(MEDE300VF) #298209 15-1/2" Storage Pedestal (XHP1550VF) #298211

May be available through Special Order Express



Purchase 2 identical Whirlpool or Maytag pedestals and get the value of 1 of the pedestals (up to \$278) back by mail-in rebate. Purchases must be made on the same receipt. Rebate amount does not include tax, installation, or delivery. Rebate form prints at register. Void where prohibited by law. See associate for details. Offer valid 1/15/09 - 1/19/09.





4.6 Cabrio High Efficiency Washer •Washes 3 baskets of laundry in a single load •11 cycles, including Woolmark, Bulky Items (WTW6700TW) #293997

7.0 Cu. Ft. Steam Electric Dryer •Naturally steams out wrinkles and \$998 odors (WED6600VW) #294001 May be available through Special Order Express



Via mail-in rebate with purchase of an in-stock or Special Order Whirlpool or Maytag High Efficiency Washer and matching Dryer pair. Offer excludes Whirlpool Duet Sport and Maytag Epic Z. Purchases must be made on the same receipt. Offer valid 1/15/09 - 1/19/09. Purchase price excludes tax, installation, and delivery. Limit one redemption per household. Rebate form prints at register. Void where prohibited by law. See store for details.

SPECIAL ORDER **ENTRY DOORS**

Offer valid 1/15/09 - 1/23/09. Discount taken at time of order.

Offer valid 1/15/09 - 1/19/09. Discount taken at register. See store for details. While

TOOL STORAGE **CHESTS & CABINETS**

Offer valid 1/15/09 - 1/19/09. Discount taken at register. See store for details. While

supplies last.



KRAFTMAID, CROSS

CREEK AND VENECIA SPECIAL ORDER KITCHEN CABINETS

Minimum purchase of 10 or more Special Order Kraftmaid, Cross Creek or Venecia branded cabinets. Offer is for basic installation only. Install offer price is per cabinet and does not include cost of cabinet. Offer valid 1/15/09 - 1/31/09. In-home measurement must be purchased by 1/31/09. Additional charges may apply. See associate for details Discount taken at time of order.



now \$598 was 3-Pack 60-Watt Equivalent **CFL Light Bulbs** •Uses only 13 watts #156922



supplies last.

\$7999

5-Tier Heavy-Duty Black **Steel Shelving Unit** •Max. 1,500 lbs. per shelf #220584:101933



now \$1297 was 31-Gallon Roughneck

•32.5"L x 20"W x 16.8"H

clearance

10-25% off

CLEARANCE MAJOR APPLIANCES Look for yellow clearance labels throughout appliance department. Price reflects discount.

Offer starts 1/15/09. While supplies last. Selection may vary by store. See store for details.

25% off **CLEARANCE LIGHTING**

Look for yellow clearance labels throughout lighting department. Price reflects discount. Offer starts 1/15/09. While supplies last. Selection may vary by store. See store for details.

Prices may vary after 1/19/2009 if there are market variations. "Was" prices in this advertisement were in effect on 1/9/2009 and may vary based on Lowe's Everyday Low Price policy. See store for details regarding product warranties. We reserve the right to limit quantities. While Lowe's strives to be accurate, unintentional errors may occur. We reserve the right to correct any error. Prices and to US locations only, and are available while supplies last. We guarantee our everyday competitive prices. If you find a lower everyday or advertis at any local retail competitor that has the item in stock, we'll beat their price by 10% when you buy from us. Just bring us the competitor's current ad or other confirmation of the price that you have found. Lowe's reserves the right to verify the lower price prior to sale. Cash/charge card and carry purchases only. Competitor's closeout, special order, discontinued, clearance, liquidation and damaged items are excluded from this offer. On percent off sales, we will match the competitor's percent off offer. Limited to reasonable quantities for homeowner and one-house order quantities for cash and carry contractors. Current in-store price, if lower, overrides Lowe's advertised price. Price guarantee honored at all Lowe's retail locations. Labor charges for product installation are excluded from our price guarantee offer in our stores with an Installed Sales Program. Visit store for complete details. No-Hassle Return Policy: If you are not completely happy with your purchase, simply return it along with your original sales receipt to any local Lowe's store within ninety (90) days** of purchase. We'll either repair it, replace it, refund your money or credit your account. **30 days for Outdoor Power Equipment (mowers, chain saws, blowers, tillers, trimmers and pressure washers). Fair Purchase Policy. In order to provide fair purchase opportunity to all our customers, Lowe's reserves the right to limit quantities sold to individual customers. Non-Stock Policy: If, by chance, your local Lowe's store does not stock an item we advertise, we will be glad to order that item for you at the advertised price. Delivery Policy: Delivery applies to deliveries made to locations within the United States only. Certain restrictions apply. See store for details. © 2009 by Lowe's®. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. (090191_1)

SUIGUN BUSINGSS

BUSINESS MILESTONES

Chamber status

The annual State of the Chamber Breakfast takes place 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, at The Inn at

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.

Online services

Citizens Bank has launched its latest convenient online 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 page. The site was developed as a result of testing done by print buyers and their preferences. As a result, the site

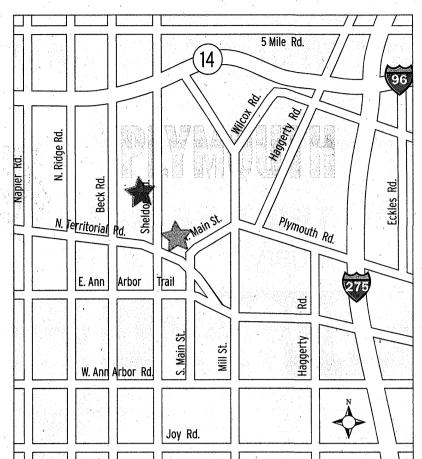
features an additional Resources & Support section filled with helpful information of interest to print buyers and marketing professionals. International Minute Press provides a full range of printing and marketing services. The company, which began business on Five Mile Road in Plymouth Township in 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. Happy hour

The Liberty Street Brewing Company will host a "Happy Hour" for Chamber members from 5-6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, as part of their Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting. Come join fellow members after work to enjoy the beers brewed on-site at one of Plymouth's newest hot spots. The Liberty Street Brewing Company is located at 149 W. Liberty Street in Old Village. For more information on Liberty Street Brewing Company go to www.libertystreetbrewingcompany.com



SEND IT

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

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

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

us are already

needed adjust-

ments in our

remain viable.

business to

doing it by

making the

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Jackie Horton and remodeler Jason Benward, in the showroom at Horton Plumbing and Remodeling.

Horton Plumbing

CHAMBER CHAT

John Wayne said, "Courage is being scared to death ... and saddling up anyway."

I think that is the way many of us in business feel these days. Every business person, and for that matter every person, is petrified about what is happening with the economy.

There is another way to look at what is happening to our economy. At a recent chamber breakfast our speaker, Conway Jeffers, the President of Schoolcraft College, said that nothing was invented during good times. He went on to say most of our great innovations have occurred during down times, often as a result of changing conditions.

If we think of this period of change as an opportunity for innovation, that may change how we look at what is happening. It is time to consider the nature of what we do. how we do it and determine ii it is viable for the future. Consumers are not what they used to be. They have more debt, higher costs and use discount and on-line shopping. Also, international competition has changed the nature of manufacturing and is creating price increases like we have never experienced before. What do we do? Many of

Wes Graff

In addition, we need to demand a higher level of accountability from our elected officials. They need to put party politics aside and start to chart a course for us to be sustainable. It's time we all pay attention and become engaged in the process. Elected officials do listen,

but we must speak. Change will not be easy. We will need to look beyond ourselves and commit to do what is needed to create a brighter future for all of us regardless of the sacrifice required. When we spend more on prisons than on education in Michigan, we are clearly on the wrong path.

We need to create a context where business can be successful and education is a leading priority. Through the Chamber, I hope as a business community we can play a role in building our future. It can be an exciting future, but we need to embrace change and look for the innovations called for to be successful going forward.

Hometown a draw for plumbing business

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

Horton Plumbing: Since 1988 Horton Plumbing has been equipped to handle all plumbing repairs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from minor leaks to major repairs such as water heater installations, frozen pipes, electric sewer cleaning, sewer replacements and much more. Our services are available for both residential and commercial customers, we are also certified to test backflow devices. Remodeling services are available for each room of the home and we can customize the project to reflect the budget and design ideas of the homeowner. Observer: What makes your business unique? Do you serve a special niche?

Horton Plumbing: Our personalized customer service

HORTON PLUMBING

Business name: Horton Plumbing and Remodeling, Inc. Business address: 1382 South Main St. Plymouth

Name and title: Jacqueline and Jeffrey Horton, owners Hometown: Plymouth **Business opened: 1988** Number of employees: 22

and remodeling Hours of operation: 24/7 **Business phone and/or Web** site: (734) 455-3332; plumbers@ hortonplumbing.com

Business specialty: Plumbing

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

Horton Plumbing: "No guts, No glory." Jeff wanted to start his own business and that was his motto

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

Horton Plumbing: We were both raised in the Plymouth

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

Horton Plumbing: Last December after completing the demolition for a first floor bathroom (which included removing drywall behind a vanity) our guys left for the weekend. That Monday morning the drywallers showed up to (of course) patch the drywall, all seemed to be going fine with the job (thus far). Well about 10:30 Wednesday night our remodeling supervisor, Jason Benward, received a phone call from a very panic stricken customer. It seems that during the weekend the wall was open, the customer's cat decided it might be a good place to relax and apparently didn't leave before

the drywallers completed their task. Jason did what he could over the phone to calm the customer who was very upset to hear her cat crying and scratching from behind the wall. Jason then headed over to the customers home, removed the recently installed vanity and cut a hole in the drywall to reveal a terrified and partially dehydrated cat. The customer was happy to have her cat back in one piece and once given some water

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Plymouth resident Claudia Pietron, assistant vice president and internal communication manager of Fifth Third Bank, has been elected to the 2009 board of directors for O.U.R. Camp, Inc. (www.ourcamp.org), a Northville-based specialized summer day camp for young children with developmental needs. As board president, Pietron will work with four other board members to continue O.U.R. Camp's purpose in providing

continuity with school year programs and to stimulate the development of cognitive and social skills during the summer months. Pietron brings over 12 years of public relations and communications experience to the board, having started her career at Fifth Third Bank in 2002. She worked for Michigan National Bank prior to joining Fifth Third Bank. Pietron earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Central Michigan University and lives in Plymouth with her husband, Rick, and their two children.



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

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

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

For advertising information, please call: Oakland County: 248-901-2500 Wayne County: 734-582-8363 West Oakland County: 248-437-2011



BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Fourth-grade students at Workman Elementary are gaining valuable hands-on experience as volunteers at the school's newly opened student-run credit union. Workman is one of nine elementary schools in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools to partner with Community Financial of Plymouth. Workman also becomes the 30th school partnership for Community Financial, which provides extensive financial literacy programs in the communities it serves. In addition to helping children learn how to save through deposits to their own credit union accounts, Community Financial team members are presenting Junior Achievement materials to classes in second and fifth grades. Each presentation typically includes five sessions.



www.hometownlife.com

MSU biz prof offers views on finance woes

Michigan State University Eli Board College of Business professor Naveen Khanna, the A.J. Pasant Endowed Chair Professor in Finance, wrote a three-part commentary on the 2008 financial crisis. According to Khanna, "The crisis we are now facing is no longer due to the excesses in the housing market, but because of the excesses by our government in dealing with the problem."

The biggest bailout in U.S. history, which is now unfolding, was expected to stabilize the markets. Instead, the markets have lost nearly 20 percent of their value since the bailout was signed into law, leaving many experts and the government perplexed. In spite of injection of huge amounts of funds into the markets, why are the credit markets still frozen

and businesses still starved for funds? In spite of the bailout's direct intention of helping banks become healthier, why are bank stocks swooning?

I argue that the cri-

Naveen
Khanna
sis we are now facing is no longer due to the excesses in the housing market, but because of the excesses by our government in dealing with the prob-

Let us not forget that originally the subprime loans amounted to only about 12 percent of the banks' assets. Since not all of these mortgages were likely to go bad, this should have been a manageable problem for the banks without government 'help.'

However, by intervening, and doing so in an unexpectedly heavy-handed way, the government has violated fundamental free market principles. The rules under which banks operate are suddenly very different. The Secretary of the Treasury now decides who lives and who dies. The penalty for a bank in financial distress is now draconian (potential takeover without compensation), inducing banks to hoard large amounts of money in an effort to establish a cushion against 'inviting' government intervention. This has caused the credit markets to remain frozen (or become even more frozen) in spite of the unimaginable amounts of liquidity being pumped into the system.

By expropriating most/all shareholder value of the institutions it "helped," the government has made investing in bank stocks extraordinarily risky. Who would want to invest knowing tomorrow the government, for potentially opaque reasons, may decide to expropriate all/most shareholder value? This has led investors to demand a huge "intervention premia" for investing in bank stocks, thus reducing stock price and making banks even weaker.

The large bailout amount of \$700 billion with very few constraints on how the treasury may use it, serves only to make government's hand in determining any bank's future infinitely stronger. It is like we have unintentionally let loose a 700-pound gorilla which, in its desire to help out, is scaring off already nervous investors and making share prices tank. The very well-intentioned offer to help banks creates so much fear for the investors that they cannot wait to sell their bank stock. This sell-side pressure can become strong enough that even a previously healthy bank now needs to be helped. This is playing out like a tragic self-fulfilling prophesy with no end in sight.

Hear the Podcast at http://spartan-podcast.com/?p=477.

HELPING HAND VS. MORAL HAZARD

A bit of history may be in order. Early in the year 2008, the subprime crisis was becoming worse with falling house prices, weakening some financial institutions. The government faced a dilemma: How to extend a helping hand to these institutions without creating perverse incentives, popularly referred to as moral hazard. In other words, they wanted to support the institutions without condoning the excesses that arguably had brought these institutions to their knees.

The first "helping" hand they offered was to Bear Stearns in March of 2008. They allowed J.P. Morgan to buy it out for \$2 per share, even though a few days before the stock price was around \$30. In return they guaranteed \$30 billion of Bear Stearns' distressed assets. They punished Bear Stearns stockholders so severely, mainly to prevent any appearance of rewarding bad behavior. Ordinarily the firm would have reorganized in bankruptcy court and stockholders could have done much better, or even found a white knight to buy them time to recover.

That apparently was not punishment enough, so the government rushed them into the arrangement with J.P. Morgan under an archaic law from the Depression era, which allowed for such violation of shareholders' property rights. However, even they realized they may have gone too far when some Bear Stearns



OPINION

shareholders threatened law suits against what they considered blatant expropriation by the government, and increased the offer to \$10. While things appeared to settle down after this, bank stocks significantly underperformed the market from that time.

Unhappily for us, housing prices kept slipping and financial institutions came under increasing stress. There were bank failures, including IndyMac. The FDIC, which insures bank deposits up to \$100,000, had only around \$50 billion in reserve, an inadequate sum for the crisis. But the feeling that the government would stand behind the guarantee prevented visible bank runs, even though amounts above \$100,000, being uninsured, did start leaving some banks. The situation became even more tenuous when Warren Buffet instructed some of his companies to stop insuring deposits above \$100,000. Taking this as a sound decision by a very astute businessman made markets more nervous.

Then Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, who had been involved in much of the subprime lending in the last three years, ran into trouble. After running up huge losses, they could not access sufficient credit in the markets. The government had to bail them out as they were government-sponsored entities and thus, at least implicitly, presumed to be insured by the government. Not supporting them could damage the government's standing enough to create a financial panic. Though hard to prove, this was probably true.

The folly lay in the government's heavy-handed approach. Even worse than in Bear Stearns' case, the government wiped out all of the value of the shareholders' equity and even that of the preferred stock. In return they gave access to \$200 billion of secured loans.

Then fell AIG, and the government took over 80 percent of its equity in return for \$85 billion in government debt and some billions more recently. Similarly Wachovia and Washington Mutual were sold for pennies to Citi and J. P. Morgan. Wachovia since has sold itself off to Wells Fargo for a much better deal at \$15 billion, something Citi is of course challenging. Also Merrill Lynch saw the writing on the wall and sold itself off to Bank of America at a bargain price.

THE INVISIBLE HAND

Such blatant attacks on shareholder rights were bound to have the effects we are seeing. Risk aversion is peaking and risk premia are extraordinarily high. If we continue down this path, we will lose our capital markets and the invisible hand to which we owe much of our prosperity. Our policymakers have forgotten the failed experiments of socialism and have, with good intentions, started meddling with the fundamental pillars of capitalism: property rights, rule of law and free markets. They have forgotten the invisible hand is called that for a very good reason. No one understands it better than markets themselves.

Ironically, history is repeating itself, but for entirely different reasons. The causes for the Great Depression were traced back to too little government intervention. The causes for this market breakdown will be traced back to too much government interference. The effect is the same. Credit markets froze both times.

If the government is firmly decided on a bank bailout, which I apparently disagree with, then recapitalizing banks through preferred stocks is probably the one likely to do the least damage, though even that needs an important caveat: do not pick winners and losers, do it across all banks in proportion to their size and do it with minimal conditions. Also announce the decision right away as Europe did, so that this additional source of uncertainty is resolved. Then sit back and let the markets do their job.

Otherwise the "intervention premium" will remain high, bank stocks will be extremely depressed and credit markets will not work well. This is not the time to settle scores with "bad" managers and "bad" banks. It is time to look to the future, allowing banks to do their business and let the market decide the survivors.

42762 Wimbleton Way

Plymouth

\$290,000

\$159,000

\$285,000

\$150,000 \$114,000

\$160,000 \$115,000

\$125,000 \$77,000

\$126,000 \$200,000

San Diego has some bargains

Q: I live in the Mission Bay area of San Diego and I am wondering if you have any knowledge of the real estate market there particularly waterfront property.

A: On a recent visit I had an opportunity to review the real estate market as it relates to waterfront property in Mission Bay. Both on the ocean and on the



Robert Meisner

developers
with new
construction
are utilizing
the option as
a process for
marketing
but based
upon my

discussions

with a

Bay. Some

local Realtor, it appears that the minimum bid price is basically close to the fair market value of the property. There are also a substantial number of additional properties for sale but they have not reduced in value significantly. The better bargains deal with property inland from either ocean or the Bay area. You are best advised to consult with a knowledgeable local real estate broker.

Q: I love San Diego and am wondering if there are any new high rises in downtown San Diego which appear to be reasonable in price.

A: There is a brand new residential high end condo that is going up near Front Street but the prices are certainly not reasonable in the context of Michigan real estate by way of example. Units are ranging from \$750,000 to \$2,000,000 depending upon the size and elevation of the unit. Of course, that is not to say that the developer may not be in a bargaining position depending on the market and you may be able to secure a preconstruction discount. Obviously it may be better for you to consider existing condominiums in the downtown area that may be more favorably priced.

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@meisnerassociates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

BRIEFS

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For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

Free seminar

A free seminar offered by Keller Williams Realty will cover: \$7,500 tax credit for new buyers; current mortgage interest rates; inspections, appraisals, title work and more. It will be held 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at Keller Williams Farmington Hills Market Center, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills.

Call with questions or for reservations: (248) 893-1550

These are the residential real estate closings recorded Sept. 22-26, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County: Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

ddresses, and sales p	rices.
Canton	
50378 Black Horse Ln	\$76,000
46291 Briargate Dr	\$255,000
4180 Brighton Ln	\$168,000
7239 Camelia Ct	\$145,000
47995 Candace Ln	\$298,000
50509 Coolidge St	\$219,000
41495 Copper Creek Dr	\$114,000
49789 Courtyard Ln	\$165,000
1421 Delancy Cir	\$415,000
48761 Fifth Ave	\$233,000
6231 Guilford Dr	\$165,000
48240 Gyde Rd	\$290,000
45125 Horseshoe Cir	\$143,000
1224 Kennebec	\$285,000
1535 Manton Blvd	\$184,000
44680 Meadowcreek Ln	\$144,000
2041 N Arbor Way Dr	\$83,000
207 Pinehurst Dr	\$310,000
2494 Premier Ln	\$76,000
2102 Preserve Cir W	\$175,000
233 Princeton St	\$195,000
299 Queens Way	\$182,000
47657 River Woods Dr	\$260,000
40036 Rolling Green Ct	\$188,000
4678 S Sheldon Rd	\$197,000
44029 S Umberland Cir	\$95,000
51041 Sleepy Hollow Ln	\$200,000
42943 Versailles Rd	\$222,000
1801 Vine Way Dr	\$105,000
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	HUM
8490 Westchester Ln	\$195,000
Farmingto	n .
32291 Marblehead Rd	\$143,000
34199 State St	\$220,000
Farmington I	lills
21423 Archwood Cir	\$170,000
32847 Ardwick Rd	\$126,000
37788 Baywood Dr	\$160,000
23554 Canfield Ave	\$195,000
21610 Collingham Ave	\$175,000
29537 Foxgrove Rd	\$168,000
201/0 Laurall Da	6260.000

38160 Lowell Dr 21524 Orchard Lake Rd 26405 Pleasant Valley Rd \$100,000 \$238,000 24875 Power Rd 22885 Walsingham Dr 30951 Balmoral St \$133,000 28427 Hennepin St 33215 Hennepin St 31755 John Hauk St 28750 Kathryn St \$105,000 \$122,000 \$106,000 29594 Maplewood St 6612 Sharon St \$80,000 \$103,000 \$138,000 \$360,000

\$248,000

\$185,000

\$190,000 \$133,000

\$240,000 \$115,000

\$127,000 \$117,000

Livonia
28700 Seven Mile Rd
33027 Allen St
31514 Arizona St
19001 Aspen Dr
34483 Bretton Dr
34647 Bristol St
97177 Bristol St
9909 Brookfield St
15580 Fitzgerald St
29069 Grandon St
29724 Hillbrook St
9724 Horton St
29626 Jacquelyn Dr
35658 Joy Rd

HOMES SOLD \$195,000 \$195,000 \$8833 Knolson Ave 9131 Marie St \$143,000 \$5220,000 \$19948 Myron Dr \$19948 Myron Dr \$29683 Nottinghar \$170,000 \$19458 Parker St \$126,000 \$294 Perrin St \$160,000 \$35137 Pinetree St \$195,000 \$36698 Richland St

99468 Myrotin Day 29683 Nottingham Cir 19458 Parker St 19458 Perrin St 29683 Nottingham Cir 19458 Perrin St 29683 Nottingham Cir 19458 Perrin St 29698 Richland St 194437 Ronnie Ln 29159 Scone St 29159

Milford
1961 Gary Sue Ln
3145 Harmony Ln
392 Stone Wood Ct
136 Turnberry Ct
Northville
50880 Applebrooke Dr
40582 Coachwood Cir
15824 Hickory Ridge Dr
50104 Hidden Point Dr
19458 Meadowbrook Rd
16076 Morningside
48265 Nine Mile Rd
42282 Norwood Ct
40918 Rayburn Dr

40918 Rayburn Dr 16760 Yellowstone Dr Novi 40601 Brenda 30488 Bristol Circle Ct 44684 Ford Way Dr 24224 Hampton Hill St 45752 Irvine Dr 41024 Mooringside 27483 Sloan St

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PDr \$282,000 Novi \$82,000 le Ct \$304,000 r \$268,000 Il St \$171,000 \$285,000 e \$103,000 \$265,000

40245 E Ann Arbor Trl \$200,000 41218 Greenbriar Ln \$153,000 42449 Lakeland Ct 50311 Maple Ridge Dr \$525,000 9460 McClumpha Rd 188 N Harvey St \$240,000 \$145,000 1062 Palmer St 9167 Redbud Ave \$160,000 \$155,000 \$254,000 \$159,000 46097 Rockledge Dr 695 Simpson St 25612 Deborah \$100,000 18419 Denby \$85,000 \$74,000 19905 Imperial Hwy \$32,000 \$148,000 15831 Leona Dr 24446 Lyndon \$85,000 \$88,000 14130 Marion 9208 San Jose 13121 Sioux \$112,000 Westland 36100 Abbey Dr 37149 Amhurst Dr \$165,000 \$130,000 \$112,000 \$125,000 31564 Ann Arbor Trl 8267 August Ave 29098 Brody Ave 1275 Craig Dr \$137,000 \$155,000 559 Darwin St 38596 Deer Creek Blvd \$113,000 \$115,000

36767 Dover Dr 33110 Lancashire St

37690 Laramie St 35047 Marquette St

7823 N Henry Ruff Rd 7425 N Inkster Rd

7345 N Venoy Rd 38510 Winekoff Dr

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Answer to Previous Puzzle

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PENNY CAPSIZE
HOE MAI OAR

INTEGERTINGE

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47 Back talk 49 HBO receivers

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28 Comfy shoe

33 Starfish part

35 Outstanding 36 Ans.

38 Medieval trade unions

29 Painter's work 31 Ballpark figure

ACROSS

- Collector's item — take forever!
- 9 Rug texture
- 12 Low dice roll 13 Firearms lobby
- 14 Govt. dept 15 Concerning
- 16 Egyptian god 17 Hard to please
- 19 Prince Valiant's
- 21 Realized,
- as profits 23 Adroit 25 ER personnel 26 Ms. Bombeck
- 30 Nomad
- dwelling 32 Town official
- 33 Frightens 36 Make a choice
- 37 Postgame
- 38 Aim

- 40 - de-sac 41 Fishtails

- discussion
- 39 Deportment
- 3 Argon, in the 4 Mal de 5 Orchard

Yonder

DOWN

48 Energy 49 Bulb cover

52 Uh cousin

55 By way of 56 Get spliced

Maurier

57 Bran provides it

59 Cunning 60 "— Gratia Artis"

(MGM motto) 61 Weather sys-

1 Famed violin

54 Daphne

- product 6 Neonate
- 7 Game-show
- prizes 8 Swede's neighbor



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Fun By The Numbers

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5

6

9

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2

THESE WORDS IN THE PU

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DOLPHIN **FOX GIRAFFE** MINK

SHEEP **SQUIRREL** TIGER **ZEBRA**

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

CHIMZEBRRA GECAME

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE TIGECAMELU DOLPHINRTY E M E W I N K C E 2 F T R W X B H V X RGIRAFERML I E U Y R U I T I K GRQSBDFART MIZHEEDHUK C H I W Z E B K K Y

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Northlawn Financial	(248) 988-8488	4.75	0	4.5	-0	J/A/V/F
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A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders.

For The Best Auto Deals..Check Your Classifieds!



Observer & Eccentric

HOMETOWN/ife.com



BIRMINGHAM 1ST MONTH FREE

Studios, 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms Furnished apartments avail. Gorgeous new kitchens and baths. Available in town Birmingham at the 555 Building

Call Michelle (248) 645-1191 CANTON-LIMITED TIME ONLY

LINCOLNSHIRE APTS.
44908 Trails Ct. Sec. 8 waiting list is opening for 2 bdrm units, 2-4 people only. Accepting pre-applications or Jan 20, 21, 22, 23 btwn 10 12pm. Call: (734) 453-6500

DETROIT 7 Mile & Telegraph area. 1 bdrm upper. Cozy. \$400/mo + sec dep & ref. Super clean. (313) 657-8125 **FARMINGTON HILLS**

ANNGIÉ APTS. NO APPLICATION FEE FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom \$505. 9 Mile/ Middlebelt 248-478-7489

FARMINGTON HILLS FREEDOM VILLAGE APTS. 1' Bdrm. 1 Month Free Luxury 1 & 2 bdrm. Laundry in unit. Water incl., no pets. \$575-700/mo, **586-254-9511**

FARMINGTON HILLS RENTAL SPECIAL Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms, updated kitchen, blinds and

carport incl. Starting at \$600/mo. 1 year lease. 1st month free with good credit Call: (248) 763-4729 FARMINGTON PLAZA APTS

Luxury 2 bdrms, A/C, pool & parking. New kitchen & baths, laundry rooms, heat incl. \$650/mo. Call for specials. (248) 478-8722

FIVE, FIVE, FIVE 1ST MONTH FREE Studios, 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms Furnished apartments avail. Gorgeous new kitchens and baths. Available in towr Birmingham at the 555 Building. Call Michelle (248) 645-1191

GARDEN CITY - Spacious updated 1 bdrm, air, deck, storage room, laundry. FREE heat water. \$605. 248-346-6108 GARDEN CITY - Updated 2 bdrm, completely remodeled clean & quiet. Winter Specials

LINCOLN PARK Deluxe 1 & 2 bedrooms. Lowest Rent in the area. Quiet private balcony's. storage, laundry, ceiling fans w/ lights & blinds.

Call: (248) 474-3005

Mid 5/Middlebelt. 1 & 2 bdrm off first 2 months with approved credit. \$640/mo. 248-521-1978



Make Offer 734-261-5410 LIVONIA Spacious 1 bdrm, great location, across from

nice unit

Livonia rec. center. \$650/mo incl. utilities. 248-255-2412 NORTHVILLE Downtown, 2

bdrm, 1 bath, hardwood floors, short term lease considered. Call: Kristin Halmagh 248-330-4660

FREE FLAT SCREEN TV

Newly updated 1 & 2 bdrm apts. New berber carpet, new cherry flooring, full size washcentral er/dryers, TREE TOP MEADOWS

248-348-9590 www.BGcommunities.com **NOVI-MAIN STREET AREA**

1 & 2 Bdrm Apts. Washer, Dryer, Private Entrance & 248-348-0626 EHO

PLYMOUTH - DOWNTOWN Quiet complex, 1 bdrm, C/A storage, carport, laundry facilities, walk-in closet. \$565/mo 231-645-7222

PLYMOUTH 1 Bdrm. \$600, 2 Bdrm. \$670 First month free w/approved credit. W/ 1 yr. lease. Walk-in closets. (734) 455-1215 PLYMOUTH - 1 bdrm duplex,

washer & dryer, \$595/mo. Canton 1 bdrm, \$575/mo. heat incl. Lease. 734-455-0391 PLYMOUTH - OLD VILLAGE, Small 1 bdrm, hardwood floors, ceiling fan, breakfast

bar, cable ready, storage and laundry, very clean and cute. \$145/wk incl all utilities, 1 vr \$145/wk incl all utilities, 1 yr lease. (248) 425-4853, broker. PLYMOUTH

1 Bdrm: \$637/mo. 1st Month Free Private entry/patio Washer/Dryer included nale story attic storage (734) 459-6640 EHO

PLYMOUTH DUPLEY Re-done 2 bdrm. Appliances, laundry, air. \$650/mo.+ utilities & dep. No pets. 734-459-0854 PLYMOUTH Lg 1 bdrm, newly remodeled, \$595, Incl. heat & water. Mo to mo lease. 734-641-7751 LYNX C.I.R. Inc.

Plymouth **Rent Starting** at \$499

1 & 2 Bedroom Apt's. **Plymouth Manor Plymouth House** 734-455-3880

PLYMOUTH-SHELDON PARK cious 1 & 2 bdrms. From \$565 \$300 Security 50% off 1st 3 Months Call: (734) 453-8811

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

WALLED LAKE Pick Your Special 1st Mo. Free or Free Heat This Winter 1 Bdrm; \$499; 2 Bdrm Townhomes: \$650

Reduced deposit, pets (248) 624-6606 EHO

Westland Estates One **Bedrooms**

No fine print in this ad! \$30.00 Application Fee

from \$495

New Resident's Only 734-722-4700 734-444-5655 Mon. -Fri. 10-9pm Sat. Sun. 10-4pm

> WESTLAND First Month FREE! 1 Bedroom - \$485/mo. Walk-in Closets

Newburgh Colonial Apts. 2400 Newburgh Rd. (734) 721-6699 EHO We always find the best



WESTLAND PAY WHAT ???? Live Great! Pay Less! 734-261-5410

4000

Westland Park Apts.

FREE RENT 1st month Free and

Reduced Rate 2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath, \$565, 936 Sq. Ft. 1 Bdrm, \$490, 728 Sq. Ft. \$200 Security Deposit

Heat and Water Incl (New residents only) with approved credit No Pets. C/A. Vertical Blinds, Intercom. Appliances include

dishwasher. Very clean Apartments Excellent Maintenance (734) 729-6636

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

1 & 2 bedroom apts. with fireplace. No Application Fee, Limited Time Only. (734) 261-7394

1 & 2 bdrm, 2 baths. Washer & dryer. vate entrance & balco (734) 459-1711 EHO

Ypsilanti - Reduced Rent Plus \$99 Sec Dep* Section 8 Welcome Large 1 & 2 bedroom

734-434-0576 EHO

*Some restrictions apply

4010

BIRMINGHAM DOWNTOWN

1 bdrm newly furnished, park-ing, short term, \$995/ mo. incl. utilities. Molly: 248-705-8281 Condos/Townhouses

BIRMINGHAM - DOWNTOWN

2 bdrm townhouse, 1.5 bath hardwood floors, a/c, bsmt washer/dryer. No pets, non-smoking, \$1100/mo. 248-901-0425 SOUTHFIELD 1250 sq. ft., 2 bdrm, full bsmt, 12 Mile & Telegraph. \$699/mo. 734-

WESTLAND 2 bed-

room, all appliances, newly updated, fenced yard 2023 Stieber. \$800/mo. + security 734-578-0246.

4030 **Duplexes** CANTON 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, move-in

mid December. 1741 Elm-hurst. \$900/mo. + security deposit. (734) 455-1215. LIVONIA - 2 bdrm

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

Northville- 2 bdrm, quiet, near downtown. Recently updated Must See! \$600/mo + securi-248-474-2096

Flats

PLYMOUTH TWP

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

lomes For Rent

BEVERLY HILLS 3 \$850. BLOOMFIELD bdrm \$750, 248-540-5998. BIRMINGHAM

2 Bdrms, 1 master bdrm/pri-vate bath, 2 baths, carport, central air, laundry facilities. Updated kitchen, carpet and aint Immediate Occupancy \$1250. 248-421-3113

Homes For Rent

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - 1 bdrm gate house, Incl. all utilities, fireplace no pets/smoking. \$950 248-855-1831 nights

Homes For Rent

4050

CANTON - 45666 Augusta Executive home, 2700 sq. ft. located across from gol course, 4 bdrm, 3 1/2 bath family rm w/fireplace, bsmt. 1/2 car attached garage \$2395/mo. Wed. 5:30 pm & Sunday 3:30 pm. \$0 dep in qualified. Paula: 734-444-5212

CANTON 41004 Westfield Circle. 2000 sq. ft., 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car attached garage, family rm & fireplace. Avail. now! \$1495/mo. Showing Wed. & Sun. at 4pm. 734-444-5212, 313-920-5966

Canton

NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL 1 MONTH FREE 3 BR 2 Bath all appliances including washer/dryer & c/a. FROM ONLY \$649 Call College Park Estates Sun Home Sales 888-264-4080 APPLY ONLINE

www.4collegepark.com Must close by 1/31/09

CANTON, Spotless 2100 Sq. Ft. 3 bdrm, 3 full baths, with den/library, raised ranch. Gas fireplace, formal dining and living room. 2 & 1/2 Car attached garage. Plymouth-Canton schools. \$1575/mo. 248-425-4853, See pics: www.bekamanagement.com

CLAWSON - Sharp 2 bdrm colonial, 2 full baths, all appliances, 1 car, fenced yard. \$850/mo. D&H Properties: Westland-LIVONIA SCHOOLS (248) 888-9133

> **DEARBORN HEIGHTS** - Sharp 3 bdrm ranch, bsmt, garage, C/A, new vinyl windows, option, \$850. (248) 788-1823 DETROIT - 2 bdrm, basement, \$575/mo. 16580 Woodbine, 6 mile & Telegraph.

Call: (248) 476-6498 DETROIT LASHER RD AREA 2 bdrm, bsmt, \$475/mo. 2 bdrm, bsmt, \$475/mo. 18971 Westbrook 3 Bdrm, bsmt, garage, \$600/mo. 20021 Chapel (248) 476-6498

FARMINGTON HILLS 12 Mile & Haggerty 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath dining rm, living rm, family rm, fireplace, 2 car garage. 248-553-4874.



2-3 bdrm. Very clean, new windows. \$800-\$1000/mo. security. 248-787-6808. Farmington Hills Immaculate

3 bdrm brick w/vaulted ceilings, granite kit. & fireplace, garage. \$1300. 248-755-0461 Farmington Hills-Renovated Clean, 3 bdrm brick ranch

garage, fenced, w/sic walks.\$950. 248-755-0461 FERNDALE 1931 Martin Ave. 3 bdrm, completely remodeled yard. \$695/mo. 248-349-9357

FERNDALE Bungalow, 9 Mile & Pinehurst. 1500 sq. ft., 3 bdrm, 2 bath, \$799/mo. 734-968-6275, 734-722-6646 FERNDALE Large 4 bdrm, all hardwood floors, 2 car garage, large bsmt. \$1100/mo. +



bedrooms. \$750/mo. with option to buy. 734-737-0127

GARDEN CITY 3 hdrm close to schools, garage, nice yd. good neighborhood. \$900 a month. 734-776-1303



Observer & Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL

Homes For Rent

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

Sharp 3 Bedroom, 924 sq. ft. Appliances included.

888-264-5842 vww.academywestpoint.com

Call Lauren at

Sun Homes

INKSTER - Sharp 3 bdrm brick ranch, bsmt, 2 car garage, dining room, option, bad credit okay, \$650. (248) 788-1823 LIVONIA - 2 bdrm, appliances, fireplace, garage, large yard, no pets, \$850/mo + sec. Call: 734-425-7355

LIVONIA - Btwn 5 Mile & Schoolcraft. 4 bdrm, garage, everything new in house \$1200/mo. (734) 674-3021 LIVONIA -Updated 3 bdrm, 1 bath ranch

clean quiet neighborhood

\$925/mo. (734) 564-8402

LIVONIA 2 bdrm ranch, 2 bath, all appliances, 2 car garage, finished bsml w/office. \$1100. 734-459-9895 LIVONIA 29035 ROYCROFT

- 3 Bdrms, bath, 2 garages, central air, laundry facilities. Immediate Occupancy. A must see! \$900. 734-427-LIVONIA 3 bdrm ranch, 1 1/2

bath, bsmt, garage, new car pet, no pets. \$950/mo. deposit. 248-735-1779 REDFORD - 3 bdrm, 1 bath.

1500 sq. ft. Fireplace, all new paint, bsmt, fenced yard, pets REDFORD - Remodeled 3 bdrm, finished bsmt, garage option, bad credit okay. \$800, Call: (248) 788-1823 REDFORD - Updated 2 bdrm w/new carpeting. Bsmt, centra air, Appliances Incl, \$500/mo No pets. Immed. Occupancy.

WESTLAND - Pretty 2 bdrm w. newer carpeting. Appliances included. \$525/mo. No pets. Immed. Occupancy.
SUSAN & RACHEL RION 734-522-5246 Real Estate Assoc. 734-522-2429

ROCHESTER HILLS, 3000 Sq Ft. 4 Bdrm, 2.5 bath Colonial located on the 3rd hole of Great Oaks Golf Course. Hardwood floors, all, appli-ances 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. 350 Rent for a two vr lease \$1400 for a one yr lease. 248-425-4853. See pics: www.bekamanagement.com

WAYNE 3 bdrm, 2 bath, new kitchen plus, great neighborhood. No pets, non-smoking. \$800/mo. 734-878-1612

WAYNE - 3 bdrm ranch, new vinyl windows & furnace, 2 car garage, option/LC avail, bad credit ok, \$800. 248-788-1823

WEST BLOOMFIELD 6007 Shillingham, \$1,775. 4 bdrm, 2.5 baths, fin bsmt, 2 fireplaces, 2 car garage, open house 1-3, Sun Jan 18 & 25. Broker owned, (248) 318-3453

WESTLAND Small 3 bdrm, carpeted, C/A, garage, \$675/mo.
Ross Realty: (734).326-8300

WESTLAND - 37172 Gilchrist, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 2 car garage, no pets. \$925/mo. + 1 1/2 secu rity deposit. (734) 981-5873 WESTLAND Act Now! 2 & 3

bdrm duplexes. Excellent Condition. 1.5 bath, carpet, near school. 313-418-9905 WESTLAND Cute 2 bdrm, country kitchen, fenced yard, nice area. Newly updated, pets neg. \$690. 248-306-3333

WOODHAVEN Remodeled 3 bdrm brick ranch, finished bsmt, 2 car, C/A, 2 baths, option, \$900. (248) 788-1823 Mobile Home Rentals 4070

FARMINGTON HILLS MOBILE MANOR 1-2-3 Bedrooms, appliances, no pets, from \$350/mo. 8 Mile & Merriman area.

Living Quarters To

4120 **CANTON** Executive home on 5 wooded acres, \$450 master suite w/private bath, incl. util-ities. 734-658-8823

NORTHVILLE DOWNTOWN Female to share, 2 bdrm., 2 full bath apartment facing lake, w/ laundry. 248-348-3897

Rooms For Rent

GARDEN CITY Working male

drug-free, sleeping rooms furnished. \$75-90wk., sec 734-731-2657, 734-255-5909 NORTHVILLE - 3 bdrm condo. Mature professional, non-smoking, Laundry. (248) 349-7334 (248) 505-0614 ROMULUS - Furnished, clean

private entrance, \$75/weekly \$225 security. 734-718-3577 SOUTHFIELD available, newly reno-\$350 incl all utilities.

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

Call: (248) 557-0284

TRIPLE A DELUXE MOTEL A/C, Jacuzzi in rooms, maid service, HBO. Low daily/wkly 734-427-1300

248-544-1575 248-347-9999 Comfort Suites 248-504-5080 WESTLAND Clean, furnished trailer. ing preferred. 734-261-1571.

Office/Retail Space For 4220

Rent/Lease REDFORD TWP.

OFFICE SHITES from 320 sq.ft. & up Several locations Great Rates incl. utilities. CERTIFIED REALTY INC: (248) 471-7100



 Close to I-96
 Open 7 days a week Franklin Square

734-427-6970

Observer & Eccentric

Classified

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Deadlines: 4:30 p.m. Friday Sunday edition Thursday edition......11:00 a.m. Wednesday

Offices and Hours: Eccentric office.....805 E. Maple. Birmingham Observer office41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 Hours8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

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Office/Retail Space For 4220

ROCHESTER DOWNTOWN with private layatory Faces free public parking. Avail. Feb. 1st. \$1600/mo. Gross Lease. 248-892-3863

Commercial/Industrial 4230 For Rent/Lease

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

FREE MOBILE HOMES

Security Deposit equal to one month's rent **Contact Lauren** or Jamie at

Academy West Point 888-268-7434

..place your ad

Don't take a

chance....

& Eccentric Classifieds today!

in The Observer

1-800-579-SELL

Even in these



trying times, we still have the best prices!

<u>Carriage</u>

<u>House</u>

Luna

Apts.

Plymouth

Move-In

CENTRAL AIR

Corner of Haggerty & Joy

Garden City

Move-In Specials!

Near Westland mall

Bathrooms

(734) 425-0930

(734) 425-0930

Specials!

Parkcrest Designed with Apts. ROOMATES in MIND!

Livonia Across from Meijers
Schools Across 724 522 30 734) 522-3013

SPACIOUS!! Wilderness 2 Bdrms, 1000 sq. ft. Livonia S Schools CARPORTS/POOL WASHER & DRYER

specials today!

(734) 425-5731 Take advantage of **Village** one of these great Apts. Bordering Westland

(734) 425-0930 HUGE

734-451-5210

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www.hometownlife.com Call 1-800-579-SELL



We take the work out of finding a new job.

There, you'll find the latest job postings across a variety of professions. With just a

few clicks, you can connect to a world of

To Place Your Ad

ORS: Stay Warm with FREE HEAT! Stay Cozy and Warm with us at Westgate Tower this season!

plenty of fun activities planned

each month!

Lots of fun activities - 24 hour laundry rooms - Lounge Free Heat & Water - Ample Parking - One small pet allowed

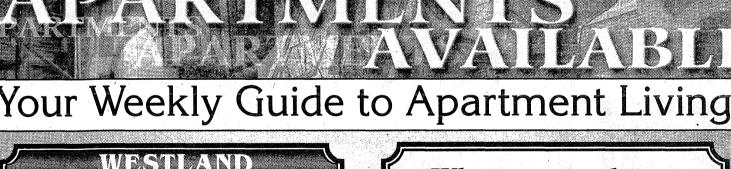
Rent starting at JUST \$414.00'!!

Call (734) 729-2900 Todav! *Must be 62 or Older; Income Limits Apply.

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

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

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







6000

6230

rketrace

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Personals

BLOOMFIELD SUBSTANCE ABUSE & RECOVERY CENTER Offering take home therapy fo Opioid dependant patients Call for appt: (248) 705-9300

Adoption

ADOPT: A truly loving married couple wishes to adopt your newborr into a home filled with happiness, security and endless love. Expenses paid. Please call Jessica and Terence at 800-556-1129.

ADOPTION: We promise to give your baby a life filled with happiness, warmth, and lots of love Expenses paid. Lori & Gary, 1-888-892-1866



Absolutely Free

Used, 3 Luaun doors with pine frame. All hardware. 2R2/6R, 2/6L, 248-344-1314

7000

7060

Antiques/Collectibles 7020 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sat., Jan. 17, 8-5 pm. Fifty plus dealers, \$3. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, Saline, MI.

734-944-0713

Auction Sales

AUCTION Jan. 17, 6:30 pm Old Winery General Store 31505 Grand River Farmington. 248-982-0105

Auction Sales 7100 Estate Sales

ESTATE AUCTION Saturday-Jan 17th - 7pm **Cultural Center** 525 Farmer

Plymouth, MI

Collectibles

Glassware/Furniture Coins/Jewelry Costume Jewelry Household Items Tools Cash/MC/Visa AmEx/Discover

Bank Debit Cards No Checks Doors Open 6pm JC Auction Services 734-451-7444 icauctionservices.com

"We Work For You!"

hometownlife.com

7100 Estate Sales

ANOTHER GOOD ESTATE SALE! FRI.-SAT. Jan.16-17 10AM-4PM

25277 Hopkins Rd. Independence Commons Farmington Hills, 48335 West of Drake, South of 11 Mile. Take Old Holmstead to Hopkins.

Charming small house filled with mahogany fur-niture, oriental rugs, antiques & collectibles, Duncan Phyfe dining room, mahogany bdrm, leather wingback, small tables, china, silver, crystal, antique toys, mission bookcase, sterling flat ware. This house is filled with good things:

Pictures and details at www.estatesales.net.

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

FIND IT ONLINE HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ANOTHER ESTATE SALE BY IRIS Fri.-Sat., Jan 16-17, 10-4pm.

27775 Rackham, Lathrup Village, 48074- Take 12 Mi. btwn. Evergreen & Southfield, to Bloomfield St. Go S. to San Jose, go W. to dead end.

·Vintage collectibles ·Early matchbox cars •Antique postcards •Old metal cars etc. •Collectible paper go-ods, etc. •2 bdrm sets, •Lg. dining table & 8 chairs huge breakfront •2 leather sofas & matching chair
•Full nursery: furniture,
toys, clothes, etc. •Bikes
•Workout stuff •2 office desks, etc. •Gorgeous dec-orator iron king bed •8 new tires w/rims •Patio furni-ture •Too much to mention!

248-626-6335 JAMES ADELSON 248-240-3269 Appraisers & Liquidators for 45 Yrs in Metro Area.

IRIS KAUFMAN

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - 2089 W Bend Ct, N/ Long Lk, E/ Middlebelt, Fri-Sat, 8:30-4, St 7100 Estate Sales

LIVONIA 9060 Hanlon, Ann Arbor Trl & Wayne. Fri-Sun Jan 16-18, 9-5pm. Household furniture &

appliances & misc, items. PRESTIGE ESTATE SALE Fri., Jan. 16, 10-4 Sat, Jan 17 10-12 Noon

32350 Eastlady, Beverly Hills (S. of 14 Mile, btwn Cranbrook & Lahser). Patio furniture sets, Formica table and 4 chairs, computer desk, lawn equipment, accessories and more! 586-662-7373

7130 **Moving Sales**

REDFORD - 3 Shonaholics Clean Out/Moving Sale! Lots of furniture, couch sets, dining room, home decor, racks, racks & more racks of gorgeous clothing, winter/ spring, all sizes. Women's, men's & kid's. Tons & tons of jewelry, shoes & purses. Most clothing & accessories, \$1 each. You won't believe your eyes! Fri & Sat, 1/16 & 1/17, 10-5pm; Sun 1/18, 10-2pm (1/2) aff). (1/2 off). 15630 Meadowbrook, N of 5 Mile, E

hometownlife.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

DIETARY AIDES &

HOUSEKEEPERS PART-TIME

Needed for retirement home in Northville. Good wages.

Apply in person: Oakmont, 42000 Seven Mile Rd. W. of I-275, or call: 248-449-1480

DRIVER- Local Delivery

For commercial door distribu

tor. Applicant must have a valid

drivers license. Chauffer's

license a plus but not required

Fax resume to

734-422-9488

DRIVERS: TOW TRUCK

Full-Time, Experience,

afternoon shift. Contact Walter or Karen: 734-455-1130

Household Goods

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER 5

piece Hooker traditional oak wall unit. 36in. center ent.

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

59in. wide by 61in. high. 3 drawers, 6 shelves, TV area is

32in. wide by 28in. high. Off white. \$400 248-349-6521

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

sofa, 3 piece entertainment

center, end table, fabric ottoman, red painted chest,

black computer cabinet, 50" round kitchen table with 6

Table & Bed

Glass top brass cocktail table-40 sq. in., \$100. Antique day bed- \$200 Ask for Ruth: 248-

chairs. Best offer

723-3933 after 2pm

Help Wanted-General

Hair Stylist, dntwn Plymoth

salon has chair avail. Call confidential 734-233-8023 or

Housekeeping/Janitorial

Dining Services Managemen

Company has immediate openings for PART-TIME jani-

torial cleaners at a Detroit

College. Floor care experience

a plus. Friendly, energetic

customer service oriented

individuals need only to apply

Please call

Must be able to

evenings & weekends.

email plysalon@aol.com

Appliances

FURNITURE

(248) 723-5373

2- 34in.

w/antique glass. 2-bridge units. \$1495. evenings. 248-474-3307

CHRISTMAS VILLAGES

(Miniature)
15 assorted buildings. \$10 each. Also, 3 vinyl desk chairs. Call: (248) 476-9398 7510 **Musical Instruments**

GUITAR Gibson Electric Guitar Modèl 340, mint condition, fender Twin Reverb Amp. \$4500 or make offer. 810-655-8049

"It's All About Results" Observer & Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL

PIANO George D. Bent Spinet Piano, needs tuning. \$400 Call: 517-467-9262

7830

KITTENS Adorable 8-wk old kittens. Four boys/two girls. To good home only! Call Katie 248-471-3052

7840

APPLIANCES Stove \$85 LAB PUPS AKC Dark chocolate Refrigerator \$100; Freezer or black. Vet checked/shots. \$195. 517-548-0811 Howell

Household Pets

ADORABLE PUPPY SALE!

All Puppies \$200

off or more!

90 Days Same as Cash*
*With Approved Credit &

Minimum Purchase Many Popular Breeds including: Boxer, Cocker Spaniel, Dachshund, De-signer Mixes, Shih Tzu,

> Petland Westland

Across from

(734) 367-9906

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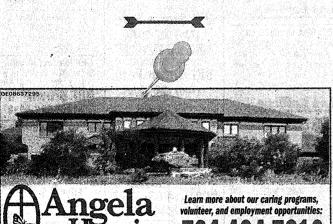
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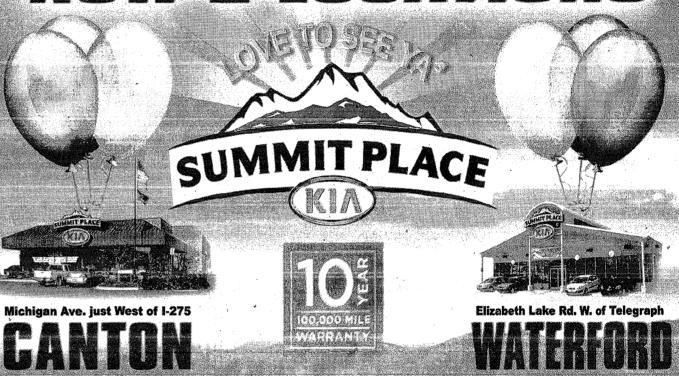


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New Models, Green Technology Put Shine On Naias

Advertising Feature

CAReport





By Dale Buss

Automakers are emphasizing their continuing stream of new models and burnishing the environmental credentials of their latest propulsion systems as they prepare to host the metro Detroit public at the 2009 North American International Auto Show at Cobo Hall next week. Things are so bad in the industry that some car

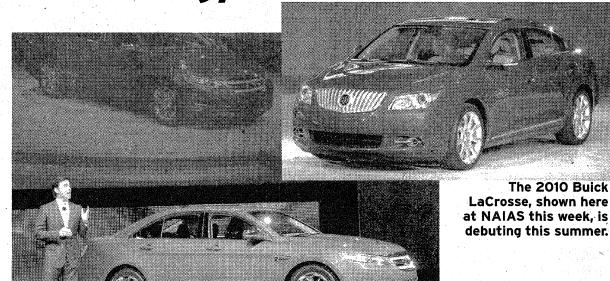
manufacturers aren't even bothering to announce or highlight any of their products or other advances this year at the annual blowout in downtown Detroit, including Nissan. But the most beleaguered companies - General Motors and Chrysler - were attempting to turn the show and their performances at it into a springboard for a new year that they hope can possibly only improve over 2008.

"Our plan is anchored by great products and great people,: said Rick Wagoner, chairman and chief executive officer of General Motors, which of course is in the midst of forging a blueprint that will justify the federal government's extension of loan guarantees in late December. "Our focus is to rapidly implement our accelerated restructuring plan."

To that end, GM staged a literal parade of new vehicles, including the 2010 Cadillac SRX, 2010 Buick Lacrosse, and 2010 Chevrolet Equinox that go on sale this summer, and a collection of concept vehicles including the Chevrolet Spark "microcar" and Cadillac Converj, a twodoor, all-electric crossover.

Under an unprecedented kind of scrutiny produced by the rescue drama, Wagoner introduced a procession of vehicles that made their way to the speakers' stage through a throng of 600 GM employees and retirees who volunteered to lead cheers on the show floor. Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm joined top GM executives at the front of the parade.

GM President of North American Operations Troy Classifieds on the web: Clarke highlighted the three '10 vehicles. The '10 Cadillac SRX, for example, is a "new design in the form of a crossover," he said, by contrast with earlier versions of the vehicle, which relied on sport-wagon styling. The new SRX is "aimed at changing the priorities of luxury buyers,"



Mark Fields, of Ford, introduces the new 2010 Ford Taurus at NAIAS.

The '10 Lacrosse reprises Buick's signature design cues, including a "waterfall" grille and "portals," and introduces cool-blue ambient lighting in the interior. It will be powered by two different V6 engines, offer a new sixspeed automatic transmission, and introduce a new allwheel-drive system.

The '10 Equinox will achieve 30 miles a gallon on the highway and utilize a six-speed automatic transmission to ensure that drivers a "range of at least 500 miles" for distance driving, Clarke said.

Meanwhile, Ford used NAIAS as the platform for the world premiere of the redesigned 2010 Ford Taurus and the 2010 Ford Mustang GT500 as well as an announcement for its plans for electric vehicles.

The flagship Taurus sedan has been completely redesigned inside and out to become a more athleticlooking, personal car versus the family one that it replaces (which began life as the Ford Five Hundred until Ford marketers realized their mistake of dumping the Taurus marque in the first place and re-applied it to the Five

"It's intended to turn heads" as the original Taurus and Mercury Sable did, with their "jelly-bean" styling, when they were introduced in 1986, said Mark Fields, Ford's president of the Americas.

Ford CEO Alan Mulally announced that the automaker would embark on an aggressive new electricvehicle plan that includes working with partners to introduce pure electric vehicles, next-generation hybrids

8290

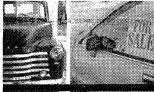
and plug-in hybrids.

Ford will sell in North America a new batteryelectric commercial van in 2010, a new battery-electric small car in 2011 that will be jointly developed with Toronto-based auto supplier Magna International, and next-generation hybrid vehicles including a plug-in version, in 2012.

Chrysler's new ENVI all-electric powertrain technology is the basis of a raft of concept vehicles that the company is displaying at NAIAS, as it tries to move past its own economic travails that have necessitated the creation of a federal-government lifeline. The ENVI group includes a tangerine-colored Dodge Circuit EV and a Jeep Patriot EV as well as the 200C EV sedan.

The 200C EV features organic materials in the interior design and a host of new electronic features including "audio tagging" for the purchase of digital music from the vehicle and features that comprise a "virtual chaperone" for teen drivers, including speed-limiting and notification of parents if their kids are driving erratically in the car.

Among other interesting new vehicles at NAIAS, BMW launched its all-new Z4 roadster to world-wide debut at the show. It is the company's first roadster to employ a retractable hardtop, a feature increasingly common for luxury-sport convertibles. The two-piece hardtop retracts in 20 seconds. The Z4 will offer a choice of two versions of BMW's famous inline six-cylinder engine, a 255-horsepower variant and a twinturbocharged unit that generates about 300 horsepower.





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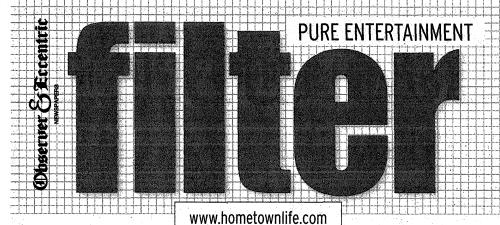
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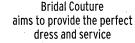
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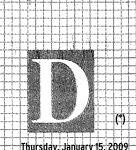
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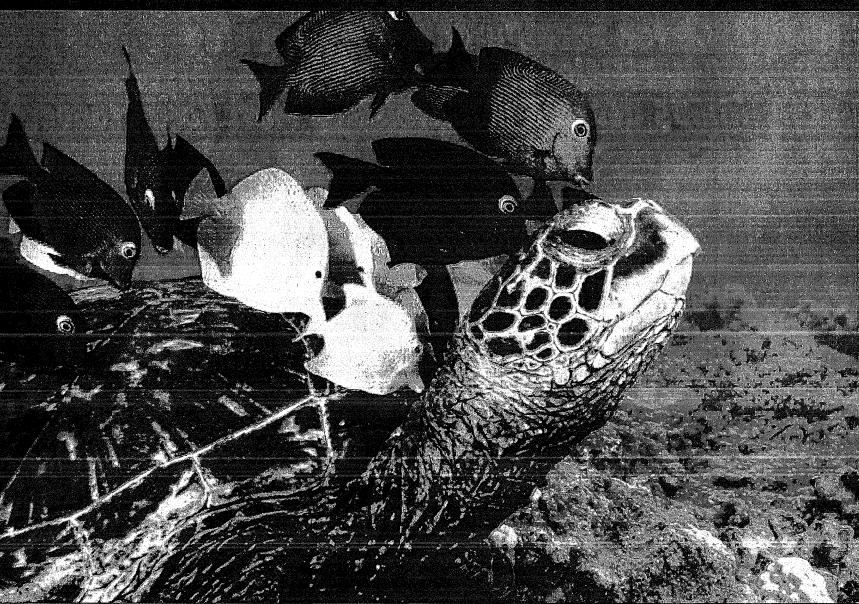






The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Delve Into the 'Deep Sea' at the science center's IMAX



PHOTOS BY PETER KRAGH

DEEP SEA 3D

What: Howard Hall directs this undersea adventure narrated by Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet, with a score by Danny Elfman. When: Showing now through June, various times listed at www.detroitsciencecenter.org. Running time is 45 minutes. Where: The Chrysler **IMAX Dome Theatre** at the Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R., Detroit. **Tickets**: \$12.95 adults, \$11.95 children. Arrive 30 minutes before the last show on any day and see the IMAX

only for \$5 off ticket

price.

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

Reef fish nibble algae from a green sea turtle's shell off Hawaiian shores in the IMAX® 3D film "Deep Sea 3D."

The Detroit Science Center's latest IMAX offering is sure to make audiences feel like marine biologists-intraining. Deep Sea 3D offers a wondrous close-up look at sea creatures from jellyfish and manta ray to sea turtles and squid.

Fred Huebener, IMAX manager at the center, said the film has been on his radar for a few years. "It is one of the most popular IMAX films of all time," he said.

Huebener attributes that success to the fact that the film shows only underwater sequences, allowing viewers to feel they're right there, deep in

At the science center, IMAX films are typically rotated from land to sea to keep both members and patrons interested. "From year to year to year they will always experience something new and different," said Huebener.

Deep Sea was included in a Mystery Movie series of screenings

Please see 'DEEP SEA', D2



Director Howard Hall and cameraman Bob Cranston glimpse a Caribbean Reef Shark overhead in the warm Atlantic waters of the Bahamas for the filming of the IMAX® 3D film "Deep Sea 3D," now playing at the Detroit Science Center.

ure Picks

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

Filtering your entertainment picks for the weekend beginning Jan. 16, 2009:



KAREN BALLARD

Daniel Craig is Tuvia Bielski and Liev Schreiber is Zus Bielski in the Paramount Vantage film, "Defiance."

Defiance opens in area theaters today, a true tale of family, honor and vengeance set during World War II. The film stars Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber and Jamie

Bell as broth-

ers struggling

to avenge the

death of their loved ones.

This film is

rated R.

Sometimes you just want more Soup. Comedian Joel McHale, host of the E! Entertainment cable network's show The Soup, dishes it out live, 7:30 tonight at The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets \$32.50 to \$37.50, call (248) 645-



Leonard Slatkin conducts the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, along with performances by Olga Kern on piano and the MSU Children's Choir for From Russia With Love, 3 p.m. today at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.detroitsymphony.com. Listen for Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy and the Russian and Ludmilla overture by Glinka.

Who Wants Cake theater company delves into thrilling territory with Deathtrap, showing at 8 p.m. at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward, in Ferndale. Find out what happens when a struggling writer joins forces with an unsuspecting student to develop a potential Broadway hit. The plot twists and turns will keep you on the edge of your seat until the end. Tickets are \$10 on this and any Half-Off Monday shows. Call (248) 556-8581 or visit www.whowantscaketheatre.com.



COLLEEN SCRIBNER

Joe Bailey (center, seated) is surrounded by the cast of Deathtrap, including (left to right) Jean Garringer, Melissa Beckwith, Tom James: and Jamie Richards.



The Capitol Steps bring their brand of political humor to The Village Theater at Cherry Hill on Friday.

'CAPITOL STEPS' IN CANTON

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will become the hub of political comedy when Capitol Steps bring their unique wit to Canton and put the MOCK in Democracy at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16.

Capitol Steps began as a group of Senate staffers who set out to satirize the very people and places that employed them in December 1981. Inspired by incumbent president and one-time Hollywood actor Ronald Reagan, the group determined that if entertainers could become politicians, then politicians could become entertainers. The Washington D.C.-based troupe will perform their political song parodies and skits straight out of current headlines in the intimate setting of the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. Purchase tickets, \$45 for all seats, online at www.cantonmi.org/villagetheater or call (734) 394-5300. For more information visit www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater or www.capsteps.com.

BANJOS IN LIVONIA

The Friends of the Livonia Library will present The Banjos of Michigan 2 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Livonia Civic Center, 32777 Five Mile Road. The group started as a handful of banjo players who met in a basement in West Bloomfield, and has grown to include more than 100 members. Now one of the largest clubs in the Midwest, The Banjos of Michigan play in nursing homes, hospitals, retirement homes, civic events and concerts across the Metro area. The concert is free. Call (734) 455-2495.

HAVE A "BLAST" WITH DDC

Detroit Dance Collective will host "The Blast!," a unique fund raising event, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16 at The Glass Academy, 25331 Trowbridge St., Dearborn. The evening includes dance performances, glass blowing demonstrations, wine, hors d'oeuvres, music, door prizes and more. Since 1980, DDC has created, premiered, and toured provocative dance works and touched the lives of thousands through dedicated educational programming. Funds raised from The Blast will support educational outreach in community schools, the creation of new company repertory, and continued employment for several Michigan dancers. Door prizes include restaurant certificates, spa packages, massage, wine baskets, performance tickets and more. Cost is \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Visit www. detroitdancecollective.org or call (810) 444-4553.

RON ASHETON REMEMBERED

Pay tribute to late Stooges guitarist Ron Asheton during "Ronnie ... Thanks a Million," 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17 at Music Hall Center For The Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit.

Hosted by artist Niagara, Asheton's former Destroy All Monsters and Dark Carnival band-



Asheton

mate, the evening will celebrate the life of the man Rolling Stone magazine called "one of the greatest guitarists of all time." Asheton was found dead in his Ann Arbor home

on Tuesday, Jan. 4. The night will include tributes, Asheton's music, a film retrospective by Tim Caldwell, and performances by special friends including Dark Carnival alumni led by BootseyX & The Lovemasters. Admission is free but donations are encouraged to cover the night's expenses and contribute to Asheton's favorite charity, The Michigan Humane Society. Visit www.myspace.com/niagaradetroit for more information.

for patrons of all ages. "We

showed three films to two

different audiences and this

was the highest rated film."

The 45-minute sea explo-

ration was released in 2006

and directed by world-

renowned underwater

cinematographer Howard

Winter | Spring 20 130th UMS Season 14th Annual Ford Honors Program honoring **Royal Shakespeare Company** Michael Boyd artistic director Ralph Williams U-M Professor of English SAT, JAN 24 | 6 PM Rackham Auditorium The 14th Annual Ford Honors Program celebrates the partnership between the University Musical Society, the University of Michigan, and the Royal Shakespeare Company, whose first UMS appearance in 2001 launched the beginning of three major residencies that have included nine Shakespeare plays, the US premiere of a stage adaptation of Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children, and hundreds of free educational events with local and regional partners. The 90-minute celebration will animate the partnership through a costumed performance of the courting scene from Henry V by the acclaimed RSC actors who brought the roles to life in London and Stratford, Shakespeare related performances by students from the U-M Musical Theatre Department and the Mosaic Youth Theater, and Professor Williams's reflections on Shakespeare and theater, all woven together through brief video segments that highlight some of the profound impacts of the RSC residencies and of Williams's career at U-M. Made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services The 2009 Educator and School of the Year Awards are sponsored by DTE Energy Foundation Bank of Ann Arbor University of Michigan Health System Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP Masco Corporation Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. **Rick and Sue Snyder** Richard Goode piano SUN, JAN 25 | 4 PM Hill Auditorium **PROGRAM** J. S. Bach French Suite No. 5 in G Major, BWV 816 Chopin Scherzo No. 3 in c-sharp minor, Op. 39 Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, Op. 60 J. S. Bach Preludes and Fugues from The Well-Tempered Klavler, Nocturne in F-sharp Major, Op. 15, No. 2 Chopin Nocturne in D-flat Major, Op. 27, No. 2 Waltz in c-sharp minor, Op. 64, No. 2 Waltz in A-flat Major, Op. 64, No. 3 Valse brilliante in F Major, Op. 34, No. 3 Polonaise-fantasie in A-flat Major, Op. 61 Co-Sponsored by Donald L. Morelock. Media Sponsors WGTE 91.3 FM, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, and WRCJ 90.9 FM ums Call or Click For Tickets! 734.764.2538 | www.ums.org |

Mardi Gras fun planned

During these trying times you can look to the blues for comfort or move in a different direction and go for Dixieland jazz. It's celebratory and fun.

It all depends on the mood you want to revel in.

If you want to Dixieland, mark your calendars for Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Monaghan Council Knights of Columbus in Livonia for the 17th Annual Mardi Gras Concert featuring the highly-

acclaimed Dixieland jazz band Tom Saunders' Detroit All-Stars. Saunders himself is a master

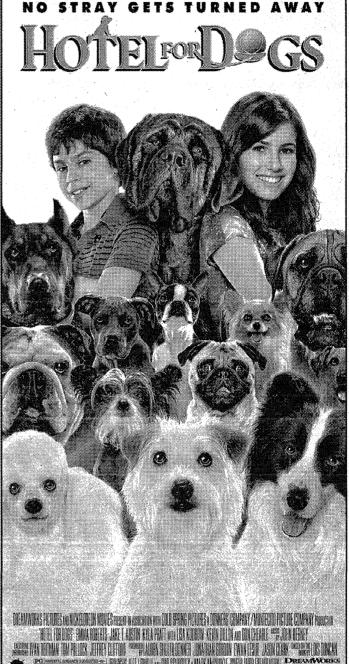
cornetist. The concert is 3-6 p.m. and includes a light menu. Costumes

are encouraged. The KOF is located at 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia, between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Tickets are \$15. Call (248) 478-0172 to order.

Hall. This marks its Detroit Science Center debut. The center houses Michigan's only large-scale IMAX dome theater, which Huebener said is especially suited to films like Deep Sea. Because patrons sit at a 30-degree angle completely surrounded by the image, it offers the full experience of deep sea life — without ever getting wet. "You feel as if you're in a submarine looking at a giant squid," said Huebener. "You feel like you've been transported. No matter how large a screen one might have at home, he said, it doesn't compare to the IMAX experience. Movies are chosen about one year in advance and slotted into the schedule accordingly. Huebener said Deep Sea differentiates itself from more traditional nature films because it doesn't focus on a single animal or move linearly from one animal to the next. Instead, viewers will see the sea animals interact in their natural habitat. Narration is provided by actors Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet — whose voices come across as friendly and familiar, said Huebener. "The filmmakers spent weeks and weeks (to get) a few seconds of a shrimp snapping its claws,' said Huebener, adding that a Manta Shrimp does so with the force of a .22-caliber bullet being fired, a sound

sure to catch the audience off guard. The film will be showing daily through at least June. To enhance the experience, visitors will notice a brief LED light show precedes each IMAX film in the the-

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[1-5]

1/16/09-1/22/09 NOTORIOUS [R]
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL [PG13] MY BLOODY VALENTINE [R]

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE [R] THE UNBORN [PG13] ROLE MODELS [R]

.... **GRAN TORINO [R]** YES MAN [PG13]

NOT EASILY BROKEN [PG13] SEVEN POUNDS [PG13]

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ROLE MODEL [R]
BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA [PG]

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SOUL MEN [R] MADAGASCAR ESCAPE 2 AFRICA [PG]
ROLE MODELS [R]
BODY OF LIES [R]
BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA [PG]

SAW V [R]
TYLER PERRY'S THE FAMILY THAT
PREYS TOGETHER [PG13] QUARANTINE [R]

EAGLE EYE [PG13] LAKEVIEW TERRĂCE [PG13] THE LONGSHOTS [PG]

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MARLEY AND ME [PG]
THE SPIRIT [PG13]
VALKYRIE [PG13]
DOUBT [PG13]
YES MAN [PG13]
SEVEN POUNDS [PG13]
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX [G]
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL [PG13]
FOUR CHRISTMASES [PG13]
TWII IGHT [PG13] TWILIGHT [PG13]

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GRAN TORINO [R]
THE UNBORN [PG 13]
RACHEL GETTING MARRIED [R] VALKYRIE (PG13) BEDTIME STORIES (PG) THE CURIOUS CASE OF **BENJAMIN BUTTON [PG13]** DOUBT [PG13] Marley & Me [PG]

MARLET & ME PG |
THE SPIRIT [PG | 3]
YES MAN [PG | 3]
SEVEN POUNDS [PG | 3]
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE [R]
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX [G]
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL [PG | 3]
EQUIP CUPICTMARES [PG | 50] FOUR CHRISTMASES [PG13] TWILIGHT [PG13] BOLT 3-D [PG] QUANTUM OF SOLACE [PG13]

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1/16/09-1/22/09 MADAGASCAR ESCAPE 2 AFRICA [PG] QUANTUM OF SOLACE [PG13] SOUL MEN [R]

> **Please Call Theatre For Movies & Showtimes**

Documentary shows what really happens to dogs in emergencies

he small black Labrador was infested with more worms and other parasites than any other animal ever seen at Rochester Veterinary Hospital.



Lana Mini

She had heartworm. roundworm, hook worm and a host of other problems — and the enlarged but dry teats on her little body were evidence she

had puppies. She was a survivor of Hurricane Katrina from the rough Ninth Ward area of New Orleans and spent weeks swimming through parasite infested waters. She was finally saved when an animal rescue group from Michigan — called

Sasha Farm — drove there to

start helping. The Labrador is healthy now because of Rochester Veterinary's extraordinary skills and kindness. She now lives with me, and her best friend is Macy, our spunky "pitbull" who cuddles with her daily. Life is good for Tula — her new name.

But what happened to other

animals of Katrina is mixed.

There were many heroes, many from Michigan, who risked their own safety to rescue animals like

The stories of Katrina animals can be seen in Ann Arbor on January 29, at the premiere of AnAmerican Opera — a documentary about perseverance and sadness during Katrina; filmed by Dearborn resident Tom McPhee.

The award-winning film details the efforts of thousands of volunteers who attempted to save the lives of the animals immediately following the hurricane. McPhee delves into society's frustration, helplessness and anguish in the wake of such a massive crisis.

Proceeds from the screening benefit several local and national charities, including Best Friends Network, and a variety of senior service organizations in Southeastern Michigan.

The film is presented as "The Greatest Pet Rescue Ever!" and looks into the human-animal relationship.

When I look into Tula's eyes I wonder about the struggles she endured in New Orleans; if her puppies survived; and what she

AN AMERICAN OPERA

What: Benefit Premiere of "An American Opera," a documentary about heroism, chaos and the lives of the animals in Hurricane Katrina. Extra: Filmmaker Tom McPhee will host a short question and answer session immediately following the screening.

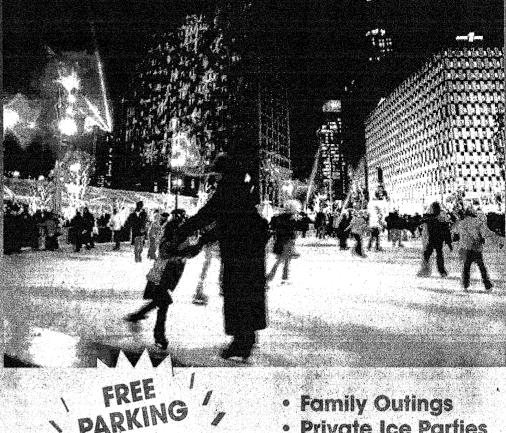
Where: The Michigan Theater, 603 Liberty St., Ann Arbor, wwww.michtheater.org

When: Thursday, Jan. 29.7 p.m. reception with appetizers; 8 p.m. screening

Admission: \$10 general admission; \$25 VIP, which includes reserved seating and an autographed poster. Details: See the trailer at www. myspace.com/eyetoeyedocumentary

saw. Her ability to climb like no dog I've ever rescued (I've fostered many) tells me she had to learn survival skills fast.

It worries me that if there's another disaster, officials still won't know what to do. Hopefully they will opt to be like the heroic folks in this documentary.





Mon.-Thurs.....11am - 10pm Friday.....11am - Midnight Saturday......10am - 11pm

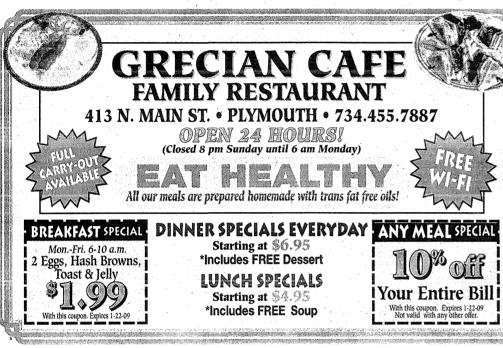
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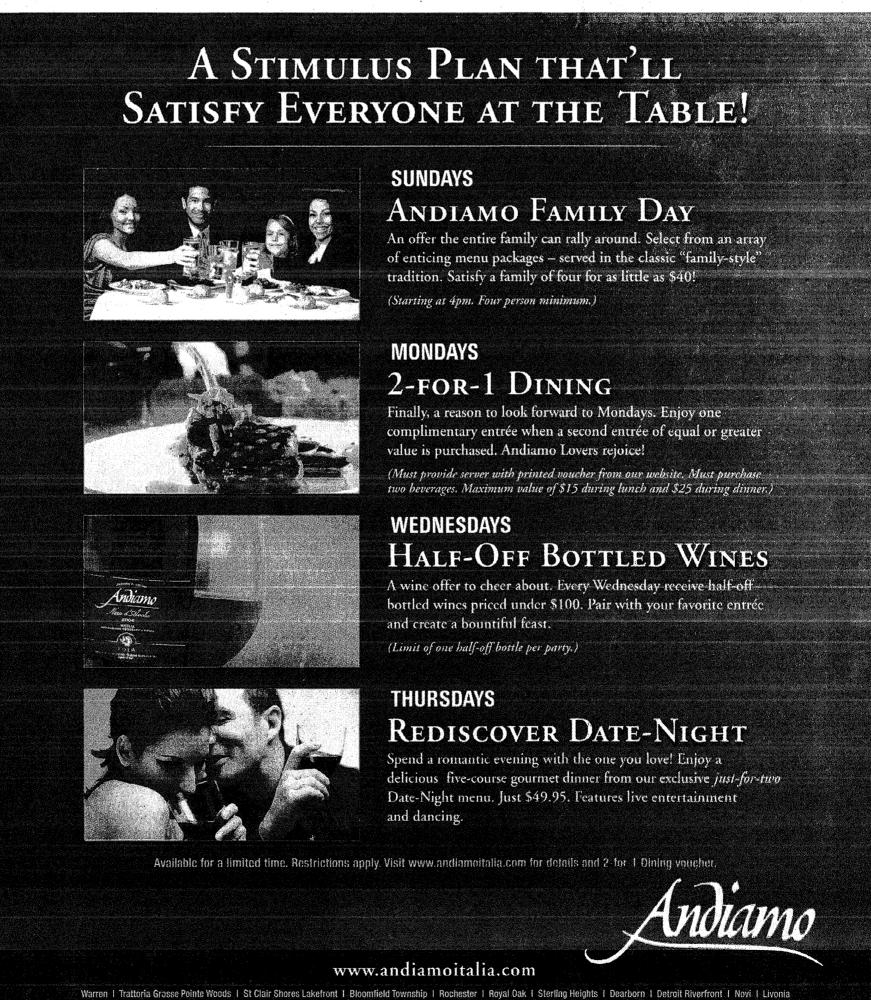
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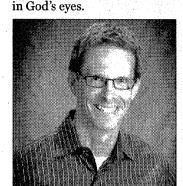
YOUR TOTALLY LOCAL NEWSPAPER



'Expand your Canvas' with new series at NorthRidge Church

BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Each of us is a masterpiece



That's the message a new series at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township hopes to convey.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, January 15, 2009

During "Expand Your Canvas," now through Feb. 22, senior pastor Brad Powell uses the metaphor of art to help people understand God's creative and restorative power.

A unique feature of "Expand Your Canvas" is an exhibit featuring art by members of the church, on display in the Chapel Gallery through the duration of the series.

In addition, the NorthRidge stage is decorated with reproductions of famed masterworks, which Powell references during his talks.

The series opened Jan. 10 with a sermon entitled "Defaced Masterpieces," during which Powell discussed "Patch of Grass" by Vincent Van Gogh.

"You would think he would start with a fresh canvas, but when you examine this masterpiece what you find under it is another portrait by Van Gogh," Powell said.

For whatever reason, Powell said, Van Gogh was unhappy with the original painting, and chose to cover it with a fresh work of art. In the same sense,

God is a great artist who has the power to renew lives and relationships fraught by bad choices.

"If you give the canvas back to God he can repaint a new masterpiece," Powell said.

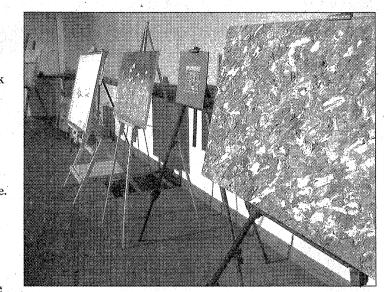
The series focuses on the Bible's Book of Nehemiah, which tells of the Jews who lingered in a devastated Jerusalem for 142 years until Nehemiah showed them hope.

In the same way, Powell said, many people today live amidst decline, decay and destruction without seeing a way out. "Make the choice," Powell

said. "Sit in the rubble or give the brush back to God. Sit in the rubble or give the sculpting tools back to God."

To further illustrate the metaphor, as well as showcase the talent of its diverse patrons, NorthRidge invited members to submit artwork for a juried gallery show.

Artists were asked to explain how God inspired



A juried exhibit of members artwork accompanies the series 'Expand Your Canvas' at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township.

their work, and their answers are displayed alongside each

"This series fits right into our lives, especially at a time like this when we're entering a new year," Powell said. "Expand your canvas. There

RELIGION CALENDAR

really is hope. You don't have to waste your lives."

For more information and to view the talks online, including "Defaced Masterpiece" (Jan. 10-11), visit www. northridgechurch.com.



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GEORGE TIFFANY GASTON II

Age 81, of Bloomfield Hills, retired owner of George M. Gaston, Inc., passed away Monday, January 12, 2008. Mr. Gaston graduated from the Cranbrook Academy, and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII. Survived by his beloved wife of 49 years, Joan. Loving father of Lori (Amir) Gal, David T. (Carrie) and Mark M. (Lisa). He was the proud Poppy of Stephanie and Danielle Gal; Grace, Hayden and Taylor Gaston; and Alexandra, Annalise and William Gaston. Memorial visitation at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Road (between 14-15 Mile Rds.), Friday, 4pm-8pm. Prayers at 7pm. Mass at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, 1250 Kensington Road, Bloomfield Hills, Saturday at 11am. Memorial donations may be made to: the George T. Gaston Fund at the Academy of the Sacred Heart or CureSearch.com in the name of his granddaughter, Grace Gaston. Obituary and condolences at

MICHAEL L. GATT Age 89. Of Novi, formerly of

lynchfuneraldirectors.com

Westland and Livonia. Died January 10, 2009. He was born November 28, 1919 on the Island of Malta, immigrated to America at the age of 7. He later served his country in the U.S. Army/Air Force during acquiring the rank of Captain. Mr. Gatt was a long time member of the Livonia Singles over Sixty (SOS) club as well as the Saturday night dancing Moondusters, and had many friends from these activities. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Marie, in 1988. Surviving are his sons, Michael (Kathy) and Robert (Susan), his daughters Julie (Timothy) Mack and Mary (Marc) Lorrain. Also surviving are his grandchildren Michael, Jacqueline, Robert, Mary, Andrea, Douglas, Gregory, Kellie, Kaitlin, Christopher, Steven, Emily and his great-grandchildren Michael, Katie and Nicholas. Also surviving Michael is his friend and the center of his love and attention Maryanne Gorski. Brother of Jane (the late Joseph) Pace, Joseph (Anne) Gatt and Evelyn Gatt. Services were held at Holy Family Church, Novi. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Donations may be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association in honor of his grandchild Kellie Lorrain. On line sympathy message at www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

RONALD A. HUETTNER

Age 79, of Belleville, MI. Passed away Saturday, January 10, 2009 at Care Community in Springfield, MI. He was born August 27, 1929 in Nebraska the son of Althons and Elfrieda (O' Black) Huettner. He worked at the Local Sheet Metal Workers Union and was also a truck driver. Ronald loved the outdoors, farming and animals. He is survived by his mother, Elfrieda Huettner, children, Ronald Huettner, Margo (Ron) Schebel, Brenda (Alan) Schaffer, Charlene Stobb; brother, Lyle (Marie) Huettner, Gwen (Paul) Albright, Nancy (Dale) Kettler; cousin, Father Joseph Hemmer; 14 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father and grandparents. Visitation will be held at St. Peters Knight Catholic Church, 515 E. Knight St., Eaton Rapids on Thursday from 10:00 until the time of service. A funeral Mass will be celebrated Thursday, 11:00 a.m. at the St. Peters Catholic Church with Fr. Bennett Constantine celebrant. Memorial tributes may be made to the charity of one's choice Arrangements by the Bachman Hebble Funeral Service, a member by invita-tion Selected Independent Funeral Homes. (269)965-5145

PAUL A. KOONTER Age 75. Of Southfield, MI. January 10, 2009. Arrangements by: THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home

ROBERT W. McALLISTER "BOB"

Age 53. Of Farmington Hills, MI. January 10, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home.

TERRY A. MINNICK

of Kelley (Stuart) Karbal, Jeffrey Bann, Michael Bann, Scott Minnick (Elizabeth Star), Kimberly Reece and Sydneya (Omar) Norman. Devoted andmother to Carly Duran and Seth arbal, Jacob, Alex and Leah Bann, Caitlin and Zachary Minnick, Nkosi Baker, Rachael Minnick, Dakota Reece, Joshua Reed and the late Avery Minnick. Beloved daughter of Ann P. and the late Elmer Fick. Burial was at Mt. Hope Cemetery.



FRANCES O'MARA

Age 86. January 12. Beloved wife of the late Brian "Duke." Loving mother of Patrick (Deni), Kathleen (Stan) Zasuwa, Linda (Curt) Carriveau, Cheryl, and Lorrie (Steve) Peck. Loving grandmother of Mandi, Erin, Brian, Eric, Dan, Sheena, Shannon, Rachael, Sean, Zachary, Amy, Stephen, Tess, Isabel, Charlie and six great-grandchildren. Remembered also with love by her surviving brother, sister, nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Visiting Thursday 2-9 pm with Scripture service at 7:30 pm at Charles Step Funeral Home, 18425 Beech Daly (Btw 6-7 Mile). Visiting Friday 9:30 am until 10 am Mass at Priscilla Church, 19120 Purlingbrook, Livonia, MI 48152 (N off 7 Mile, W of Middlebelt). Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

LEO J. STACHERSKI

Age 93. Of Farmington Hills, MI. January 10, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home.

HELVI TALO

Age 87, January 11, 2009. Beloved wife of the late Oge. Dear mother of James (Sue), Terry (Sherry), Gary, Arthur and David (Connie). Grandmother of 11. Great-grandmother of ve. Best friend of Dorothy Roth, Elsie Johnson and Eva Jackson. Charter member of Good Hope Lutheran Church and was a faithful member. Memorial Service was held. Memorials suggested to Good Hope Lutheran Church. Arrangements by Santeiu & Son Funeral Home.

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HELEN A. WALLACE

Age 93, of Plymouth. Passed away January 11, 2009. Helen was born on August 15, 1915, in Palo, Michigan, daughter of Harold R. and Olive (Roberts) Compton. She is preceded in death by her three sons, Richard B., Donald S. and Michael A. Wallace; her husband, Russell B. Wallace; and her sister, Jeanne Mettetal. She is survived by her two sisters, Catharine Sherrick and Doris (Herrick) Close, both of Northville. Also surviving her are loving daughters-in-law, Yvonne Wallace and Nancy Wallace; grandchildren, Deborah J. (Wallace) Cook, Michael (Dawn) Wallace, Bruce (Patricia) Wallace and John (Lorrie) Wallace; and great-grandchildren, Kevin Wallace, John Wallace, Stephen Wallace, David Wallace, Jonathan Foulkes and Rebecca Browne. She will be sadly missed by her many nieces and nephews and their families, as well as neighbors and the hundreds of friends over the years. Funeral from Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth, Saturday January 17, 11am. Friends may visit beginning at 10am. Visitation Friday 5-8pm. Burial in Davisburg Cemetery Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of Helen's son, Michael, and Southwest Indian Children's Fund, Box 906, Broken Arrow, OK 74013.



ROBERT H. WATKINS

Age 65, of Westland. Passed at home January 6, 2009. Devoted husband of Mary. Predeceased by mother Mabel, fathers Woody Watkins and Bob Nelson, and son Wade Watkins. Survived by sons and daughter Eric (Beth), Christina (Matt), Jay (Emily) and Brian (Windy), 12 grandchildren: Ryan, Elizabeth, Kristi, Nelson, Brittyn, Alan Jacob, Alaxandria, Brandon, Nicolas, Seth and Calub. Brothers and sister Don (Darlene, Rand (Annette), Laureen (Doug), Rick (Sandy), Greg (Toni) and Kirk (Tina) Active in the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Wayne-Westland Parade Council, Lions Club, Veterans United, Poet, and Past Volunteer at Westland Court. A memorial service will be held in the Spring. Arrangements by R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Garden City, MI.

GEORGE D. YATICH, D.C.

Of Troy, January 12, 2009. Distinguished chiropractor for over 50 years. Beloved husband of Dorothy. Dear father of Ron. Special grandfather to Darrell (Sherry) and Scott (Regina). Brother of Olga Narich and Jennie Besevich. Arrangements were handled by A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, Troy, 248-362-2500. Memorial Tributes to charity of donor's choice. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

Paying *Tribute* Life of Your Loved One

To submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Linda Chomin. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

JANUARY

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., Thursday, Jan. 15, by calling (734) 459-9557 for a pick up time.

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) 891-8938
- 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. Special service

4th annual "People of Life" Service 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at St. Aidan's Parish, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia, in remembrance of the 36th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision. Special guest speakers are from St. Aidan's, St. Gerald's, Calvary Missionary Church and Christian Covenant Church, American Sign Language Interpreter provided. Refreshments to follow.

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-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

Chamber music concert

The Woodward Corridor Musicians present a "One of a Kind" concert 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at First Baptist Church of Royal Oak (The Church on Main Street), 309 N. Main. The concert features the only woodwind quintet written by August Klughardt; the only string quartet written by Giuseppe Verdi, and unique arrangements for clarinet quartet. Tickets \$10 adults, students K-12 free, and available at the door. For information, call (248) 546-5818 or send e-mail to LFDean@aol.com.

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.

Protect yourself

Ward Evangelical Church's senior potluck luncheon features retired State Police officer Monte Oswald demonstrating how seniors can protect and defend themselves 11:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at the church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Bring your favorite dish to pass and enjoy the fellowship of other seniors. For more information, call (248) 374-7400. If you plan to attend, let the -church know. For information on the program, visit www.eyefight-

back.com. 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 email to info@cantoncf.org.

Time change

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

Please see CALENDAR, D5

Wedding Workshop

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Wednesday January 21, 2009 6:30 p.m.



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Personal property described below in the matter of:

faith.org. Special needs Bible class

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend a new Open Arms Bible Class at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. The class will include songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun. Contact Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to elc-ed@arounddetroit.biz.

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, in the convent meeting room. The class began Jan. 13.

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. endowonline.com.

■ St. Aidan Catholic Church also offers ENDOW. The eight-session course will focus on the ideas

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about human beings and God that St. Thomas Aquinas explores in his work Summa Theologiae, 7-9 p.m., Thursdays, through 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. Couples prayer series

7-9 p.m. Wednesday, through Feb. 18, at St. Aidan Catholic Church in

Ronald John Lithgow

Tracey Wilburn

Deborah Çoe Keyanna Wafford

Jennifer Jackson

Dwain Purvear

Margaret Mercing

Tammy Whitehead

LaChanta Cooper

Stacie Van Tuyl

Clayton Smith

Kerby Dixon

E Victor Helb

Nicole Tomlinson

Donald Schwartz

Stephan Mitchell

Latoya Marzette-mills

Publish: January 15 & 22, 2009

Sheldon Turley

Danny Smith

Clint Adolph

Connie Volpe

Ted Konesky

Aaron Daniels

Jason Hall

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.

UPCOMING

Bethany singles

Dance, 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 7, in Redford. Cost is

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Boxes, Bags, Totes

Boxes,Bags,Totes

Boxes,Bags,Totes

Boxes, Totes, Bags

Boxes,Bags,Totes

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Boxes, Bags, Totes

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Boxes,bags,Totes

Boxes.Bags.totes

Boxes, Bags, Totes

Bike, Boxes, Bags

Boxes, Bags, Totes

Boxes, Bags, Totes

Totes, Boxes, Dresser

Toys, Crib, Bags

Luggage, Boxes, Boxes

chairs, mattress, bikes

Boxes, Totes, Dresser

Totes, Desks, Showcases

Shelves, Dresser, Boxes

Mattress,Boxes,Bags

\$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 peerto-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.



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Bridal Couture aims to provide the perfect dress and service

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"her" dress.

Pohlod describes Bennett's look as

Bennett says Bridal Couture

"has a great staff. That's my main

She finds the same reward as

"They have that moment when

Bennett's most popular design

is a classic one, called Lillie. It's a

strapless ballgown of silk Duchess

Pohlod does when a bride finds

they look at themselves and then

cry and it's the most amazing thing... It makes it totally worth it."

"very much a fairy tale type of look.

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER STAFF WRITER

You could call Amy Pohlod a matchmaker — one who pairs women with their perfect wedding dress.

"When a bride puts on a dress and she loves it, when it's the dress that was made for her, I get so excited," said Pohlod, owner of Bridal Couture of Birmingham, 34000 N. Woodward Ave. and Plymouth, 570 South Main Street.

For Pohlod, matching a bride and dress should come with perfect service too.

That's something she said was lacking when she bought her wedding dress 10 years ago.

It inspired her to make service a top priority when she bought the former Julie's Bridal in November 2007.

She aims to provide excellent service from the first glance at the dress to the final fitting and

"It's a very important process to me," said Pohlod, a Birmingham resident who found her niche in the bridal business when she left the corporate world to do something more creative.

EXCLUSIVE LINES

Bridal Couture stores have large dressing rooms so brides-to-be can view selections with those close to them

The wide variety of styles include designer lines that can't be found elsewhere in Michigan.

"Tve been really concentrating on designers that we have exclusives for — that really sets us apart," said Pohlod. They include Jane Wang, Kate Bennett and Birnbaum & Bullock.

Wang, of New York, will be featured and available to advise brides in a trunk show featuring her new collection, Jan. 30-31 at the Birmingham store. Pohlod describes Wang's look as "extreme-

ly elegant." Kate Bennett, of Rochester



LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER (right).

front of two designs by Rochester Hills wedding designer Kate Bennett: a strapless gown called Lillie (left) and an empire waist design called Annie

Amy Pohlod, owner

Plymouth, stands in

of Bridal Couture in Birmingham and

satin with hand sewn French Alencon lace at the hem and waistband.

A more modern style is "Annie," one of four from her 2009 collection. It has a fashion forward silhouette with an empire waist and a loose, flowing chiffon skirt.

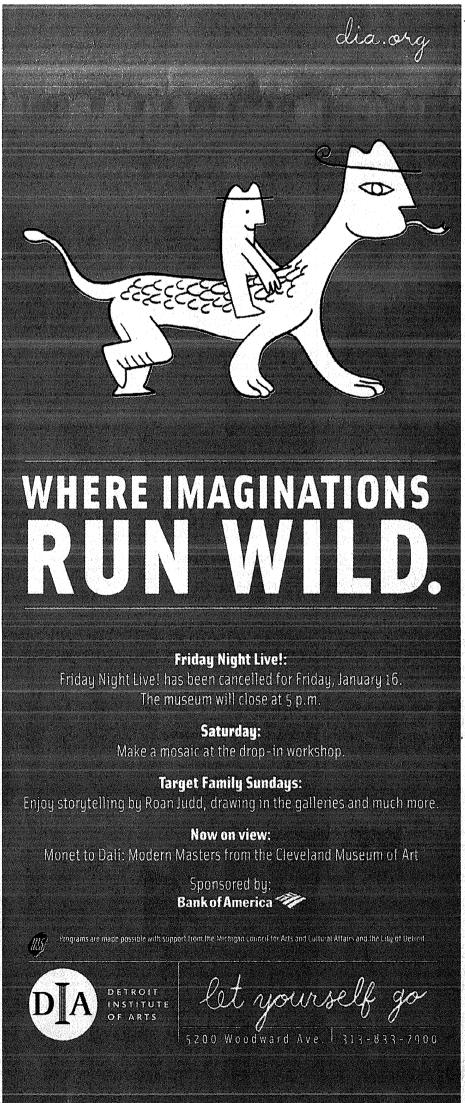
Every gown is available in a variety of colors and trims and some styles are customizable.

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Bennett's next trunk show at
Bridal Couture is Feb. 28 in the
Birmingham store.

For more information, go to the store's Website at www.bridalcouture.com

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