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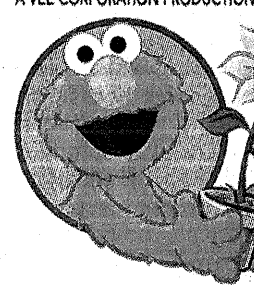
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PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

Saturdays
@ the Penn

The Plymouth Community Arts Council hosts its next Saturdays @ the Penn performance Jan. 2 at the Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth.

Special musical host and performer is Beverly Meyer, The Music Lady. Special guest performer is juggler Joel Tacey, with laughs and fun. Announcer is Tamara Trudelle.

Tickets are \$4 and may be purchased the day of the show. Doors open at 11:05 a.m. To purchase tickets before the concert or for information for groups, contact Deb Madonna, (734) 377-0914, e-mail clarion@storytellerdesign.com, or Tamara Trudelle, (734) 416-4278, e-mail tamara@plymoutharts.com.

Offices closed

Canton Township offices will be closed New Year's Eve and New Year's Day but will resume regular business hours on Monday, Jan. 4. Normal trash pickup will occur on New Year's Eve, and the township's trash hauler has no routes on Fridays, so service will not be affected by New Year's Day.

Holiday trash pickup

There will be no curbside trash or recycling collection in Plymouth Township on Friday because of the New Year's Day holiday. Neighborhoods that normally have a Friday pickup will have garbage and recyclables picked up on Saturday.

In the city of Plymouth, the three-days-a-week collection schedule is not affected by the holiday.

The township is offering curbside pickup of live Christmas trees through Friday, Jan. 15, and has also extended yard-waste collection through the same date.

Christmas trees set out for collection should be free of ornaments, lights and tinsel and should not be bagged.

Brush and branches up to 6 inches in diameter must be tied with string or twine in bundles no more than 3 feet long. No wire or plastic ties are allowed.

Corrugated cardboard and boxboard (such as gift boxes) are recyclable. Cut or break down larger cardboard and boxboard pieces into sections no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet, bundle with string or twine and place next to the orange recycling bin.

Filled containers, bags and bundles should not exceed 50 pounds each.

For more information, call the township's solid waste department at (734) 354-3270, Ext. 4.



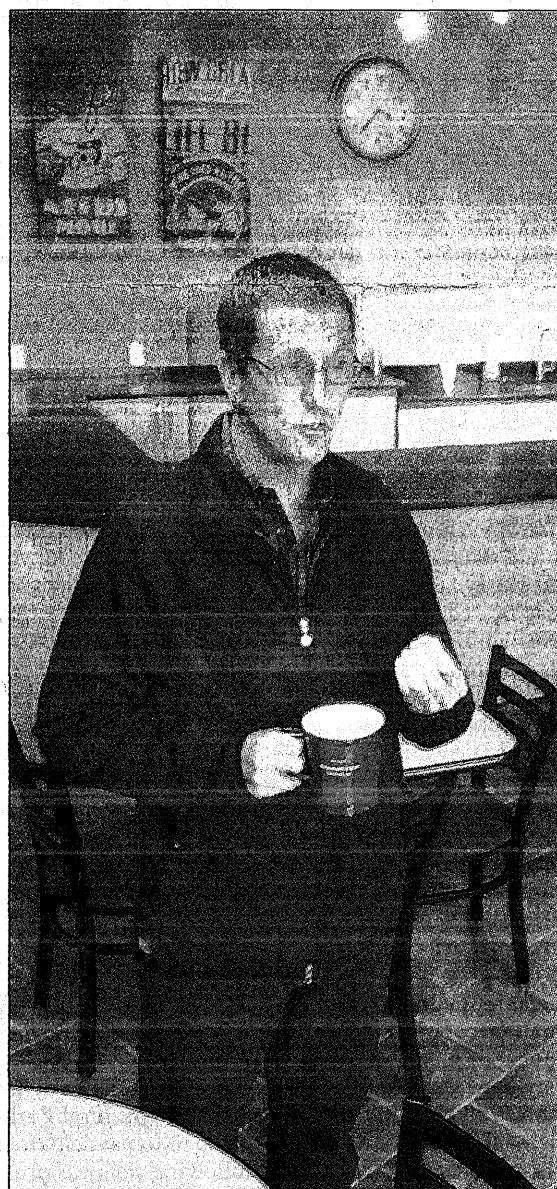
PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Open Door Ministry volunteer Sue Smith of Westland packs canned goods for distribution to hungry people. By Dec. 8, Open Door, a ministry of Connection Church in Canton, had given out 1.1 million pounds of food in 2009 as the demand for help has grown.

Churches doing more with less

Requests for help up; attendance remains steady

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Alex Rahill is pastor of Canton's lifechurch, which placed baskets with \$100 Meijer gift cards inside curtain-veiled areas of the auditorium to be taken by "those in need or hurting."

Christmas is over, but the giving season doesn't end for churches.

Year-round, area churches provide food, monetary assistance — even counseling — to those in need. And, with the Detroit area recently posting the highest unemployment rate of 49 metropolitan areas with a Census 2000 population of one million or more, several of those churches are doing more than ever to help.

Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia and Fair Haven Baptist Church in Westland both recently started new programs to assist the hungry, and St. Robert Bellarmine in Redford recently held a series of seminars for the unemployed and now offers a support group for people who have lost their jobs.

The churches assist not only their own members but people who come in off the street, even though some of those congregations are struggling themselves.

'A GREAT OPPORTUNITY'

"People of faith see it as a great opportunity to partner with people to find hope," said Robert Hegdal, pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Redford, which is looking into providing classes in managing finances in troubling times.

Mt. Hope Congregational's new Angel Food Ministries program, started just six months ago, already assists 130 families, pastor Steve Schafer said.

The John Bolde Memorial Food Depot at the St. Mary Community Outreach Center in Westland has given out 163,132 pounds of food this year, assisting more than 30 families a day.

Connection Church in Canton has experienced a 55-percent increase in

Please see **CHURCHES, A12**

Bridge project connects people to nature in Canton

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Five of seven wooden pedestrian bridges crossing the Lower Rouge River have now been installed in Canton along a nature recreation trail that's connected for more than four miles between Haggerty and Sheldon roads, north of Michigan Avenue.

Work crews still have to finish bridge approaches and make them accessible for people with disabilities, but residents in Canton and elsewhere should, within weeks, be able to hike, jog, ride non-motorized bikes and go cross-country skiing along the newly connected Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail.

Two final bridges are set for installation next spring between Sheldon and Canton Center roads to create a seamless, five-mile-long, 10-foot-wide trail, which also has smaller offshoots.

With every new bridge that's installed, a project 10 years in the planning comes a step closer to being finished.

"It's a great development," said Brad Sharp, Canton parks and facilities manager.

Local officials say the recreation area is one of the best-kept secrets in Canton and, indeed, Wayne County. They hope nature enthusiasts will begin to discover the quiet, wooded trail that belies the bustling township that borders it on the north and south.

Already, the winding path can be accessed from a trail head earlier built on Morton Taylor Road north of Michigan Avenue. Trail users can park their vehicles in a parking lot near the site and begin to explore.

Robert Belair, assistant township engineer, has said the pedestrian bridges culminate a dream that began a decade ago. The project was made possible with \$671,654 in state, county and township funding — largely from grants — that was earlier allocated for the project.

Canton residents have long cited the need for more walking trails as among their top recreation priorities.

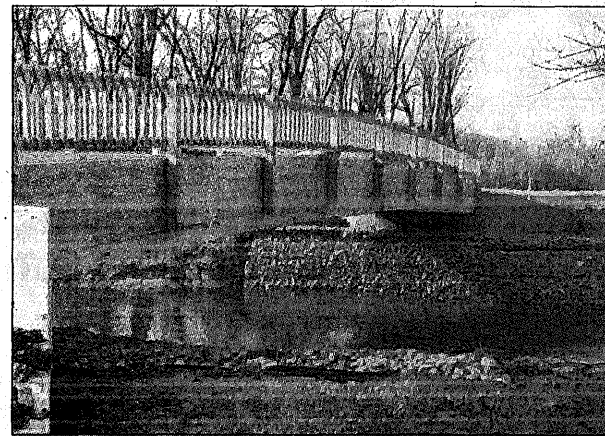
Township officials hired Nature Bridges, Inc., of Tallahassee, Fla., to bring in the prefabricated bridges and assemble them over the Lower Rouge River. The bridges measure 10 feet wide and span 45 to 65 feet in length.

The bridges were brought to Michigan on large trucks and placed over the river. In coming weeks, compacted, crushed stone will be spread along the paths leading directly up to the bridges.

The four-mile length of trail between Haggerty to just west of Sheldon is expected to be ready for use within a few weeks, although the path already has been in use for a shorter stretch east and west of the Morton Taylor trail head.

Residents interested in helping to support, maintain and champion the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail

Please see **BRIDGE, A12**



A wooden bridge over the Lower Rouge River helps connect a recreation trail that winds through Canton Township.

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Local man charged in alleged Ponzi scheme

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

A Canton man was one of three Michigan men arrested last week and charged with cheating senior citizens out of money in an elaborate Ponzi scheme.

Robert Antonio Valeri Jr., 32, of Canton, his father, Robert Valeri Sr., 59, of South Lyon, and Jeffrey Ron Mitchell, 39, of Walled Lake, were all arrested Dec. 22 for their alleged roles in a massive Ponzi scheme, which reportedly took in an estimated \$350 million nationwide and as much as \$9 million from Michigan seniors.

According to Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, the men were allegedly involved in the scam with Indiana resident Michael Kelly, who was

reportedly the mastermind behind the scheme. Cox said the scheme involved selling time shares in the form of an unregistered security called a "Universal Lease" through a company called Resort Holdings International. They are accused of targeting senior citizens and retirees with marketing efforts that illegally promoted the lease as a safe investment opportunity with the promise of large monetary returns.

While seniors purchasing the lease were allegedly given the option to use the vacation property during specified times over a 25-year term, they were also allegedly given the option of having a purported third-party management company (owned by Kelly) arrange for the rental of the unit during the same time period for a guaranteed 9-per-

cent return — whether the unit was rented or not. They were allegedly encouraged to elect the latter option, and everyone who purchased the lease did.

Nick De Leeuw of the state Attorney General's office said the scheme imploded due to deliberate overselling of shares in the Universal Lease program, leaving investors with empty pockets and broken promises. He said 125 Michigan seniors were ripped off in the scheme, primarily in metro Detroit.

Valeri Sr., Valeri Jr. and Mitchell were arraigned Dec. 22 in Dearborn's 19th District Court and charged with conducting a criminal enterprise (racketeering), a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$100,000.

Please see **PONZI, A12**

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Melissa Behring

Enjoy a stylish night of mesmerizing music as the Melissa Behring Project performs at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill Friday, Jan. 8. This popular group delivers a perfect balance between smoky "torch" jazz standards and a fresh approach to many familiar tunes while featuring the sultry songstress Melissa Behring and jazz pianist Neil Donato. This ensemble also draws on Detroit's finest assortment of jazz musicians, presenting a contemporary jazz quartet in a traditional format.

The Melissa Behring Project offers up classic songs by Cole Porter and Johnny Mercer. They also incorporate more mainstream songs by artists such as Prince and Sade and put their own jazz interpretation into it. Each musician that makes up the components of the Project offers a creative spark of talent that forms one fluid motion of music.

This delightful night of music will start at 8 p.m. and all seats are \$12. This and all First Friday Studio Series performances are general admission and will take place in the Biltmore Studio, an intimate setting for enjoying live music. A cash bar will also be available.

To purchase tickets or to download the entire season schedule, visit www.canton-villagetheater.org. Tickets can also be purchased at Summit on the Park by phone at (734) 394-5460 or in person. The Summit's box office hours are: Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To purchase tickets at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill box office (50400 Cherry Hill in Canton), stop by during box office hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Village Theater ticket office will also be open one hour prior to each performance.

Adolescent depression

The Plymouth District Library welcomes Melvin G. McInnis, M.D., of the U-M Depression Center as he presents vital information about the causes and symptoms of adolescent depression and bipolar disorder in a program set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Program highlights will include how to recognize the difference between typical adolescent behavior and a depressive illness, along with a question and answer period. Registration is required for this free program.

Call 734-453-0750, ext. 4 or go to plymouthlibrary.org. The Library is located at 223 S. Main Street in downtown Plymouth.

Real estate training

Out of a Job? Changing Careers? Become a real estate agent and be ready for the upcoming real estate boom.

REMERICA HOMETOWN presents a pre-license training class beginning soon. Real Estate Professional Education Group, LLC is located at 44025 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

Total class cost is \$50 and it includes all materials. For more information, a reservation or to schedule a private interview, call Chris or Judy, (734) 459-6222, or e-mail info@remericahometown.com

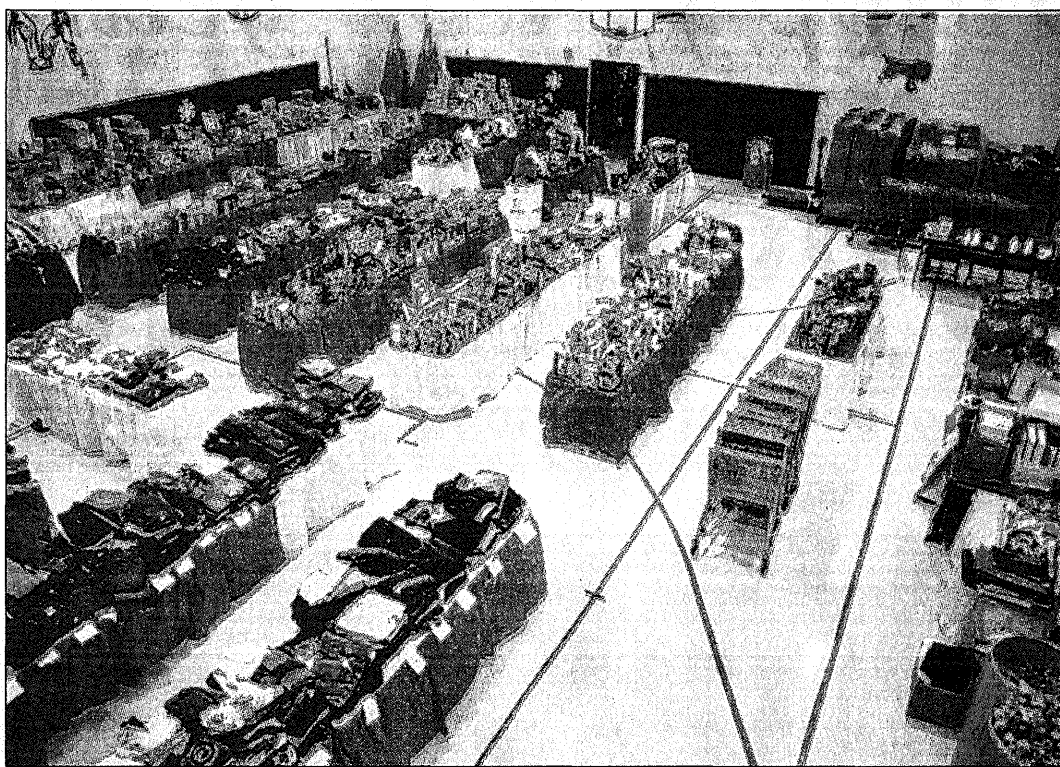
Pinocchio on stage

Enjoy a musical adaptation of "Pinocchio" at the Historic Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville through Jan. 24.

"Pinocchio" is the story of how a wooden puppet, lovingly hand-carved by Gepetto the toymaker, becomes a real boy.

Performances are Saturdays, Jan. 2, Jan. 9, Jan. 16 and Jan. 23 and Sundays Jan. 3, Jan. 10, Jan. 17, Jan. 24. All performances are at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets for all performances are \$8.50 each (no children under the age of 3). Group rates and reserved seating for 20 or more. Birthday parties and Scout days available.



Christmas help

The Salvation Army Christmas Fund Raising Campaign for the Northville, Plymouth, Canton, and Belleville service area has currently collected \$212,300, or 67 percent of its \$315,000 Christmas goal for this year. The Red Kettle drive had collected \$175,132 of its targeted \$265,000 as of Monday. "However, we still need to raise the remaining funds to reach our overall Christmas goal," said Capt. Dan Hull, the Plymouth corps officer. "The Salvation Army wishes to acknowledge and express our thanks to everyone who rang a bell, sent a donation in, or volunteered." Although the bell-ringing portion of the campaign is over, the fund-raising campaign runs through January. Donations can be brought or mailed to 9451 S. Main Street, Plymouth MI 48170. The corps also served 550 families through its Christmas food basket and toy programs.

For more information please call the Marquis Theatre at (248)349-8110 or visit the theater's Web site www.northvillemarquistheatre.com.

100 Days to Health

Canton's 100 Days to Health, a community-wide wellness education and awareness campaign designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, is set to kick off Saturday, Jan. 16. Get the support and education you need and find your fitness fit during this community program which commences between 9-11 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom and in various classrooms of the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway.

Participants can meet some of the Summit's instructors and test out a few of the great fitness classes offered. All ages can enjoy special aerobics classes at 8:30 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.; and 10:30 a.m. Join us for a light breakfast and have all your 100 Days to Health questions answered in the ballroom.

Canton Leisure Services and Oakwood Healthcare System have partnered together to promote healthy living and community wellness in this special program. Staff from Oakwood Healthcare System will be on hand during the kickoff providing health screenings, including: blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

Register now for Canton's 100 Days to Health 2010 at the Summit front desk or at the 100 Days Kickoff Event Jan. 16. Registration fees for Canton residents are: \$15 for adults 16 and up and \$5 for youth ages 4 and up. Non-resident fees are \$25 for adults 16 and up and \$5 for youth ages 4 and above. There is no charge for children under 3 years of age. Once registered, you'll have access to all classes and events on the 100 Days to Health calendar for free.

To learn more about 100 Days to Health program, visit www.canton-mi.org or call (734) 394-5460.

Happy meals

Since 1979, McDonald's Happy Meals have changed the way families enjoy lunch and dinner out together. To celebrate the 30th birthday of

the Happy Meal, the Southeast Michigan McDonald's Operators Association brings its traveling exhibit to the Canton Public Library through Jan. 4.

The exhibit contains many of the different specialty toys and artifacts that have been included in the Happy Meal since its introduction.

"The response to this exhibit has been tremendous," said Willie Blue, marketing supervisor for McDonald's Michigan Region. "People from all over metro Detroit have enjoyed reliving their Happy Meal memories with their children."

The Canton Public Library is located at 1200 S. Canton Center. In addition, Ronald McDonald, McDonald's Chief Happiness Officer, will make a special appearance 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, for a special children's show.

Grief seminar

Harry J. Will Funeral Home sponsors a one day grief seminar, From Grief to New Hope, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 9. This workshop will be conducted by John O'Shaughnessy from New Hope Center for Grief Support.

All adults who are learning to cope after the death of a loved one are encouraged to attend. There is no charge for the seminar which is open to the public and refreshments will be served. Harry J. Will Funeral Home is located at 37000 Six Mile Road in Livonia.

For registration information call New Hope Center for Grief Support at (248) 348-0115 or view our Web site www.newhopecenter.net

Parenting seminar

What do you do when children misbehave? Parents who are interested in learning how to manage a variety of situations that arise with their children are invited to hear nationally recognized educator and speaker Chick Moorman Monday, Jan. 18. The free workshop will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. at Dearborn Heights Montessori Center, which is located at 466 N. John Daly in Dearborn Heights.

Moorman will present "The Five Voices of Enlightened Parenting," regarding a variety of techniques that parents can use to help guide children

through the daily challenges of family life. According to Moorman, when children misbehave, it can become a teaching moment for parents.

Moorman is a distinguished educator and captivating speaker who has addressed more than 300,000 parents and educators while conducting more than 2,000 talks on raising and educating children. He is noted for his humor and enthusiasm, as well as his ability to deliver practical ideas. He is the author of more than a dozen books and teaching resources. He writes monthly parenting columns for publications across the United States, and is a regular contributor to the Chicken Soup for the Soul series of books.

The free workshop, which is open to the public, will include complimentary child care. To ensure adequate seating, reservations are requested by calling (313) 359-3000.

Entertainment books

The Beckridge Chorale is selling the 2010 Entertainment Book to support its vocal scholarship program. The book contains hundreds of 2-for-1 and 50-percent discounts at airlines, restaurants, hotels, car rentals, movie rentals, theater and sports events, and much more.

Retail cost is \$35; your cost is \$20. Save money and support the BeckRidge Chorale.

Call (734) 459-6829 to order. Books will be delivered in the Plymouth area upon request.

New Year activities

Folks looking for cool places to go and neat things to do to celebrate the arrival of 2010 can check out all of the fun and family-friendly offerings that Canton Leisure Services has arranged:

- Burn Some Calories - Enjoy some FREE Health & Wellness opportunities at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway. Drop in to participate in the following wellness programs. No registration is needed for: 8 a.m., Outdoor Fun Run (Meet in the Summit Maple Room to start this 40-minute jaunt through beautiful Heritage Park); 9:15 a.m., Cardio Blast Class; 10:15 a.m., 30-minute weight workout.
- Catch a Flick - The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road,

will host a movie matinee at 10:30 a.m. featuring Disney/Pixar's "UP" for just \$1. Advance tickets available at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway. If tickets remain, they will be available at the Village Theater Box Office on Dec. 31 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

• Hit the Road - Form a team of family/friends and join us for a Photo Road Rally. All ages welcome. Only \$10 per team. Registration is currently underway. Rally Rules/Registration Information is available at Cantonfun.org. For more details, call the Summit at (734) 394-5460.

• Take a Dip - Family Open Swim at the Summit will run from 2:30-5 p.m. for only \$3 per person. The Aquatic Center, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, will remain open for this special swim after the Summit closes to the public at 2 p.m.

• "Putting on the Glitz," an evening of comedy and celebration brought to you by Kickers All-Star Grill and The Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Count down to midnight after an hilarious evening of comedy as three talented comedians, including headliner Kevin Meaney, will keep you in stitches. Doors will open at 6 p.m. For dinner and show information, call (734) 261-0555

• Just for Kids - High Velocity Sports will offer a lock-in for kids ages 8-13. The party will feature a midnight balloon-drop, noise-makers, dancing, sports, movies, board and card games, food and music. For more information, please call (734) 487-7678.

Kiwanis nuts

Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth supports the agencies and organizations that provide assistance to many people in need as well as helping folks directly. To be able to fund these various projects, the club has many fund-raising activities. One of them is the Annual Gourmet Nut Fund-raiser being held now.

There are 1-pound and 3-pound cans of gourmet nuts for purchase by the can, case and pallet. They are great gifts for family, employees and clients. Please consider the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts as your gift of choice this year and assist in allowing Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth to continue serving those in need in our community and around the world.

The gourmet nuts can be purchased by the can at Papa Romano's, 555 W. Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth, (734) 459-2930, or by the case or pallet at Fitness Things, 1160 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, (734) 455-8790. Many other Plymouth businesses will also have the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts available for purchase at their location.

Businesses interested in participating, or anyone who needs more information, can contact Gary Walley, (734) 455-8790.

Hospice volunteers

Compassionate Care Hospice is a community-based organization committed to providing excellent hospice care for patients and their families. The group is currently seeking caring and dedicated individuals to provide support by being a friendly visitor to patients in the Western Wayne County area. Training is provided.

For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Volunteer Coordinator, toll-free (888) 983-9050 or e-mail at achristensen@cchnet.net.

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YOU are invited to an exciting new series of personal stories, talks, and testimonies which will help you answer that question for yourself. The series, "WHY BE CATHOLIC?", begins on January 5, 2010, with noted author and speaker, Steve Ray, who, after more than 39 years as a Baptist fundamentalist and bible scholar, converted to Catholicism in 1994, abandoned his multi-million dollar business, and devoted himself to helping the faith thrive throughout the world. Ray will awaken your interest in all faiths with his spirited explanation of what helped him find HIS place in God's puzzle. Don't miss this dynamic evening. No charge, no reservations, no pressure - just a chance to listen, reflect, and perhaps ask questions.

St. Michael the Archangel Church
11441 Hubbard Rd., South of Plymouth Rd., Livonia
734-261-1455 ext. 207 www.livoniastmichael.org

Village Theater to host New Year's Eve party

Still looking for a last-minute idea for New Year's Eve?

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton is having an event, "Putting on the Glitz: An Evening of Comedy & Celebration," sponsored by Kickers All-Star Grill.

Three comedians, including headliner Kevin Meaney, will entertain the theater crowd during an evening that also includes appetizers, entrees and deserts, party favors, live entertainment, dancing and a midnight champagne toast — all for \$65 per person.

Patrons must be 21 years or older. The event is at the Village Theater but the food, drink and entertainment are being provided by Kickers.

Theater doors open at 6 p.m. for strolling appetizers, a cash bar and music by Michael James. A dinner buffet is scheduled for 7:45-9 p.m. featuring meatballs, shrimp cocktail, cheeses, salad, roast beef, salmon, pasta in cream sauce, a vegetable medley, chicken bianco, tiramisu and cheesecake.

Meaney, along with Sal Demilio and emcee Keith Ruff, will be on the main stage at 9:45 p.m. Meaney has over 25 years of comedic experience, and his act includes a combination of physical humor, impersonations, caricatures and his signature "man on the street" interviews. The Emmy Award winner has appeared on television shows such as *The Tonight Show*, *Saturday Night Live*, *Letterman*, *Oprah* and his own HBO specials.

Patrons only interested in the comedy show may pay \$30 and arrive at 9 p.m.

The evening will include a champagne toast at midnight, along with music and dancing 11:15 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets are available online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is a 400-seat facility, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton, MI 48187. For dinner or show information, call (734) 261-0555.

Rescuing the mission

PCA project helps shelter provide for the homeless

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Detroit Rescue Mission this year celebrated its 100th year of continued service providing food, shelter and services to ease homelessness and substance addiction.

It's a century of work that wouldn't have been possible without help like it got this month from students at Plymouth Christian Academy. PCA students put together personal hygiene packages for the homeless who depend on the Detroit Rescue Mission for their survival.

"The kids love it," PCA's Bonnie Varney said. "It's the whole circle for them, because they're served, and they serve others. It's good for the kids to see there are things beyond the walls of our community."

The students put together some 225 care packages, bagging toiletries, shampoo, soaps and other hygiene products. They delivered them to the Detroit Rescue Mission, where the 3,500 homeless served by the group — among them some 1,200 people who sleep there — can use them to get clean. It helps the DRM with its mission, which is to minister to the total person — body, soul and spirit.

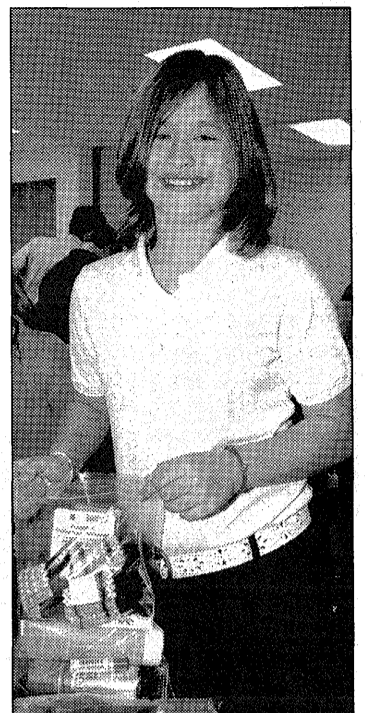
The DRM provides a million meals annually at seven different facilities, along with providing 160,000 nights of emergency shelter and transitional housing and substance abuse treatment for more than 1,700 men and 850 women. More than 1,000 inner-city children get a summer camping experience and 75 kids in Highland Park and Detroit get recreation and prevention programs on a weekly basis. More than 75,000 clothing items are also provided to the needy from the mission's clothing bank.

And mission officials say help like that they get from Plymouth Christian Academy is crucial.

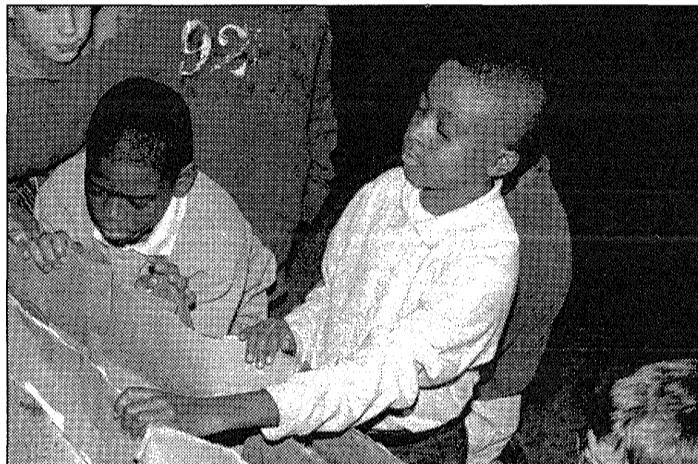
"It's critical," said Bruce



Plymouth Christian Academy students Ian Hay, Matthew Cusumano and Nathan Kelly pack up hygiene products for the gift bags.



Rebecca Cardinal was all smiles while putting together gift bags Plymouth Christian Academy donated to the Detroit Rescue Mission.



Plymouth Christian Academy students Slate Spencer (from left); Noah Brown and Jonathan Taylor pray for the people who will receive the gift bags donated to the Detroit Rescue Mission.



Students Ashley Faulkner, Bailey Brown, Paige Perkey, Brendan Wright and Jackson Austin assemble items for some 225 gift bags Plymouth Christian Academy donated to the Detroit Rescue Mission.

Calderwood, DRM's director of church relations. "It helps (homeless) maintain a positive self-image ... you know people care about you."

That was certainly one of the benefits for Carl Riggins, who spent more than three

years sleeping in abandoned buildings and doorways, "anywhere I could rest my head." On the streets because of what he calls his "own irresponsibility," Riggins admits he "stumbled" into the help provided by the Detroit Rescue Mission.

And while the DRM's mission is executed largely in

Detroit, Plymouth Christian Academy students still benefit from the experience.

"As a school, that's what we want our kids to experience as well," Varney said. "We want them to experience the joy of serving others, so that when they grow up, that's who they are ... people who care about

other people."

And the lesson isn't being lost on the students.

"We wanted to help the mission, to reach out to them," said 10-year-old Seth Windle of Plymouth. "It makes us feel good to know we were helping out the community, and helping people who don't have what we have."

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PUBLIC SAFETY

CANTON POLICE BRIEFS

Suspect sought in purse snatching

Canton police are asking for the public's help in identifying and locating a suspect who robbed a woman of her purse outside the Borders store on Ford Road near Morton Taylor.

Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said the woman was robbed just before 7:30 p.m. Monday as she was walking into the store. He said the victim was shoved by a man who took her purse and fled south on Morton Taylor in a silver SUV.

The victim told police the suspect was a black male, 6-foot-1, clean shaven, 20 to 40 years old with a medium build. He was wearing a black winter jacket.

Anyone who has information about the robbery is urged to call Canton police at (734) 394-5400. To make an anonymous tip for a possible cash reward of up to \$1,000, call Crime Stoppers at 1 (800) SPEAK-UP.

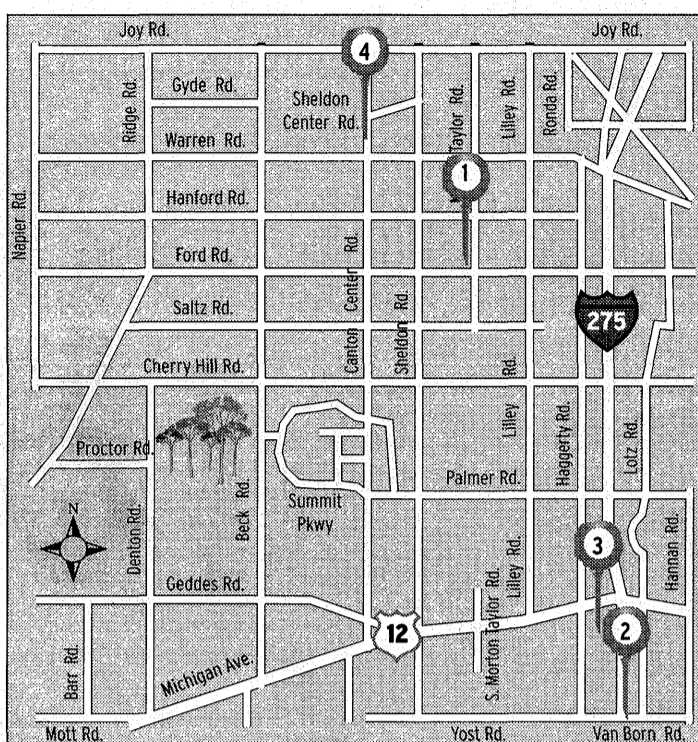
Suspects crash vehicle

Two suspects, including one man who was hospitalized, were facing charges after leading Canton police on a high-speed chase that ended in a one-car crash in Detroit on Dec. 22.

A police report gave the following synopsis:

Officers on patrol on southbound Haggerty near Van Born saw a man driving a green Ford Taurus fail to stop for a flashing red light shortly before 1 a.m. Dec. 22. The suspect's car turned eastbound on Van Born and officers initiated a traffic stop.

The Taurus continued east past I-275 and then pulled over just before Hannan, only to accelerate at a high



rate of speed as officers approached the car. Police, ultimately joined by other officers including Michigan State Police and Dearborn police, pursued the Taurus east on Van Born, south on Hannan, east on Ecorse, south on Merriman, east onto the I-94 ramp, where a female passenger got out, then east on I-94 to the Wyoming exit, where the driver lost control, hit a wall and was thrown through a rear window.

Police said the driver at times crossed the center line during the chase.

After the crash, the driver was taken to a hospital for injuries he sustained. Police searched the trunk of the car and found several small bags of marijuana.

Police said the female passenger had been captured near the scene where she got out of the car, and authorities learned she was wanted for an outstanding warrant for home invasion.

The woman was taken into custody, and the male driver was facing arrest after his release from a hospital.

Tires slashed

A woman told police the tires of her vehicle had been slashed with a knife sometime between 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve and 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day on Old Michigan, southeast of Michigan and Haggerty.

Business burglarized

Police reported that someone broke a garage door window and stole money from the Fast Lane Quick Oil Change on Canton Center north of Warren around 7:37 p.m. Sunday.

Officers were dispatched to the business on a report of a possible break-in and were joined by the owner at the scene. An intruder took a small amount of money. The incident remained under investigation.

Winter weather: Play it safe in the cold

Winter in Michigan is a celebrated season despite the extreme drops in temperature posing serious risks and hazards. To combat these potential dangers, the Michigan Department of Community Health has a few guidelines people can follow to stay safe and healthy throughout the cold weather months.

The MDCH recommends people be extremely careful, if using a wood stove, fireplace or space heater in their home. Always keep a multi-purpose, dry chemical fire extinguisher near the area that's being heated. Don't burn paper in a fireplace or wood stove and don't leak flue gas indoors. If using an indoor gas heater, be sure it is located in a well-ventilated space and only use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer.

Regardless of the type of heating device being used, be sure that it is up to date and meets all safety standards. Toxic fumes, such as carbon monoxide, from old or faulty heaters can cause unconsciousness or death from lack of oxygen.

While inside, monitor the indoor temperature carefully. Because they lose body heat much faster than adults, infants should never sleep in a cold room. It is also necessary for older adults to take extra home heating precautions, as they tend to have slower metabolisms and make and retain less heat than other adults.

If a person is caring for an

infant or senior citizen, be sure to frequently check that their homes are adequately heated. If heating is not at a safe level, making alternative housing arrangements is recommended.

When the weather is extremely cold, and especially if there are high winds, try to stay indoors. Making trips outside as brief as possible can help to reduce the potential dangers associated with cold weather.

To remain healthy and safe this winter, follow these cold-weather tips while outdoors:

- Dress warmly and stay dry. Be sure to dress in layers in wind resistant clothing. Wool, silk or polypropylene inner layers will hold more body heat than cotton. If clothing is wet, go inside as soon as possible and remove the wet clothing as soon as possible.

- Avoid exertion. Cold weather can put extra strain on the heart. A person with heart disease or high blood pressure should follow their doctor's advice about shoveling snow or other hard work in the cold. The body is already working hard to stay warm, so extra work can cause an overload.

- Cover exposed skin. Always wear a warm hat that covers ears, gloves or mittens that cover the full wrist, and a scarf or ski mask to protect face and neck.

- Be safe during recreation. A person should notify friends and family where they will be before going

hiking, camping or skiing. Avoid perspiring or becoming overtired. Be prepared to take emergency shelter. Pack dry clothing, a two-wave radio, waterproof matches and paraffin fire starters. Do not use alcohol and other mood altering substances, and avoid caffeinated beverages. Carefully watch for signs of cold-weather health problems.

It is important to be aware of any changes in exposed skin during cold weather periods. Frostbite and hypothermia are very serious conditions that can be lessened by early recognition and treatment. Shivering can be a good indicator that it's time to go in, as it is the first sign that the body is losing heat.

Frostbitten skin is hard, pale, cold and has no feeling. When the frostbitten skin is in warm air, it will become red and painful. Very severe frostbite can cause blisters, gangrene (blackened dead tissue), and deep tissue damage in tendons, muscles, nerves and bones.

Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition that is caused by short exposure to extreme cold or long exposure to mild cold. Symptoms of hypothermia include trembling, stiffness of muscles, puffiness in the face, poor coordination, confusion, and low consciousness and reactivity.

If frostbite, hypothermia or other complications surrounding extreme weather are suspected, seek emergency medical care immediately.

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In the meantime, we are having a major sale to keep from having to move everything.

Over the years, we've had many requests for the "playhouse" so we'll have a silent auction for it along with the sentry that watched over your children all these years: "Joe the Bear."

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Looking for new ways to get healthy in 2010? Check back Jan. 7 for the next "Today's Health, the road to a new you" special page!

TODAY'S HEALTH

THE ROAD TO A NEW YOU

HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN MOTIVATION — AND REWARD — FOR A NEW YOU IN 2010

If you're like many people, you might have a history of unmet New Year's resolutions. It's common to set big goals and then disappoint yourself by falling short. A wise and more positive approach is to set a series of small, realistic goals that deliver easy successes and quick rewards.

If taking better care of yourself is one of your resolutions, aromatherapy can help strengthen your resolve, make your efforts enjoyable and reward your successes. "Applications of 100 percent pure essential oils (which are distilled from aromatic plants) provide true aromatherapy benefits, as opposed to synthetically perfumed products," says Tom Havran, aromatherapy expert at Aura Cacia. Havran suggests trying these aromatherapy applications as original and effective motivational treats for your senses. They can reward and inspire you along the way, too.

"New you" shower wash

Every day of the year, not just Jan. 1, is a chance for a new beginning. How about some fresh inspiration every morning with a natural, home-crafted shower wash that is much less expensive than synthetically-fragranced, chemical-laden bath products?

Start with 4 ounces of unscented oil-based liquid soap. Add 36 drops of an invigorating essential oil, such as peppermint, rosemary, tangerine or grapefruit. For fun, try some unique combinations. For example, mix equal parts (9 drops each) of peppermint, rosemary, tangerine and grapefruit oils. If you prefer a more invigorating blend, bump up the peppermint and use less grapefruit. Use a bath sponge or loofah to work up the fragrant lather. Here's another tip: follow up your shower with an all-over application of jojoba oil to still-wet skin - it's the best, most natural moisturizer you'll ever use.

Start with a spray bottle and 4 ounces of water. Add 36 drops of centering, purifying oils like sandalwood, tea tree, sweet orange and eucalyptus. Again, have fun with various combinations of all or just a couple essential oils. Shake well, spritz the mat and wipe clean.

Warming muscle soother

A great after-exercise massage oil will reward you for your workout and inspire you to maintain your exercise routine. It not only gives you something to look forward to after your hard work, but helps eliminate any soreness you may have from overdoing it.

First, choose a skin care oil as the base. For a short, friction-generating massage use a light, easily absorbed base oil like grapeseed or jojoba. For a longer massage with extended glide, choose from heavier oils such as sweet almond or apricot kernel. Start with 2 ounces of base oil. Add 18 drops of warming, soothing oils, such as nutmeg, cardamom or eucalyptus.

Havran recommends keeping the eucalyptus drops equal or less to any combination of the other essential oils, but ultimately, it's your personal preference and pleasure.

Along with your other healthy New Year's resolutions, these are just a few ideas to help motivate, reward and pamper yourself at the start of another year. To learn more about using aromatherapy and essential oils, go online and visit www.auracacia.com.

— Courtesy ARAcontent

Clean practice mat spray

If shaping up and managing stress are part of your New Year's resolutions, this is the time to sign up for a yoga or Pilates class. A natural spray of purifying and deodorizing essential oils will help you care for your yoga or Pilates mat while providing an aroma that centers your attention on your practice.

Meditative oils will inspire you to breathe deeply and immerse yourself in your poses, truly connecting body and spirit, which is what these practices are all about.

HEALTHIER FOOD HABITS

All the gravy has been ladled. The cookies have crumbled. The red and green candies are on the clearance rack.

That can only mean one thing: people all over the country are resolving to eat better, if not less often. The start of the New Year — and with it, a new decade — means that consumers are focusing on their resolutions to live a healthier lifestyle for themselves, their loved ones, and, for that matter, the planet.

Indeed, there is no time like the present to follow up on your pledge to finally shed those nagging extra pounds, add healthier foods to your diet or slowly incorporate natural, organic and sustainable products into your shopping lists. January is the high point of the year for making such changes.

The hardest part about New Year's resolutions, of course, isn't making them, it's keeping them.

To that end, changing a diet or lifestyle should not be viewed from the outset as a hurdle or a chore. Making it easy, affordable — and fun — helps make a resolution stick.

The next best thing — or maybe just the best thing.

We've all seen illustrations along the lines of "eat this... not that," that show a bag of chips which should be replaced by, say, a raw handful of vegetables. But for those of us who like to crunch on some salty snacks as we unwind after a busy day or eat lunch in the middle of the day, such substitutions can seem more like a penalty than a reward.

If you're feeling that way, look for foods that offer some attributes of traditionally craved snacks. Snyder's of Hanover, for instance, recently introduced new Pretzel Chips that offer the hearty flavor of fresh pretzels along with the slight, crisp texture of traditional potato chips with less than 1 gram of fat per serving. Pretzel Chips, in Original and Garden Veggie, also fit into any resolutions to go natural for 2010: the products are all natural, with no trans fats.

There are many other quick and rewarding substitutions that can be made when the craving for something crunchy and satisfying starts in earnest, from fruit and vegetable crisps to 100-calorie packs. Meantime, if it's something sweet you're craving, seek out portion-controlled 100-calorie ice cream novelties or grab a square or two of antioxidant-rich dark chocolate.



BYOT — Bring your own treats

Why be tempted when standing in front of a vending machine filled with chips, snack cakes and puffs or when scanning the menu at a quick-service restaurant? Controlling your diet means literally and figuratively controlling what you eat. By packing a lunch with proportioned servings, such as a sandwich made with lean protein, snacks like bagged pretzels, pretzel chips or veggie crisps and some fresh fruit, you can ensure a healthier meal and snack, and at the same time save on the extra expense of eating away from home. For variety — and fun — mix it up with a variety of foods.

Good for you and green

Feel good about yourself and what you're doing for the planet by doing more with less. Use a non-disposable container to pack smaller portions of healthy snacks to contain calories, costs and waste. You can also take advantage of packaged products designed to be at once better for you, flavorful and eco-friendly. Snyder's of Hanover, for its part, recently introduced the markets first 100 percent compostable outer bags for its 22 count variety sacks of 100 calorie pretzels and 1 ounce pretzel sandwiches.

Buddy system

Teamwork can really

mean the difference between sliding back or moving forward. Engage a friend, family member or even a large group of friends to help you in your goals to improve your diet and lifestyle. Compare shopping lists and diet tricks - all the better over a brisk walk or during an exercise class.

Reward yourself

If you make it to Groundhog Day on the way to your goal of eating better and feeling more fit, reward yourself with something that's both healthy and indulgent - and something you don't have to feel guilty about afterwards. Dip a whole-grain pretzel rod into some melted dark chocolate for some sweet and salty satisfaction, not to mention a dose of antioxidants (from the chocolate) and whole grains (from the pretzel). Roll the chocolate-covered pretzel in some crushed pistachios, which are rich in vitamins and minerals like copper, potassium, phosphorus and B6. Or top one scoop of reduced-sugar vanilla ice cream with a half-cup of crushed pretzels and a drizzle (not a drench) of caramel syrup; or top one scoop of dark chocolate ice cream with fresh blueberries and raspberries.

Make the last day of every month a reward day, and that way, you'll be surprised that you're still focused on eating healthy when Memorial Day rolls around.

— Courtesy of ARAcontent

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Local Promotion

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Kick-start your New Year's weight loss with classes at Body Fit in downtown Northville inside Northville Square. Try Body Fit's signature workout, FitBarre, a fusion of ballet, Pilates, yoga and weight training that quickly and effectively helps you develop a strong, sexy body. Boot camp workouts in four-week sessions are also available. Call 248-305-8414 or visit www.bodyfitmi.com.

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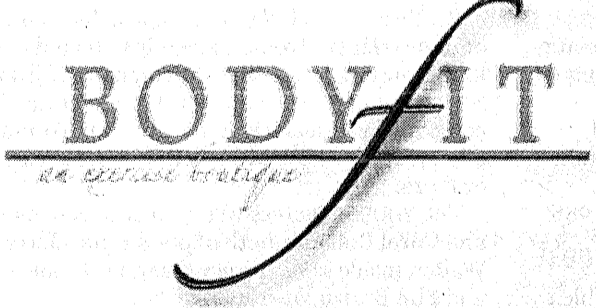


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Local Strictly Business

Father takes time into his own hands

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

Father Time: I am the master of all things timey. For me time is but a vast cavern where past, present, and future converge. I can remember any event past or future as if it is right now; because as far as I'm concerned it is right now. Without me the fabric of time and space would crumble.

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

Father Time: Someone had to do it. I got with Baby New Year and we decided to end old years and begin new years our own way.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Father Time: How much more unique do you want than someone who controls time? Even Baby New Year can't do his job unless I do mine. The only other one with this much power might be Mother Nature. I'd argue the point with her, but she has lightning bolts and thunderclaps and things like that. It's not worth the headache.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

Father Time: That's the beauty of this job - it doesn't change all that much. In an age when the world is in chaos, this job stays the same: Controlling time. It starts Jan. 1, and ends Dec. 31. I control 60 seconds a minute, 60 minutes an hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.

Observer: How has the economy affected your business?

Father Time: Unfortunately, it has affected it in a negative way. With the economy being what it is for some people, all they have is time.

Observer: Do you have any funny tidbits you could pass on to other business owners?

Father Time: Well, there was the Millennium. Baby New Year and I talked it over and decided to confuse the heck out of everyone about whether



Father Time (with the beard) is often paired with Baby New Year, particularly around Jan. 1.

IT'S ABOUT TIME

- **Business Name and address:** Time, Ltd., Anywhere, Anytime, 12345
- **Your name and title:** Father Time
- **Business opened when? When else? At the beginning of time**
- **Number of Employees:** 2 (Baby New Year chips in once a year)
- **Hours of operation:** Mostly the last minute of the year, while the ball drops
- **Your business specialty:** Telling time
- **Facebook Page:** <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/pages/Father-Time/>

the year 2000 was the last year of the old millennium or the first year of the new one. We had a lot of fun with that one.

Observer: What else interests you?

Father Time: Riding my pet dinosaur, chariot races in ancient Rome, flying my alien saucer around, watching the Nebraska Cornhuskers in their glory days, my new polar bear fur coat, I once thwarted Hitler's plans for

world domination.

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Father Time: Well, since I control time, it has no meaning to me, so I never get any older. And, of course, neither does Baby New Year (lol). I feel very fortunate to have had this job for as long as I have, and look forward to holding onto it for ... well, all time.

Previous decade has seen more lows than highs

It's the time of year when I like to look back over the last year and then look forward to the new year. However, since this is the end of the decade, I would like to take a step back and look at a couple of prevalent themes since the year 2000. We have been on an incredible ride over the last 10 years and despite everything our economy has experienced, we still find ourselves the largest, most prosperous nation in the world. Looking back at the decade, I remember the fear of the Y2K problem.

Over the last decade, we have experienced a variety of fears. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 sent shock waves throughout our country and the world. Not only did we fear for our safety, but for our financial markets. Following the terrorist attacks, for the first time since 1933, the stock market was closed for four straight days. When trading resumed Sept. 17, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell nearly 700 points. Fear had gripped investors.

Fear was also felt throughout this year and last as our financial system began coming apart at the seams. Whether it was the bursting of the real estate bubble, the bankruptcy of Bear Stearns, Lehman Bros., Chrysler and General Motors, or the collapse of the U.S. banking industry, there is no doubt that fear played a major role in our personal financial affairs over the last decade.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

The company filed for bankruptcy in December 2001. A variety of criminal charges followed in 2002, in which many top Enron executives were sentenced to substantial prison terms. And with the demise of Enron came the demise of one of the biggest accounting firms in the world. Arthur Andersen, one of the top five accounting firms, went out of business because of its bad behavior.

The decade also saw many individuals and institutions in the financial world admit to bad behavior. Whether it was mutual funds admitting to unacceptable behavior, mortgage companies with exotic products taking advantage of people or the numerous corporate scandals, including Tyco and WorldCom, we have seen enough bad behavior over the last decade to last a lifetime. Don't forget that the poster child of bad behavior was Bernie Madoff. Unfortunately, he wasn't the only one who took advantage of investors. Over the last year or so, there have been far too many financial advisers who have taken advantage of their clients.

tage of their clients.

There is no doubt that the decade of the 2000s has been difficult for investors. After all, this decade brought us two major meltdowns in the stock market — the bursting of the tech bubble at the beginning and the bursting of the real estate bubble and its corresponding effects at the end. However, there is reason for hope.

The United States has been through many major crises in its history. Whether it was the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War I, World War II or Vietnam, citizens have lived through difficult periods. The common thread that runs through every crisis is the country has survived and even thrived.

I have no doubt we will get through this present crisis and that our economy will once again be able to grow.

I hope the new year and the new decade will bring better times for you and me. I do not think it will be easy and I believe there is more difficulty to come, however, I am an eternal optimist and I do believe better days are ahead.

Happy New Year and may the 2010 see all of our dreams come true.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money_matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

BUSINESS MILESTONES

TRW raises new term loans

TRW Automotive Holdings Corp. of Livonia, which specializes in active and passive safety systems, has raised \$400 million of new term loans of which \$225 million matures on May 30, 2015, and \$175 million matures on May 30, 2016, both subject to certain conditions. Proceeds from the new \$400 million term loans, together with cash on hand were used to repay the outstanding balances of previously existing term loans, which had earlier maturities than the newly issued term loans.

Livonia landscaper honored

Paramount Landscaping Inc., owned and operated by Stephen J. Simon of Livonia, was recognized for outstanding achievement in the field of landscape design and construction at the 2009 Michigan Green Industry Association Environmental Improvement Awards Banquet held at the Southfield Westin.

Paramount Landscaping received Gold Awards in two categories for the Fereshetian Residence of Northville. Paramount Landscaping has been in business since 1986.

Software company one of 500 largest

WorkForce Software Inc. of Livonia, which specializes in workforce management solutions for organizations with complex labor requirements and compliance concerns, has been included in Software Magazine's Software 500 ranking of the world's largest software and service providers, now in its 27th year.

"The 2009 Software 500 results show that revenue growth in the software and services industry was healthy with total Software 500 revenue of \$491.3 billion worldwide for 2008

representing 8.8-percent growth from the previous year," said John P. Desmond, editor of Software Magazine and Softwaremag.com.

The Software 500 is a revenue-based ranking of the world's largest software and services suppliers targeting medium to large enterprises, their IT professionals, software developers and business managers involved in software and services purchasing.

The ranking is based on total worldwide software and services revenue for 2008.

"WorkForce Software is excited to be recognized as one of Software Magazine's Software 500 and we are proud of what our team has accomplished," said Kevin Choksi, president and CEO of WorkForce Software.

RS Electronics USA employees honored

RS Electronics USA of Livonia, a distributor of industrial electronics, recently inducted five long-time employees into the company's Silver Service Gallery. The gallery is located at the company headquarters and features portraits of employees who have served RS for 25 years or more.

The 2009 inductees were: Michele Newman and Carol Robbins, both of purchasing; Jerry Walter, inside sales; Nancy Gumtow, finance; and Phil Brown, operations.

The inductees were honored at a ceremony led by Howard Taxe, president. "The Silver Anniversary event is a very special day at RS," Taxe said. "It enables me to publicly acknowledge the dedication and commitment that our 25-year employees have given to our organization. These people are critically important to the success of our business and I recognize and appreciate the contributions that they have given to us."

RS Electronics was founded in 1929.

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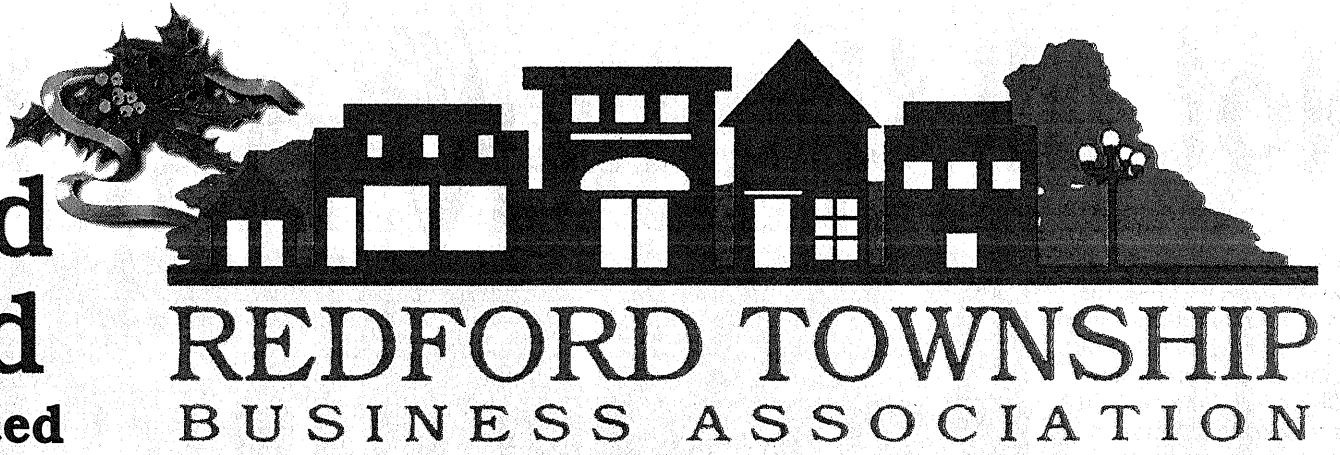
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Not all the news was bad in 2009

Challenging and redefining, 2009 was a harbinger of "the new normal" in Michigan. Families making do with less, government downsizing and schools undertaking the painful process of contraction. But the economic downturn was only part of the story. Michigan is full of hearty people who are at their best in trying times and many of their stories unfolded on our pages. Here is a look at some of the top stories of 2009.

HOSPITAL EXPANDS

• St. Joseph Mercy Health System in Canton unveiled in December its new Center for Advanced Medicine and Surgery, a project that marked a \$43 million investment in the facility near Canton Center and Palmer roads. It is the first time a facility in southeast Michigan will offer cancer patients a radiation therapy using RapidArc technology, a state-of-the-art, tumor-fighting system with improved precision and speed.

PLAKAS RETIRES

• Garden City Mayor Jim Plakas retires from local politics.

"It was a very difficult decision for me to make," Plakas said, on his decision not to run for re-election. "I know I disappointed my supporters, but given family considerations, the time has come after all these years to return to being just a private citizen."

Plakas was the longest serving elected official in Garden City history, having begun his career on council in 1968.

"I can't tell you how much I love this city and its people," he said. "Over the years, the citizens of Garden City have returned me to public office time and time again, and in doing so, placed their faith and trust in me, something I never lost sight of and will never forget."

TRIUMPH



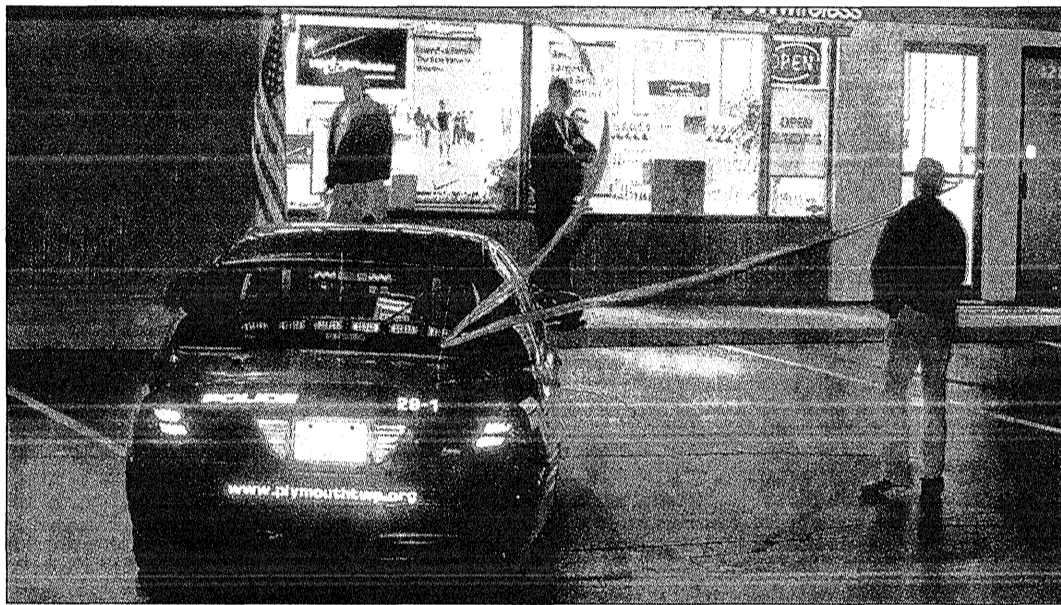
A westbound Amtrak train collided with a vehicle that went around the gates at Hannan Road south of Michigan Avenue and attempted to beat the train. Five people in the auto were killed. The train, moving at nearly 70 mph carried the wreck to Lotz Road before it could stop.

• A dance instructor at the Livonia Senior Center followed her dream despite losing a foot. Barb Duka of Westland continued to lead a group of about 35 people at the Livonia Senior Center, wearing a blue smock embroidered with flowers and ladybugs, reflective of the spring in her step.

"Heel, heel, toe, toe, step together, quarter turn, heel, heel, toe, toe, e step together, angle up," Duka chants, keeping the group in rhythm.

Duka's lower leg had to be amputated due to an infection, but she never lost her indomitable spirit.

"I was never the type to be depressed," Duka said. "I wanted to know 'what's next, when am I coming back.' They made me a leg, and I just took



Wind whips the crime scene tape around during the investigation of the shooting at the Wireless USA store on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township.

layoffs will be effective Jan. 29 before the start of the second semester.

RECYCLING

• Westland's recycling program proved to be a hit with residents.

Since the city began its curbside recycling program in July, an average of 20 percent of the city's solid waste has been recycled for a \$38,400 savings in tipping fees. That's in addition to nearly \$16,000 savings from yard waste diverted from the solid waste landfill.

SHOOTING

• A robbery suspect with a criminal record was killed and a Plymouth Township police officer was wounded when gunfire erupted as plainclothes officers tried to arrest the suspect after the holdup of a cell phone retailer in late October.

The officer was wounded in the right shoulder and the left hand.

The shooting happened at a Wireless USA store. Mary Jane Radloff, the owner of the adjacent Salon MJ, said:

"This is like way too close for comfort here."

HOLLYWOOD

• A touch of Hollywood appeared in Redford Township as special effects company Reel Action FX opened in July. The company provides pyrotechnic services to the fledgling film industry in Michigan and business soon skyrocketed.

"Anybody who wants to film guns, or have a car blown up, comes to us," said Patrick Potochick, a 1979 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School, who parlayed a background in fire arms and police work into an exploding business.

TRAGEDY

• A car-train collision in Canton claimed five young lives in July. Investigators said the driver of a Ford Fusion tried to beat an oncoming, 530-ton Amtrak train traveling nearly 70 mph at the Canton Township railroad crossing at Hannan. Video footage obtained by a local company showed the driver trying to get around another car and then the crossing gate and being struck shortly after noon, police said.

The impact was such that the train ended up pushing the car nearly a mile.

The victims ranged in age from 14 to 21 and their deaths set off a period of reflection and mourning in the Detroit area.

"Obviously, this is a tremendous tragedy," said Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy.

PERSEVERANCE

• Warner Middle School sixth grader Barbara Norris credited her teacher, Debbie Smith, for her "turnaround." Her mother, Lisa, knew it was a difficult time for her daughter when the family moved to the Farmington area from Detroit.

Smith gave Barbara the needed push with inspiration thrown in.

"She said, 'You can do it,' and she said that she knew that I was going through a lot of different things," Barbara said.

Her mom realized the move was difficult.

"We had a hard time last year because we were new to the area," Lisa said.

With her teacher's support, Barbara's academic achievement improved so much so that she was one of 26 students honored at the Farmington Public School's Turn Around Achievement Awards.

Does your New Year's Resolution include health, diet or exercise? The key is better sleep!

YES, you can buy a good night's sleep, supporting better health and weight loss!

Experts agree that good health depends on seven to eight hours of high quality uninterrupted sleep each night. According to the New York Times, "a chronic shortage of sleep has been linked to serious physical illnesses including heart disease, diabetes and obesity." Moodiness, depression and poor concentration are other common side effects.

"Good health depends on seven to eight hours of high quality uninterrupted sleep"

With half of New Year's resolutions including weight loss this year, it's important to know that sleep is a key ingredient for success. A sixteen year study by Case Western Reserve University showed that lower levels of sleep cause large weight gains—as much as 33 pounds or more for women sleeping 5 hours per night. Sleeping seven hours a night helps to regulate the chemicals that impact fat metabolism and overeating. The National Sleep Foundation reports that 60% of us have sleep disturbance two or more nights each week, and 40% struggle with drowsiness during the day because of sleep problems.

"Lower levels of sleep cause large weight gains—as much as 33 pounds or more"

The answer may be as simple as a new mattress—as long as it is the right mattress for your body. Hundreds of people have already discovered the great benefits of the unique "sleep diagnostic system" offered at the new Art Van Pure Sleep store on Ford Road in Canton. Pure Sleep creates the right "sleep system" for you, including the proper mattress and foundation for proper support and comfort, the correct pillow to ensure correct spinal alignment, and a mattress protector to provide a clean and healthy sleeping environment.

"60% of us have sleep disturbance two or more nights each week"

"The #1 reason for poor sleep is stress, closely followed by the tossing and turning that comes from the wrong mattress or pillow. If you aren't waking up feeling refreshed and renewed, you are probably sleeping on the wrong mattress" said Vice President of Operations Steve Glucksman. "In just a few minutes, our sleep diagnostic system fits you with the right mattress, foundation and pillow for your own unique body and sleep style. It takes the guess work out of choosing a mattress and brings in the science of sleep."

"The staff at Pure Sleep is specially trained and committed to finding the right sleep system to give you a great night's sleep and get you on your way to better health" said Glucksman. But what about the cost? "Rest assured, we have the buying power of Michigan's #1 Mattress Retailer, Art Van—guaranteeing the lowest prices, best selection and complete satisfaction for every person we serve."

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Barb Duka (with microphone) calls out instruction to the 35 dancers at the Livonia Senior Center.

off like a bat out of hell."

PROPERTY SWAP

• After several years of going back and forth about a property swap, Garden City schools and the city of Garden City sealed the deal in October. The school district gave the city the former Maplewood School and a portion of the property it sits on in exchange for the community pool at Garden City High School. The board also approved a lease agreement which provides three classrooms that are being remodeled to house the district's Discovery Center. The district is leasing the rooms for \$1 a year as long as the city owns the building.

SCHOOLS TO CLOSE, LAYOFF STAFF

• Wayne-Westland schools announced it will close six elementary schools at the end of the current school year as the district works to trim costs and move to a four-tiered educational program. The closings were part of a plan to trim \$12 million from its budget. The school closings will save \$5 million, leaving \$7 million to come from other areas.

• Livonia Public Schools pink-slipped 83 members of its teachers union in December, the first mid-year layoffs in recent memory, because of unexpected cuts in state funding totaling \$8 million. The

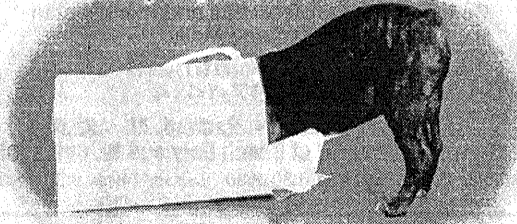


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Teens explore homelessness, 'live love through action'

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Allie Ten Broeck, 16, of Canton was more able to identify with homeless people after Saturday night.

"And how hard it is for them to get along," the Mercy High School junior said. This was her third year participating with high school youth at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton's Boxing Night tradition.

About a dozen teens spent the night outside in the church parking lot, dressed for the weather and warming themselves by two fires in drums. The students are also collecting clothing for the homeless, to be given through Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit.

"I think we take everything for granted," Ten Broeck said. "Most people in Plymouth-Canton have a nice home to live in." Many wear designer clothes, she said.

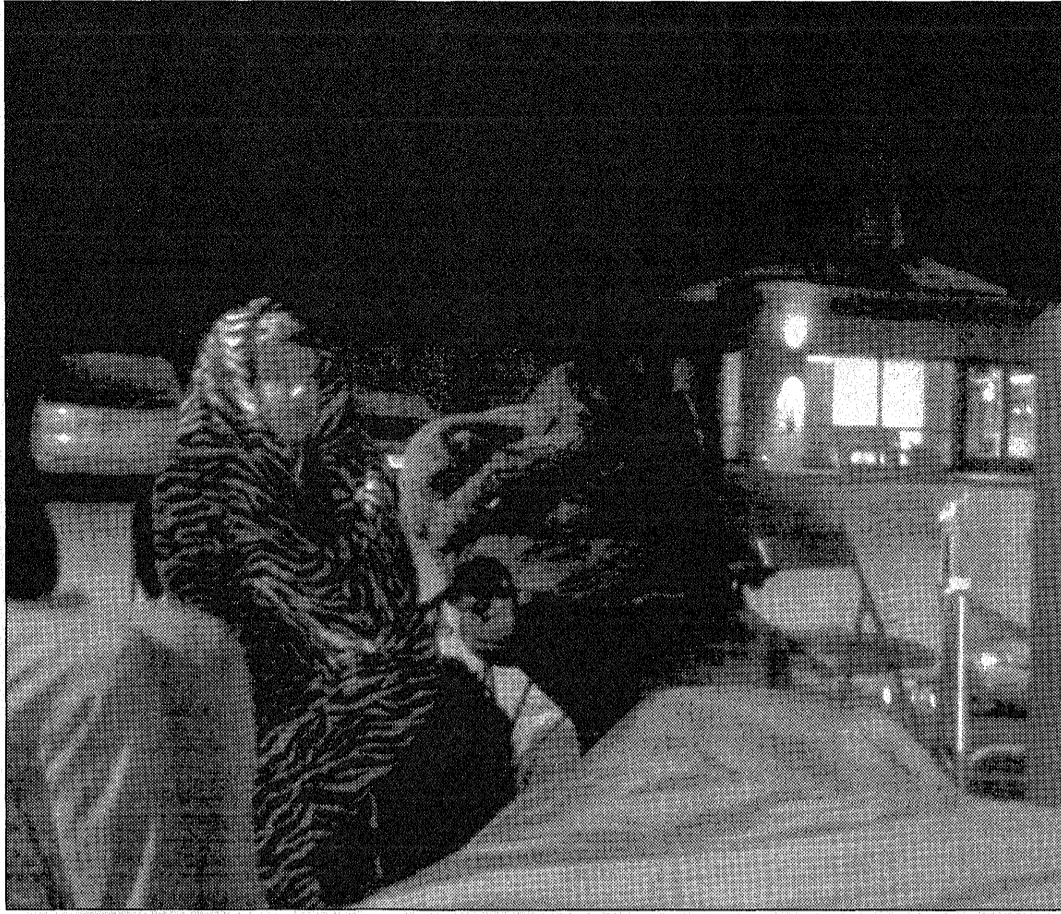
Ten Broeck donned "coats, boots, hats, gloves, everything" for the overnight outside. It's tied into the British tradition of boxing up clothing no longer needed on the day after Christmas for use by the needy.

"I think that it's a great opportunity," she said. She involved friends from outside church, as they didn't necessarily get the point.

Warming himself by the fire Saturday was Preston Arquette, 16, of Canton, a Salem High junior. This is his second year spending Dec. 26 outdoors.

"I think it helps raise awareness for the severe problem homeless people have," Arquette said, adding the clothing collection helps the Open Door Ministry at Fort Street Presbyterian.

Geneva Presbyterian is on Sheldon (west side) north of Ford in Canton. Donations of warm winter clothing, winter outerwear, blankets, sleeping bags and toiletries will be accepted through Jan. 8.



Teens gather around the warming fire outside Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton Saturday night. They spent the night outdoors to explore homelessness issues, and are conducting a clothing drive for Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit, continuing through Jan. 8.

Organizers ask that no furniture, appliances, toys or household items be donated.

Donations may be brought to the church during office hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or left in the drop box outside the church entrance. Clothes will be delivered to Fort Street Presbyterian on Saturday, Jan. 9.

Arquette was drinking a cup of steaming coffee outside that Saturday. "It's warm," he said, clutching the cup.

Steven Daubenmeyer, 15, of Canton, a Salem freshman, was a first-time participant. "The main reason I did this is to experience something from a difference perspective," he said.

Daubenmeyer had brought a favorite book to read under the streetlight, to pass the hours. It's been about 14 years for

the Boxing Night tradition at Geneva, said the Rev. Bryan Smith, pastor.

"Christmas is really about the birth of Jesus who was born into a very poor family," Smith said. As Jesus' birth is celebrated 2,000 years later, "The need is very great," Smith said.

"A lot of us have not experienced that reality," he said of suburban dwellers and homelessness. "Just to have one night of that has been eye-opening."

The students and adult advisers fill a truck with clothing and related items for Fort Street Presbyterian. "There's a real tangible impact for those who are in need," Smith said, adding some college students home on break return for the night, "at least for part of the evening."

Courtney Koen of Canton,

senior high youth coordinator at Geneva, spent the night outdoors with the students.

"I think it's awesome to see young people who care about a cause," she said. "It's something not many adults would do."

Last year was cold and rainy, with participants under a tarp, something many homeless people in Detroit lack. Geneva teens could go indoors to use the bathroom, and go home the next day.

"Until you actually experience it, you don't understand it," Koen said.

This is her second year participating. "Really, our faith is about loving one another," said Koen, who also works for Enterprise Rent-a-Car in Taylor. The students learn to help others, show support and "live love through action."

Detroit ministry reaches out to homeless people

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Benjamin Ogden of Open Door Ministry of Detroit perched on the back of a folding chair, answering questions from senior high students at Geneva Presbyterian Church.

The students were spending the night outside in the church parking lot for their Boxing Night tradition. Ogden, director of the ministry in Detroit, stopped by to talk.

"There's very little hope in some of these communities," he said. There are some 16,000 people in Detroit with no permanent nighttime address, about 2,000 of whom sleep on the streets.

At Fort Street Presbyterian on Thursdays, staff and volunteers serve a meal to about 450 in two hours. "We try to do a more nutritious, well-balanced meal," including protein and produce, he said.

Clothing is also distributed. "We cycle through so many clothes." Homeless people who get wet will freeze to death outside, he said, as there's no way to get warm or change clothing.

Ogden has a background in psychology and counseling, with a specialty in addiction recovery. Although homeless often do have substance abuse problems, there are many who don't fit that profile.

Of the 760,000 homeless people in the United States, half are seniors and kids, he said, and one-quarter military veterans.

The Detroit ministry has operated for more than 35 years with Ogden, who started as a volunteer, there going

on seven years. He sees some of the same people from photos in the 1980s.

At Geneva as the snow began to fall, he asked teens about hangouts in Detroit. There are no malls or movie theaters to go to, he said.

Ogden and others do community outreach through a church site in Highland Park, working to connect people with their neighbors and make their community safer. That's been expanded to include an Ypsilanti church.

He noted Detroit Public Schools students bring their own toilet paper to school and face great obstacles to learning. "Some schools still don't have their study materials for the season," Ogden said.

Homeless people in Detroit often gather at night in Hart Plaza or by Joe Louis Arena. Ogden noted the successes of Open Doors' four-days-a-week ministry at three locations, but also limitations.

"So who thinks they're not going to last out here all night?" he asked the Geneva teens. The city of Detroit has warming centers overnight in extreme cold, he said, but those have chairs where dwellers can't sleep. Warming centers shut down during the day.

"If you're working full time paying your bills, where does college go?" he asked a student who holds a job.

Ogden and the Rev. Bryan Smith, Geneva pastor, thanked the students for their involvement.

"Hospitality is a fundamental Christian tradition," Ogden said.

Ogden can be reached at Open Door Ministry, (313) 961-4533.

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OUR VIEWS

Let's hold state lawmakers accountable

Another year has passed, yet little was accomplished in the Michigan Legislature to solve some of the state's most serious problems.

We encourage voters to hold lawmakers accountable in 2010, an election year.

Instead of just complaining about our state government, voters need to take action — writing or e-mailing state senators and representatives and then voting them out of office in November if they haven't done their jobs.

The state needs to reform the way it pays for essential services, such as public safety and education, now and into the future. It needs to do more to attract and retain businesses that will put Michigan residents back to work. It needs to fix its roads.

We can't afford to keep putting off finding permanent solutions to these problems that threaten the state's economic recovery.

Education funding reform can start with the state aligning its budget year with that of school districts so schools know how much money they'll have at the start of each school year.

This school year, the Livonia school board will lay off teachers in January for the first time ever because of unexpected midyear state funding cuts totaling \$8 million.

Wayne-Westland Community Schools will close six elementary schools next school year, the result of having to plug a \$10 million hole in its budget.

Other state budgetary reform can include a serious attempt at getting local units of government, including school districts, to share services to reduce the overall cost of government to taxpayers.

Michigan has a lot going for it, including its unparalleled natural resources, cool cities, great downtowns and resilient residents.

But unless state lawmakers do their jobs, Michigan will continue to spiral downward, losing more jobs, more educated workers and more families who value education to other states.

Let's hold state lawmakers accountable in 2010 and not let another year pass without their solving the problems that are holding Michigan back.

Our resolution: News you can use

There are two things that happen Dec. 31 — the crystal ball drops at the stroke of midnight in Times Square and people make their annual New Year's resolutions.

Some people refuse to make resolutions. They believe making long-term promises is just too much. They're in the majority. Only about 40 percent of adults still bother making resolutions, and it's the long haul that proves the most difficult. Studies show that 71 percent of participants kept their resolutions for two weeks, 64 percent for a month and 50 percent for three months.

What's a New Year's resolutionist to do? We are not experts, but we think common sense is the best path to follow. Decide what you want to accomplish and then come up with a game plan that's reasonable and manageable. We all know it took baby steps to learn to walk, and such is the case with a resolution. Start small.

That said, we have decided to make a resolution. It's one that we believe will serve us well in 2010. But instead of calling it a resolution, we're calling it our goal. This year has been difficult for all of us. The economy has taken its toll on us, but even with limited resources, we have continued to cover our communities the way the dailies cover the city.

Our goal for 2010 is to continue to provide you with the local news you have come to expect. It is why we are here and it is what we do best. We have never strayed from that and we won't. We fill a news niche that we know is needed.

And while we continue to provide you with your local news, we hope that you will show your support for us. The *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* are committed to you, our readers and your community.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your New Year's resolution?

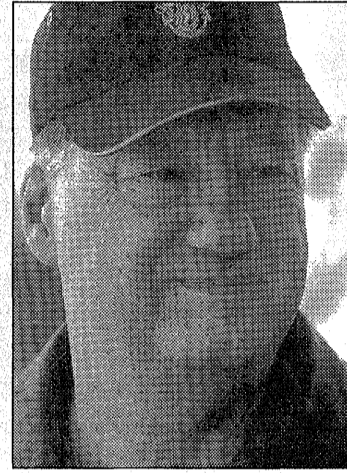
We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



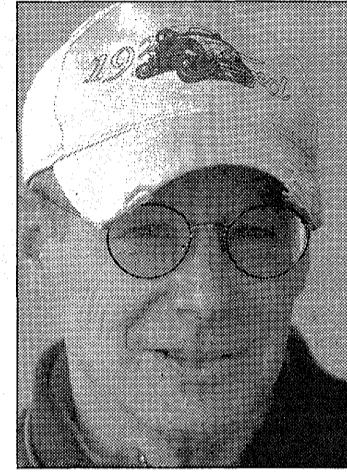
"Finish my doctorate with good grades."
Sheryll Bonness
Plymouth Township



"I haven't thought of one ... Have a much better year than 2009."
Julie Webber
Plymouth



"I don't make 'em. Sorry."
Ed Ammons
Plymouth



"Enjoy life. I'm enjoying it now. Just keep doing it."
Carl Copple
Livonia

LETTERS

Not broken, don't fix it

I read with more than just a little trepidation the story regarding diversity in the Canton Township Public Safety Department.

Canton Township has become one of the safest communities in the nation, with a Public Safety Department that is the envy of the state, by focusing on hiring only the very best qualified people for the positions available.

That is the only standard by which a candidate for a position in the CTPSD should and must be judged. It's a tried-and-true principle for any organization, public or private. Hire the very best people and you will have the very best organization. Canton Township need not justify the makeup of the organization Mr. Santomauro established. It was built with a focus on first hiring the very best people and then requiring that these people continue to maintain a high level of competence and professionalism.

Canton's ranking as the 22nd safest community in the nation and the safest community in Michigan is proof positive that this process works. There is no need to "fix" something that is not broken.

And I, as a tax-paying citizen, demand, yes, demand, that the practice of hiring only the best qualified candidates be continued. The CTPSD must put their blinders on and only, only consider a candidate's qualifications and credentials. Nothing else.

Any attempt to subvert this process, regardless of objective, must be totally disregarded. Not only is using any other criteria discriminatory and morally reprehensible, IT IS THE LAW!

Thomas P. Gamache
Canton

Mr. Nemecek, you have very large shoes to fill. I am confident you would not have been chosen to succeed Mr. Santomauro if the township administration had not felt you were the very best man for the job, and I'm sure you are.

I am very hopeful that you and Mr. Rorabacher will continue to maintain the high standards for public safety that this community enjoys and values. However, just a bit of advice from a 35-year township resident: Don't mess with my safety and the safety of my community.

Mammography timing key

The recent announcement about the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force's recommendations for mammography beginning at age 50 instead of 40, and biennially instead of annually, was disconcerting, to say the least. Had I followed these new guidelines, I would not be writing this letter today.

At 35, I found a lump in my breast. I had no family history and no known risk factors. How could this be? I was too young to worry about breast cancer. Besides, insurance didn't cover a mammogram because I was under 40. My story is no different from thousands of other women who were "too young, had no known risk factors, and no family history." Yet still, we had breast cancer.

One of the primary concerns behind the new guideline seems to be false positives. Personally, I'd rather have a false positive and find out that it was nothing to worry about than to die because I didn't get screened. I agree that mammography is not perfect. However, it is the best tool we cur-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

rently have for early detection, and detecting cancer early saves lives.

A greater concern should be that a third of women who qualify for screening are not being screened due to lack of access, education or awareness. This is what needs to be changed. All women deserve equal access to screening and treatment.

While the debate will continue, it is still the recommendation of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and Eric P. Winer, M.D., chief scientific adviser and chair of Komen's Scientific Advisory Board, for "women to be aware of their breast health, understand their risks, and continue to follow existing recommendations for routine screenings, including annual mammography beginning at age 40."

Shari Franko
breast cancer survivor
Plymouth

Teachers already give back

I am writing in regards to a letter printed in the *Observer* by Mr. Martin.

I am very proud and honored to be a teacher in the Plymouth-Canton school district. The letter written by Mr. Martin asking for the school board to cut expenses by cutting the salaries of teachers was certainly a punch in the gut. The community entrusts us to shape and mold the children we work with into caring and knowledgeable individuals who can function in a competitive society but yet he doesn't feel that we deserve a salary that justifies the work we do.

I don't think Mr. Martin realizes just how much teachers already "give back." When the district makes cuts, who do you think is there to pick up slack? My classroom is filled with supplies and materials that my salary bought. When I plan activities and experiments it is my pocketbook that feels the pinch for the purchase of materials that are no longer available due to budget cuts.

How much more would you like me to give back, Mr. Martin?

I don't think that Mr. Martin has actually been inside of one of our community schools lately. I am sure that if he were there to witness what takes place on a day-to-day basis he would see that there is no "excessive spending" going on. I think that the taxpayers' money is being used to provide a high quality education for all of the children who attend our schools.

It is in these tough economic times that our schools need more support for the education and academic standards that we strive to embark on our future citizens. Asking teachers to give back more than they already do is not the direction to go in.

How about you, Mr. Martin? What have you given back to support your community and those that are there to help your com-

munity prosper?

Ronda Duran
Canton

Smoking law well-timed

We, the leaders of Michigan's major providers of health care, want to congratulate the Michigan Legislature for doing the right thing — passing a law to make workplaces smoke-free.

It was imperative to get a bill passed in 2009 and we appreciate that the Legislature understood that. It will be indisputably positive for Michigan's health. As health care professionals, we see firsthand the damage smoking causes to our society. It is impossible to overstate the consequences of smoking when compared to a lifestyle of nonsmoking.

Once this new law takes effect, it will be important to ensure that Michigan smokers get the help they need in order to quit. Nicotine, for most smokers, is a powerful addiction. In order for smokers to successfully quit, they will need access to smoking cessation tools of all varieties. Our groups remain committed to that goal as well.

The economy represents another reason why this Legislation is well-timed. In 2007, for example, tobacco-related illnesses cost Michigan's Medicaid program more than \$1 billion, an increase from \$881 million in 2004. Passing this law now helps keep these health-care costs from growing even more as legislators continue to address our state's ongoing economic troubles.

To the members of the state House of Representatives and the state Senate, we say thank you for passing a law that Michigan wanted and needed. You delivered for your constituents.

Richard E. Smith, M.D.
president, Michigan State Medical Society
Donna R. Moyer, D.O.
president, Michigan Osteopathic Association
David T. Walsworth, M.D.
president, Michigan Academy of Family Physicians
Steven Dupuis, D.O.
president, Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians

MADD claim misleading

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) frequently claims that the drop in New Mexico's drunken driving fatalities is due to the interlock mandate that went into effect in 2005 ("Families, friends grieve for victims," Dec. 27).

But, prior to the 2005 interlock mandate, drunken driving fatalities in New Mexico had been steadily decreasing for 20 years.

In fact, since 2003 (two years prior to the interlock mandate), New Mexico reduced fatalities through many different efforts including: appointing a DWI czar, increasing and intensifying police presence, creating a "DrunkBuster" hot line, cracking down on underage drinking, building a DWI Victims' Memorial, changing the "six-month rule" to allow for a longer period of time for hearing DWI cases, and conducting a ubiquitous anti-DWI advertising campaign.

For MADD to claim that the interlock mandate alone drastically reduced fatalities is not only misleading, but also dishonest.

Sarah Longwell
managing director
American Beverage Institute
Washington, D.C.

CANTON OBSERVER



Brad Kadrich
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor / Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of Advertising

Ring in the new year with style

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
CORRESPONDENT

Whether you're planning a quiet night at home or a blow-out bash this New Year's Eve, why not amp up your attire for the occasion? From casual to cocktail, here's a look at some ways to make sure your 2010 has a stylish start.

GOING OUT GLAM

If you've got an invitation to one of the many upscale parties around town, like the 22nd Annual New Years Eve Gala at Laurel Manor in Livonia, you'll want to pile on the sparkle. Most parties with dinner and dancing, whether they're at a casino, country club or nightclub, call for semi-formal attire.

According to Arlette Stobbe, owner of Bella Mia Dressed Up in Plymouth (853 W. Ann Arbor Trail), cocktail dresses with embellishments are a great choice for women.

"Bugle beads and sequin appliques in bright colors dress them up," she said.

Yet Stobbe conceded many people are foregoing fancy fetes this year in favor of low-key New Year's Eve celebrations such as dinner dates or house parties.

"We're not seeing too many people looking for formal dresses, but that's not a reason why you still can't put some glitz and glam into New Year's Eve to make it special from other nights of the year," she said.

LOW-KEY FUN

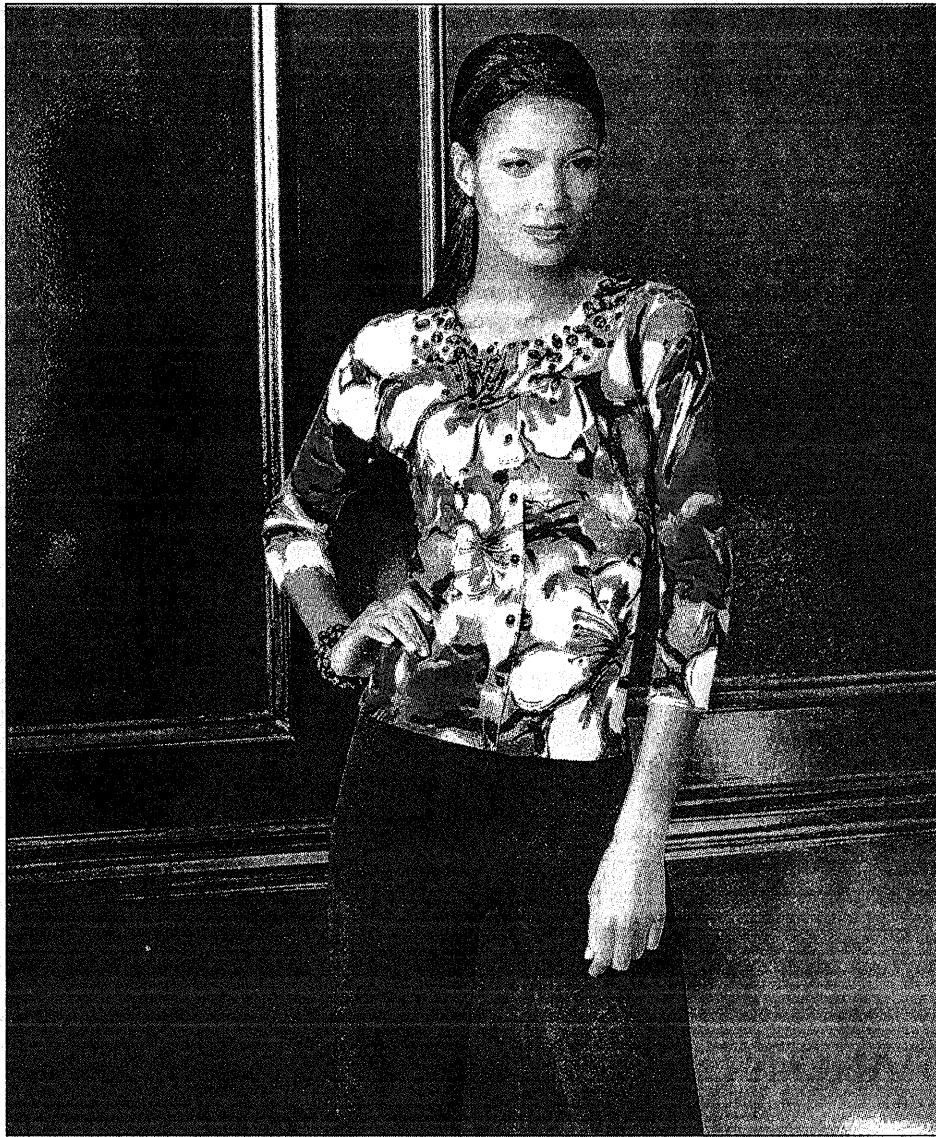
If you're checking out a screening of *Avatar* or attending the Village Theatre at Cherry Hill's "Putting on the Glitz" comedy show, Stobbe recommends a bright top, like a sequined camisole by Free People (\$48), worn with skinny black pants or jeans and strappy heels.

Or, buy a statement necklace that can make an old silk tee or cocktail dress look new again. Stobbe recommends Gamela Designs, created by local twins Diana and Julie Verdugo. The line includes bold necklaces made from materials like peacock feathers, fringe, hardware, chunky stones, chains and ribbons, available at Bella Mia Dressed Up and online at www.gameladesigns.com.

For men, a velvet blazer with jeans offers a timely take on the dinner jacket look.

ACTIVE ATTIRE

A popular genre of New Year's Eve parties offer activities other than dancing. These include bowling at Westland Bowl, roller skating at Bonaventure Family Skate Center in Farmington Hills or fam-



This Cable & Guage floral print beaded cardigan from Parisian at Laurel Park Place (\$68) will add sparkle to your New Year's Eve.

ily friendly fun at Northville Nite. Even if you're planning to tote toddlers through a maze of inflatables or break a sweat on the roller rink, you can still take your outfit up a notch.

Try jeans and a sparkly sweater, like a Cable & Guage floral print beaded cardigan from Parisian at Laurel Park Place (\$68). Or a tunic top with 'liquid leggings' — stretchy pants with a satin sheen — like the Kenzie brand at Bella Mia Dressed Up (\$39).

"They are very comfortable and add some pizzazz to your outfit," Stobbe said. "They would be perfect for an active night out."

COZY AT HOME

Sometimes the best option is to watch the ball drop in Times Square from the

comfort of your own couch. If this is your plan, be sure to pick up a batch of bubbly to pop at midnight. Wine Barrel Plus in Livonia, located at 30303 Plymouth Road, offers a wide selection of champagne and sparkling wine in its 30,000 bottle cellar. The family-owned business, in metro Detroit since 1944, has everything from an extremely rare 1979 Salon Brut Blanc De Blancs (\$979.93) to "very nice" Nicolas Feuillatte (\$29.99).

And why not splurge on a new pair of pajamas for your at-home toast? Check out the P.J. Salvage Lace Corset Cami (\$38) paired with the line's Lace Cuff Capri (\$48) or Cupid Cupcake Pajama Pant (\$44) at Von Maur at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. For men, Intimo's Satin Stripe Silk Pajamas (\$150) will add a little luxury to a night in.

MALLS & MAINSTREETS BRIEFS

Super Pampering

Tamara Spa+Wellness in Farmington Hills will celebrate Super Bowl XLIV with special packages for couples on Feb. 10. Men can watch the game in the spa's lounge on overstuffed leather chairs while enjoying snacks and ice-cold refreshments, 'first down' neck, back and shoulder massages, and 'touch-down' hand and foot massages. Meanwhile, women can score a 'quarterback sack' of savings with a Super Bowl package, complete with European spa facial, Swedish body massage, manicure, pedicure and spa lunch with champagne. Call (248) 855-0474 for prices and reservations.

First Friday Art Walk

Because News Year's Day falls on the First Friday in January, the First Friday Art Walk will run 6-9 p.m., the second Friday, Jan. 8, 2010, in downtown Northville. As guests stroll along the streets of downtown Northville's growing art district, they will enjoy a night filled with art exhibits, art demonstrations

and related events. Many of the participating establishments along the walk will offer complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages for their guests as they browse or shop. Participating First Friday Art Walk galleries include Art House, 215 W. Cady; Northville Gallery, 123 E. Main; Starring The Gallery, 118 W. Main; and Solid Grounds CoffeeHouse, which will showcase student artwork from the Art Institute of Michigan, as well as work from Darwin, a Mexican artist who creates canvas paintings. For more information on participants, visit <http://downtownnorthville.com/WhatsGoingOn/FirstFridays.htm>.

Make-over event

The Bobbi Brown Cosmetics team at Nordstrom, in Somerset Collection North, Troy, wants to give you a new look for the new year. They'll show you techniques and tips Friday-Saturday, Jan. 8-9, 2010. Make an appointment for a one on one consultation with the Bobbi Brown team at (248) 816-5100, Ext. 1417.

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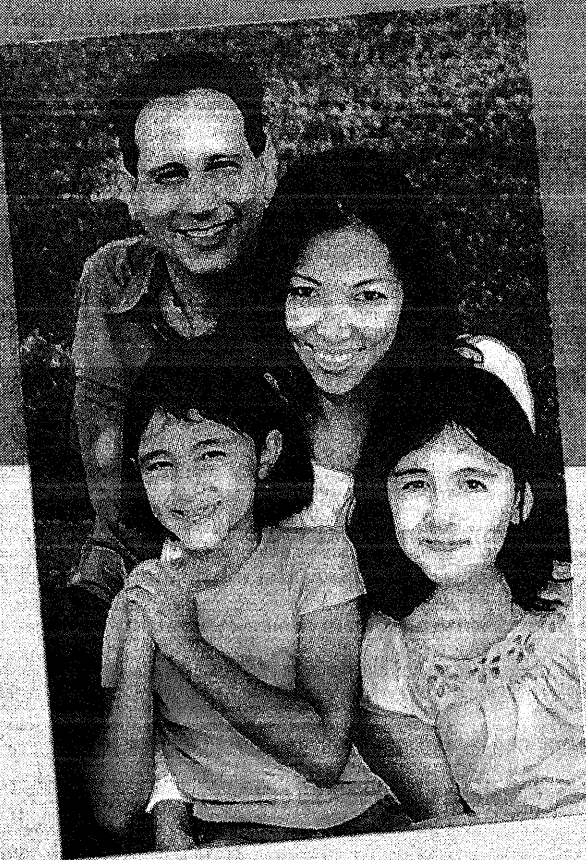


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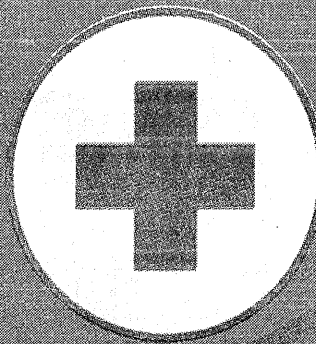
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PONZI

FROM PAGE A12

and conspiracy to sell an unregistered security, a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine. Mitchell and Valeri Sr. are also charged with selling an unregistered security and omitting to disclose material information during the sale of a security, both felonies punishable by up to 10 years in prison and/or a \$25,000 fine. Judge Richard Wygonik assigned a \$25,000 personal bond for each. Preliminary exams are scheduled for March 19. Kelly is in federal custody and

is facing federal fraud and securities charges. His assets have been seized and are being controlled by federal court order. A restitution fund has been set up with his assets. The value of the seized property is estimated at between \$160,000,000 and \$175,000,000. Michigan residents who were taken in by the alleged Resort Holdings scheme have the opportunity to recover at least a portion of their investment. Residents who believe they or a family member may have given funds to Mitchell, Valeri Sr., Valeri Jr. or Kelly are asked to contact the Michigan Attorney General's office at (313) 456-0180.

CHURCHES

FROM PAGE A1

demand for its Open Door Ministry, a distribution center that serves families in need from Canton, Westland, Livonia, Garden City, Plymouth and other communities. "The number of families looking for help has just gone way up," said Steve Darr, director of Open Door Ministry. "They have either been laid off or their hours have been cut — and some have disabilities."

HELPING MEMBERS

One Sunday in early December, lifechurch of Canton, part of the rapidly growing Evangelical Covenant Church, reached out to its own members, placing baskets inside curtain-veiled areas of the auditorium and inviting attendees to go inside. Those who have survived tough times could place donations in certain baskets, but assistant pastor Mike Rice said "those

in need or hurting" could take a \$100 Meijer gift card from other baskets. It was the church's way of helping its members during a time when many are facing unprecedented difficulties. St. Robert Bellarmine has had a "significant increase" in the number of those asking for food, gas cards and money, said the Rev. Richard Leliaert, pastor. He said the need may even be greater than churches know. "There are so many people hurting out there, but they're reluctant to ask for help," he said. The Rev. Paul Bersche of The Crossing Church in Farmington said he is noticing more referrals for services such as counseling, food assistance and job searches. "I'm doing a lot more counseling," Bersche said. "The stress of the times comes out in problems that may have already been there in families, but are exacerbated by the times."

Since the summer of 2007, McGlannan said, St. John's has lost about 30 active families because of job-related moves. "It's been really hard to balance that," McGlannan said. "It's very public. It's been hard on the congregation because they're people that everyone knew." Most St. John's members have been able to keep their jobs, she said, but most also know people who have been affected by job losses. "It's not like it's some remote problem out there," said McGlannan, who called the recession the worst such crisis she's seen in her 20 years in the ministry.

ed in their faith and to learn that there's a larger picture out there," McGlannan said. "The history of Christianity is full of stories of people suffering, but their faith has sustained them in tough times."

SCREENING MEASURES

Since churches are doing more charity work with fewer contributions, some, like Fair Haven, have begun screening recipients. "We'd deliver food and five other groups were helping them," said the Rev. Bob McDonald, pastor of Fair Haven. "We want to take care of their needs, not their wants. If someone comes by and asks for gas money, we give them a job to do around the church. Then we'll take them to get the gas. A lot of them walk away."

CONTRIBUTIONS AFFECTED

The economy has impacted church contributions. At Fair Haven, where the church's 1,100-seat auditorium continues to be close to full for Sunday morning service, collections have declined 25 percent from three years ago. Clarenceville United Methodist in Livonia is struggling to keep its lights on, said pastor Beth Librande.

The John Bolde Memorial Food Depot restricts families to coming once every two months, using a card system to track the number of visits. In some cases, someone who receives assistance with food or money from a church also finds that church can fill another need. An unemployed man who landed a job after receiving gas money for the job interview from Faith Bible Church in Livonia is now worshipping there, said Tim Terhune, senior pastor. "That's what motivates churches to continue to help — even when their own resources are stretched. "I think that people are struggling, not sure what they are looking for," said Hegdal of St. John's Lutheran in Redford. "People know there is an emptiness in their lives, but do not know how to fill it. We help people figure out how to be on that journey of discovery and walk with them toward belief and hope in the midst of unbelief."

ATTENDANCE STEADY

But while churches have seen an increase in requests for assistance, they haven't necessarily seen an increase in the number of people sitting in their pews on Sunday mornings — even though the expectation might be that people are more inclined to seek a relationship with God during times of trouble. Most area churches interviewed for this story report their attendance and membership remain steady. At St. John's Episcopal on Sheldon Road in Plymouth Township, which has about 300 registered families, the Rev. Dorian McGlannan said she's seen new visitors during the recession, but also the loss of many active members whose work took them out of the area or out of the state.

Yet, it continues to offer a food bank for the community and congregation, providing approximately three families a week with supplemental groceries.

Garden City Presbyterian Church is small — its average Sunday attendance is 100-110 people — but pastor Herschel Ele said his congregation is "stepping up to the plate" to help the less fortunate. Church members took food to pantries early this month, where they found empty shelves. "We're glad to be a part of the effort," he said. "We try to do what we can." Collections have been steady despite the economy at St. John's Episcopal, McGlannan said. "People have been very faithful." The hard times are something McGlannan mentions in her sermons — and church goers are receptive, she said. "I think people come here to be with other people, to be lift-

Observer staff writers Darrell Clem, Matt Jachman, Stacy Jenkins, Sue Mason, LeAnne Rogers and Larry Ruehlen contributed to this report. ksmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2098

BRIDGE

FROM PAGE A1

Trail are invited to the next Friends of the Canton Trails meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, in Room "A" of the lower level of the Canton administration building, on

Canton Center between Cherry Hill and Palmer. Other meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, according to the township. For more information, call (734) 394-5310 or log on to www.cantonfun.org.

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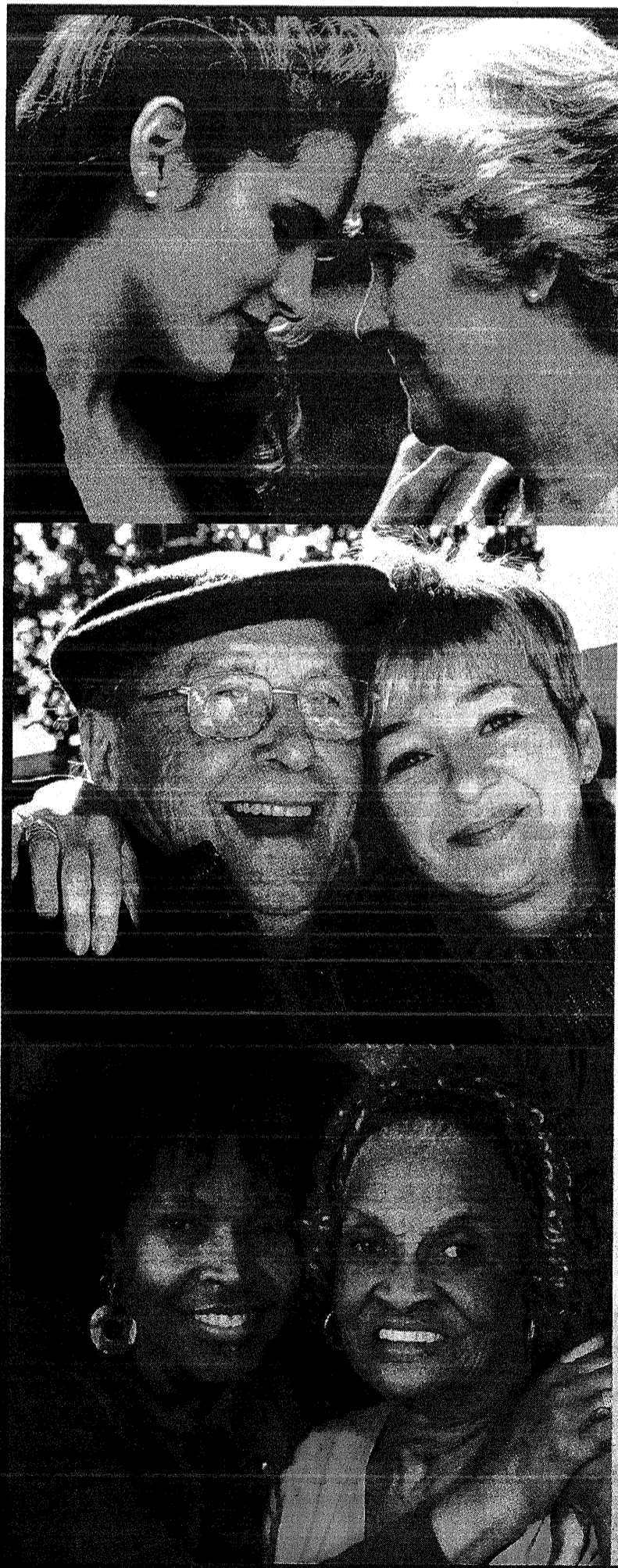
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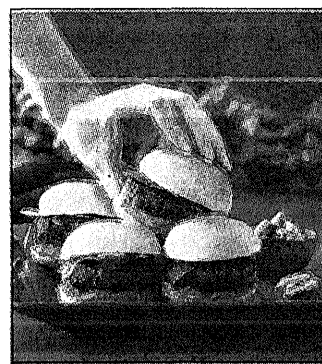
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HOMETOWN LIFE



Tim Smith, editor, (313) 222-2637
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Bear-ing down

Clarenceville grad Tim Shaw excels on NFL special teams

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Here today, gone tomorrow? It's an old adage that certainly pertains to the business of the National Football League. Livonia Clarenceville High grad and former Penn State linebacker Tim Shaw would be the first to attest to that.

Shaw, who has found his niche as a valuable special teams performer, is with his third NFL team in three years. Ironically, Shaw returns home this Sunday to Detroit's Ford Field wearing the opposing team's jersey — No. 58 of the Chicago Bears.

And it will be a family reunion of sorts.

"I've actually seen a game at Ford Field — Thanksgiving between the Lions and the Packers," said the 6-foot-1,

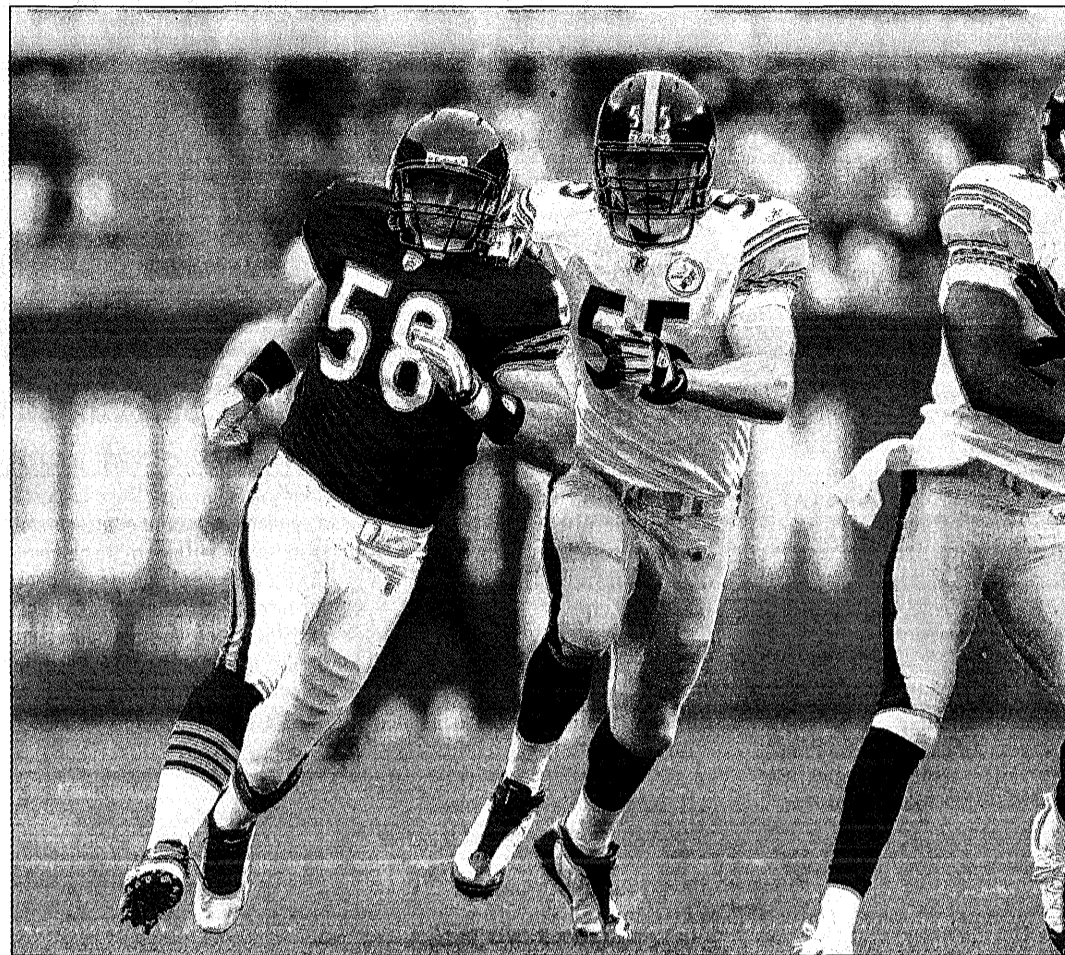
236-pound Shaw, who leads the Bears special teams' unit in tackles with 17. "I've bought about 20 tickets and I'll probably get more when the week comes up."

Shaw, a fifth-round pick of the Carolina Panthers in 2007, appeared in 14 games that season and ranked second among special teams players in tackles with 14.

But after not earning a spot on the Panthers' opening day roster in 2008, Shaw waited nearly 12 weeks before being picked up at the end of the season by the Jacksonville Jaguars, where he recorded four tackles in three games.

Shaw then was among the finals cuts by the Jags just prior to the 2009 regular season start, but was quickly

Please see **SHAW, B2**



BILL SMITH

Livonia Clarenceville grad and former Penn State linebacker Tim Shaw has excelled on special teams this season for the Chicago Bears.

SIDELINES

Lady Raiders fall

Shavonne Morgan, a 6-foot center, scored a team-high 18 points, including the game-winning jumper with only two seconds remaining to propel Flint Northwestern to a 53-51 girls basketball win Monday afternoon over North Farmington in the Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day Roundball Classic.

Ebony Harvey added 10 points for the victorious Wildcats, who improved to 5-2 overall.

North Farmington (5-1) got a game-high 22 points from sophomore guard Jasmine Harris.

Senior guard Jenna Bachrouche added 14 points and nine rebounds, while senior guard Lyndsey Booker contributed seven points, seven rebounds and five assists.

North led 26-20 at halftime before Northwestern rallied with an 18-11 third-quarter run to take a 37-36 advantage entering the fourth.

The Raiders, who hit only 6-of-13 free throw attempts, missed the front end of a one-and-one with 15 seconds left to set up Morgan's game-winner.

"We tried to keep our (practice) routine as normal as possible, but for whatever reason we came out flat," North coach Tim Carruthers said. "We did not have the same intensity defensively as we had the last five games. They (Northwestern) are a good team and were able to take advantage."

World Junior icers

Team USA is off to a 2-0 start in the International Ice Hockey Federation Under-20 World Junior Championship being held through Jan. 5 in Saskatoon and Regina, Saskatchewan.

Plymouth Whalers forward A.J. Jenks had a goal in Sunday's 3-0 victory over Slovakia, while Windsor Spitfires Cam Fowler (Farmington Hills) has recorded a pair of assists, including Saturday's 7-3 opening-round victory over Slovakia.

Team USA continued preliminary round play Tuesday against Latvia and will wrap up its bracket Thursday in Saskatoon against host Canada.

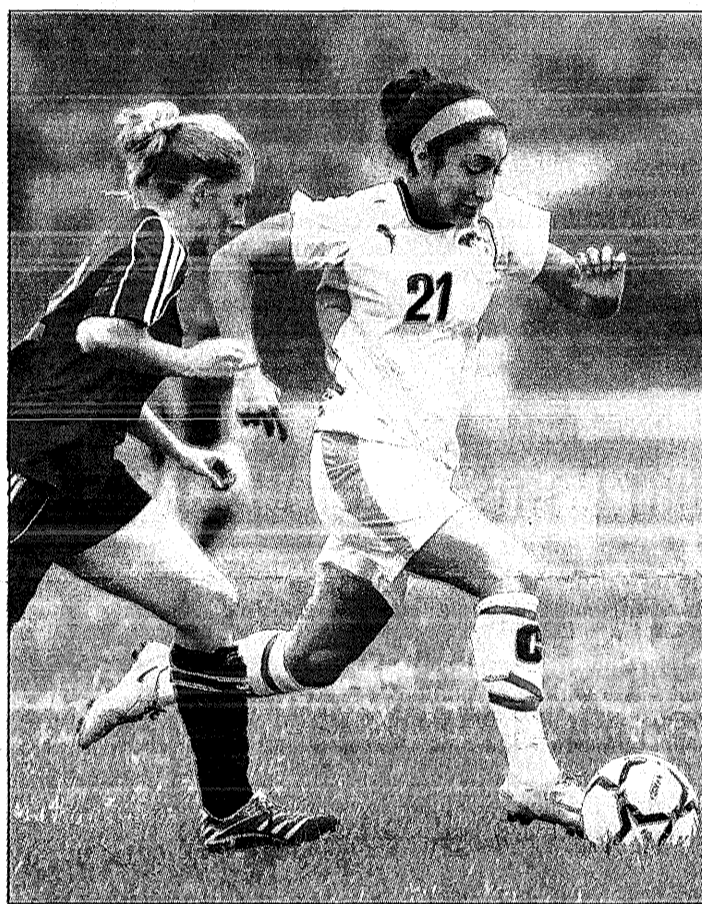
The elimination quarter-final round starts Saturday, Jan. 2, in Saskatoon.

Ocelot a keeper

Schoolcraft College goalkeeper Ian McDonald-Wilkins (Ann Arbor Pioneer) recently earned NJCAA Division I All-American honors.

The 6-foot, 190-pound freshman helped the Ocelots to an 18-2-2 overall record and a third-place finish in the NJCAA Division I Nationals Tournament.

Schoolcraft also captured NJCAA District D and Michigan Community College Athletic Association titles.



RENA LAVERTY

North Farmington High grad Dena Sana (21) earned NJCAA All-American honors for the Schoolcraft College women's soccer team.

Ocelot All-American

N. Farmington's Sana reaps NJCAA soccer honor

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dena Sana has been rewarded for her efforts on behalf of Schoolcraft College women's soccer by being named to the NJCAA Division I All-America second team.

The sophomore forward from Farmington Hills led the Lady Ocelots to a 16-3 season, which included winning MCCA Eastern Conference and NJCAA Region 12 championships. Schoolcraft made it to the second round of the national tournament in November.

"I definitely never would have gotten there (All-America) without my team-

mates," Sana, who had 13 goals and four assists, said. "It's all on them for doing what they did for me, setting me up to do well."

"Without them, I wouldn't have been able to do it. I've had great teammates and coaching my whole life. It's nice to do something to give back to them for what they've done for me."

All-America status is a just reward and an example of an athlete overcoming odds and doubters to achieve at a high level, according to Schoolcraft coach Deepak Shivraman.

"She's not an imposing figure as far as her (5-foot-1) height or size," he said, "but she made up for it with her sheer work ethic. She has a nice burst of speed, and she was able to get past a lot of defenders using that speed and skill."

"Even though her stature is small, she is fearless when it

comes to going for 50-50 balls and going for a tackle. She really does stand out as far as those attributes."

A graduate of North Farmington, Sana is grateful to Shivraman, also a Farmington Hills resident and the former Mercy High School coach, for giving her the opportunity to play college soccer.

"Farmington wasn't a big soccer area, so it was hard to get coaches to come out to watch and take it seriously," she said. "Deepak took the time when I played club soccer. He gave me a great opportunity, and I did what I could do with it."

"You always hear about players coming out of soccer hotbed areas like Livonia and Troy," Shivraman said. "As a community thing, it's great that we

Please see **SANA, B2**



Sana

Matinee idols: Whalers trap Otters in overtime, 3-2

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

No pun intended, but Monday's Ontario Hockey League matinee at Compuware Arena proved to be a Whaler of a finish.

Defenseman Beau Schmitz, taking a nifty pass from Tyler Seguin just off the bottom rim of the right circle, went top shelf for the game-winning goal with 2:42 remaining in overtime to give the host Plymouth Whalers a 3-2 victory over the Erie Otters.

It was the fourth goal of the season for Schmitz, who hails from Howell.

Seguin, the OHL's second leading point producer, assisted on all three goals as

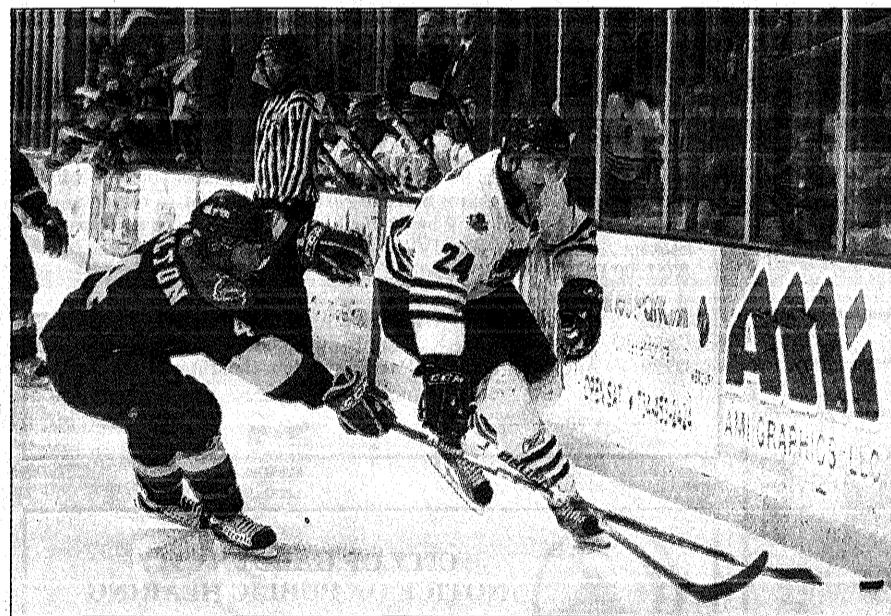
the second-place Whalers improved to 21-16-0-1 in OHL's West Division of the Western Conference.

The game proved to be a battle of goaltenders as Plymouth's Matt Hackett stopped 36-of-38 shots, while Erie counterpart Jaroslav Janus made 31 saves.

"We were trading opportunities at both ends and both goals were good — it was a good battle," Whalers coach Mike Vellucci said. "We were off for eight days and I'm sure a lot of guys did not skate. I was not happy early on, but we showed some character coming back and I thought we took control in the third period."

After a scoreless openin

Please see **WHALERS, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Whalers' Joe Gaynor (24) chases the puck down along the boards in front of Mitch Gaulton of the Erie Otters during Monday's OHL matinee at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Ocelot a keeper

Schoolcraft College goalkeeper Ian McDonald-Wilkins (Ann Arbor Pioneer) recently earned NJCAA Division I All-American honors.

The 6-foot, 190-pound freshman helped the Ocelots to an 18-2-2 overall record and a third-place finish in the NJCAA Division I Nationals Tournament.

Schoolcraft also captured NJCAA District D and Michigan Community College Athletic Association titles.

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SHAW
FROM PAGE B1

snapped up by the Bears in Week No. 2.

MOVING ON UP

A season-ending injury to Bears All-Pro middle linebacker Brian Urlacher forced reserve linebackers Nick Roach and Hunter Hillenmeyer to be pulled off special teams, leaving a spot open to sign Shaw, who was a free agent.

Bears senior director of pro personnel Bobby DePaul got the Shaw deal done during the wee hours of the morning following the Bears loss to the Packers during the Sunday night season opener at Lambeau Field.

"The guy shouldn't have been on the street, but he was," DePaul told Larry Mayer of ChicagoBears.com. "I've had my eye on this guy since he played in the preseason with Carolina. It wasn't like this guy just fell off the tree."

Shaw, who recorded four tackles in a loss to Philadelphia, knows that job security is only as good as his last outing.

"The interesting thing is that every week you're being evaluated on tape and being judged along with your peers," Shaw said. "That's the biggest motivation because it concerns your future and it's your job. It doesn't matter who you're playing against because somebody is always watching, whether it's your team or somebody else's. This business can be so wishy-washy. If you play like garbage, the reputation you'll get sticks. How you're seen and how you play determines your future."

Shaw, who is up for Pro

Bowl consideration as a special teams player, has made a strong impression with the Bears in his short stint. He's attentive at studying the game plan and is a stickler for detail.

"He's a guy that's really gotten better every week," Bears special-teams coordinator Dave Taub told ChicagoBears.com. "He's not the fastest guy in the world, but he's smart. He plays well with his hands, and he plays well with great effort. He's in the front row in meetings, and he's attentive. It's important to him. He knows that's the way he's paying the bills."

All of Shaw's belongings have remained in Jacksonville where he has purchased a dwelling to stay during the offseason.

"I live in an extended stay hotel, they're like the Homestead Suites," he said. "They clean our rooms twice a week. It's like living in a dorm, only a little better. It's close to practice facility. It's convenient and cheap. But after three months it's driving me crazy."

"It's a great city except for the traffic. I usually get out once or twice a week, either go to dinner or go out. The other night we went to the Bulls game."

Although the Bears were eliminated from the playoffs two weeks ago, Shaw is not content with just playing out the string.

"The Bears have always been up there in special teams," he said. "They put an emphasis on it and take pride in it, too."

"We were in the top 10 for a long time, now we're ranked 11th. Our goal is to be first. We had a turnover today (vs. Baltimore). It was a good day, but the last few weeks have not been real good."

Practice is where the state's

former all-time rushing and touchdown leader makes his mark.

"I'm on the scout team defense and I'll get a couple of reps (at linebacker)," Shaw said. "I've also played tight end on scout team. I've still got a little offense in me."

'FUN THIS SEASON'

Despite the team's 6-9 record heading into the season finale in Detroit, Shaw appreciates the opportunity to remain in the league.

"It's been fun this season," he said. "It was awesome to me because we won three of our first four games. I thought we had a great team and we were going to have a great season. But overall I've had a lot of fun and enjoy playing. It's a great experience. I realized after I got out of the game last year how much I missed the game."

Shaw will reunite with family members and friends and has several plans for the offseason including another mission trip.

"I've been praying about it, I may go to Africa," he said. "I've talked to the team captain of the Florida Gators. One of my teammates is involved with a fund-raiser. All the options excite me. I could go back to Costa Rica."

Shaw, ironically, also played in the Lions' former home, the Pontiac Silverdome, during its final year (2001) as a prep when he led Clarenceville to the Division 5 state finals.

Yet his original NFL allegiance as a youth may surprise some.

"My oldest brother (Steve) picked a team, but my team was the Steelers," Tim said. "My brother, Pete, was a Dolphins fan and my other brother, Drew (Andrew), was the Cowboys. He (Drew) still likes the Cowboys and they don't like the Steelers. It was a rivalry thing and we stuck with those teams forever."

Even though his future for 2010 remains up the air, Shaw hopes he can stick with the Bears another season. He said he is currently classified as "an equal rights free agent."

"It's kind of complicated to explain," Shaw said. "But the Bears can tender me. But it all depends on the collective bargaining agreement between the players and the owners. I don't worry about it. I'll be here as long as they want me to be here."

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Indoor softball champs

The Livonia Storm, a 14-and-under girls fastpitch softball team, recently finished 5-0 to capture the 12-team Genesee Fieldhouse Holiday Classic. Storm pitchers gave up only six total hits (all singles) in five games, including a pair of one-hitters, along with no-hitter in the championship game. The Storm batted .305 as a team with one-third of its hit going for extra bases including a pair of fence-clearing homers. Defensively the Storm did not give up any bunts or slap hits. The Storm have now won their last two tournaments and 11 consecutive games. Members of the Storm, who will compete next July in the 2010 USSSA World Series at ESPN's Wide World of Sports, include: (front row, from left) Delainey O'Donnell, Kaitlyn McIntosh, Aubrie Cragg, Jacquelyn Murphy, Casey Bias, Elaine Gerou; (back row, from left) assistant coach Jay McIntosh, Celeste Fudge, Catherine Porter, assistant coach Kevin Bias, Jessica Brandon, Hanna Warren, assistant coach Bob Warren, Shannon Watson and head coach Mike Gerou.

SANA
FROM PAGE B1

have a player from Farmington Hills who is an All-American.

"There were other people who looked at her and said: 'Oh, you'll never be able to play at a higher level, because it's too physical.' She thinks it's great she was able to put those voices aside and prove to people you can do it if you really put your will to it."

Sana's leadership skills on the field are just as impressive as her ability to score goals, Shivraman added.

"Dena was constantly directing traffic out there," he said. "From a coaching standpoint,

that's great because you almost have a coach on the field giving instruction and direction.

"Every successful team has those individuals who strive to bring a team together. She's one of those players who connected with all the others."

"Girls and women's soccer tends to be a little more cliquish than guys. To have a player who works hard to bring people together toward a common goal, it makes the coach's job that much easier, and she consistently did that for us both years. That was outstanding about her in addition to the goals she scored."

Sana has become a better player in the last two years, she said, simply by being in a college program.

"The training is harder and more demanding than high school," Sana said. "You're forced to improve; you have to improve. The situation they put you in and the facilities they have — there's no way you won't get better. They put you in a great situation to be a better player. You just have to work hard."

Sana's performance at the national tournament and her All-America status created a lot of interest from coaches at four-year schools, Shivraman said.

Oakland University was one of them, and Sana plans to enroll there to study pre-law whether or not she plays soccer. The details that would give her a spot on the team are still being worked out, she said.

Rocks take down Rams in hoops action

Double-doubles by Jake Peterson and Ethan Walsh carried Salem to a 51-45 win Monday night over Flat Rock in the opening round of the Woodhaven Invitational boys basketball tournament.

Peterson, a senior center, led the way for Salem with 18 points and 15 boards, while

Ethan Walsh, a junior forward, also contributed 18 points and 13 rebounds.

Tyler Stewart was the next best scorer with seven points as Salem coach Bob Brodie earned a win over his alma mater.

Andrew Scarton paced the Rams (1-3) with 13 points.

The Rocks, who improved 2-1 overall, met Carleton Airport in Tuesday's championship game.

Airport (3-1) advanced with a 72-50 victory over the host Warriors as Daniel Jones and Tyler Pluff scored 13 and 10 points, respectively, for the Jets.

**Legal Notice
Charter Township of Plymouth
2009 Winter Taxes**

Winter Taxes are due **December 1, 2009** and payable through **February 16, 2010** without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office. After hours payments can be placed in the 24 hr **WHITE DROP BOX** located along the circular drive. The **Treasurer's Office will be open December 31, 2009 from 9:00am to Noon.**

RON EDWARDS
Treasurer
Charter Township of Plymouth
9955 Haggerty Rd
Plymouth, MI 481710

Publish: December 24, 27 and 31, 2009

OE0868489-2x3

**GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
6000 MIDDLEBELT
GARDEN CITY, MI 48135**

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON Tuesday January 5, 2010 AT 9:00 A.M. THE AUCTION IS TO BE HELD AT WESTLAND CAR CARE TOWING, 6375 HIX RD., WESTLAND, MI 48185.

PLEASE NOTE: THE BIDDING WILL START AT THE TOWING AND STORAGE CHARGES.

YEAR & MAKE	STYLE	VIN #
1999 FORD	4D	1FAFP10P3XW251679
1988 GMC	PU	2GTEC19K5J1572114
2000 KIA	4D	KNAD223X96521840
1986 OLDSMOBILE	2 D	1G3GM47Y2G326924
1996 FORD	4 D	1FALP52U7TA257683
1987 CHEVROLET	2 D	1G1FPP21F5HL150211

Publish: December 31, 2009

OE08684896 2x3.5

**STATE OF MICHIGAN, JUDICIAL DISTRICT 3RD
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CAYMC, Two Woodward Avenue,
Detroit, Michigan 48226**

**ORDER FOR SERVICE BY
PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION**

Plaintiff: Bertch Cabinet Manufacturing, Inc.; P. O. Box 2280; Waterloo, IA 50704. Plaintiff's attorney: JAMES R. CMEJREK, 2201 Medford Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104; (734) 677-1440

Defendant: Randall A. Dickinson; 633 Natalie; Northville, MI 48170 AND DC Kitchen & Bath, L.L.C.; 136 Liberty Street; Plymouth, MI 48170

IT IS ORDERED:

- Your are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to recover monies owed to them by you. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before February 13, 2010. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint files in this case.
- A copy of this order shall be published once each week in the Plymouth Observer and the Northville Reporter three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.
- John Phillips shall post a copy of this Order at 633 Natalie or 501 West Dunlap, Northville, Michigan 48170.
- A copy of this order shall be sent to Randall A. Dickinson and DC Kitchen & Bath, L.L.C. at the last-known address by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the date of the publication, and the affidavit of mailing shall be filed with this court.

Publish: December 31, 2009 and January 7 & 14, 2010

OE08685293-2x3

THE WEEK AHEAD

**GIRLS BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 30**

Notre Dame Prep Invitational, noon & 2 p.m.
Ladywood Holiday Tournament, 4 & 6 p.m.
(Wayne Memorial Holiday Shootout)
Albion vs. Frankfort, 11:30 a.m.
Thurston vs. Ferndale, 1 p.m.

Franklin vs. Berkley, 2:30 p.m.
Farmington vs. Willow Run, 4 p.m.
Redford Union vs. Det. Western, 5:30 p.m.
(Country Day Roundball Classic)
N. Farmington vs. Det. Pershing, 3:10 p.m.

**PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Dec. 30**

**Franklin vs. Novi at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 30**

Brother Rice Invitational, 9 a.m.
Trenton Invitational, 9 a.m.
Canton Duals at EMU, 9 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Dec. 30

Hope College DeVette Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 2
Marygrove at Madonna, noon.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 30
Mercyhurst (Pa.) at Madonna, 3 p.m.

EXTRA SPACE STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on (January 18, 2010) TATE & CO. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Extra Space Storage, 38875 GRAND RIVER AVE., FARMINGTON HILLS, MI, AT 1:00 PM.

B27	John Jackson	Furniture, Household items.
C212	Michelle Mohr	Furniture, Household items
D229	Andrea Green	Furniture, Household items

Publish: December 31, 2009 and January 7, 2010

OE08685264-2x2.5

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearings, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearings is to solicit public comments on the following:

- 09-024, Special Land Use.** The Acupuncture and Acupressure Clinic is proposing to do massages at 7139 Merriman Road in the C-3, General Business district. Massages are a regulated use in the C-3 zoning district.
- 09-022, Text Amendment.** To amend Section 154.001 Preamble to prohibit the use, use of land, or structure in violation of Federal Law.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

David L. Harvey
City Manager

Publish: December 31, 2009

OE08685051 2x4.5

**WAYNE HOUSING COMMISSION
4001 South Wayne Rd.
Wayne, Michigan 48043
Phone: (734) 721-8602**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEW PARKING GARAGE AND
PAVEMENT WORK**

THE WAYNE HOUSING COMMISSION IS SOLICITING SEALED BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW THREE VEHICLE GARAGE AND ASPHALT PAVING IN THE CITY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN. DETAILED INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE COMMISSION'S ENGINEER/ARCHITECTS: SCALES AND ASSOCIATES, INC. AT THE FOLLOWING FTP WEB SITE:

To obtain an electronic copy of the construction documents send an email containing the words Wayne Housing Commission Garage to: cscales@calesassoc.com, with a copy to mjohnson@calesassoc.com. An email containing a link to download the plans will be immediately returned.

Engineers/Architects Address:
Scales and Associates, Inc.
Suite 1100 Grand Park Centre
28 West Adams Street,
Detroit, MI 48226-1617
Phone: 313.962.8830
Fax: 313.962.3776

Publish: December 31, 2009 & January 3, 7 & 10, 2010

OE08685231 2x4.5

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Soccer openings

The Livonia City Soccer Club has immediate openings for a second team in the under-18 age group.

Schoolcraft College men's soccer assistant and LCSC staff member Eric Scott will coach all phases of the game for girls ages 7-18.

MU softball camps

Madonna University will stage three winter softball camps at the MU Activities Center featuring specialized individual instruction covering all phases of the game for girls ages 7-18.

Among the camps offered include:
 Fundamental No. 1 - 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 (cost \$150);
 Fundamental No. 2 - noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 (cost \$150).

For more information, call MU head coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail awhite@madonna.edu.

Need lacrosse coach

Livonia Ladywood is seeking a varsity girls lacrosse coach for the 2010 spring season. If interested, fax a resume to Ladywood Athletic Director Sal Malek at (734) 591-2386.

Football tutorials

Popps QB Tutor will offer instruction for quarterbacks and wide receivers from 2-3 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (Session VI); and Feb. 7, 21, 28; March 7 and 14 (Session VII), both at Center Court, located at 1717 N. Haggerty, Canton.

The cost is \$150 per session. Sessions are limited to 16 quarterbacks and 16 receiver. Walk-

ins, when space available, are \$35 per date.

For more information, e-mail Richard Popp at: theqbtutor@yahoo.com.

Need volleyball coach

Dearborn Divine Child High School is seeking applicants for a head varsity volleyball coach.

If interested, submit a resume and letter of interest before Jan. 11 to athletic director Tony DeMare at: demare@divinechildhighschool.org.

Track coach wanted

The University of Detroit Jesuit High is seeking a varsity boys track and field coach for the 2010 season.

Those interested should forward a resume to: Mickey Barrett, Athletic Director, 8400 S. Cambridge, Detroit, MI 48221; or fax to (313) 862-3299; or e-mail mickey.barrett@uofdjhsuit.org.

WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

period, the Whalers' Tyler G. Brown scored at the 13:23 mark of the second off assists from Seguin and Farmington Hills native Austin Levi to put Plymouth on top, 1-0.

Erie, however, knotted the count at 1-1 on Mike Cazzola's goal with 2:44 remaining in the same period set up by Zack Torquato and Brady Austin.

Just 1:35 into the final period, Andrew Yogan scored for the Otters off assists from Shawn Szydowski and Stephen Genua to make it 2-1.

But with only 8:44 remaining in regulation, Ryan Hayes tallied the equalizer, recording his sixth goal of the season from Schmitz and Sequin.

"Coming off the (holiday) break we just wanted to keep it simple and eliminate mistakes," Schmitz said.

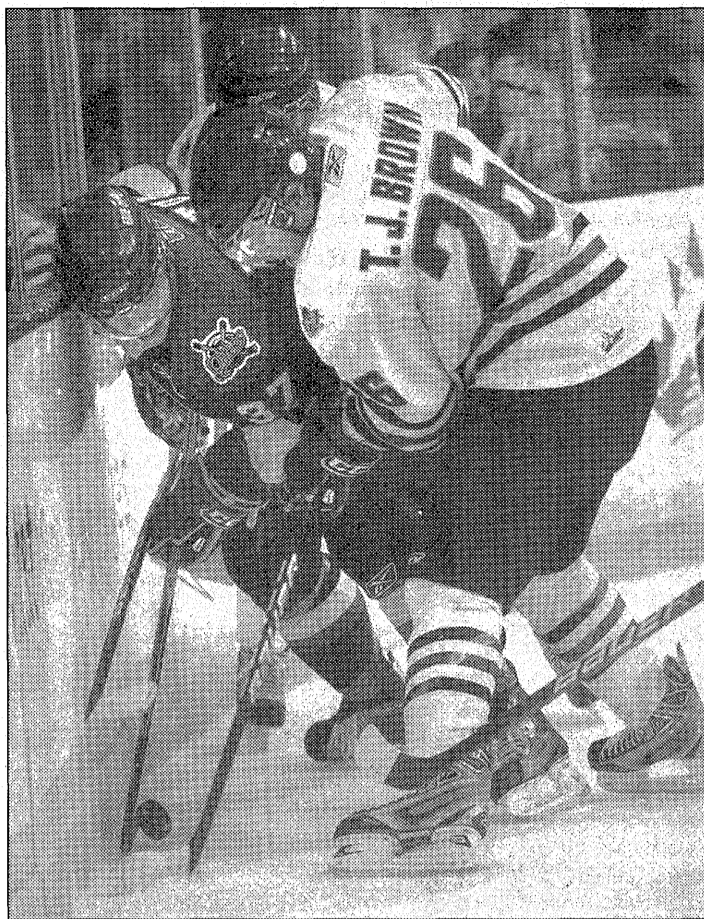
Both teams were missing key players.

Erie, which slipped to 15-16-4-1 in the Midwest Division of the OHL, played without goaltender Ramis Sadikov, who is representing Russia in the IIHF World Junior Championships, along with left winger David Broll, who was representing the Ontario Under-17 squad at the World Hockey Challenge.

Meanwhile, the Whalers' second leading point-getter A.J. Jenks (of Wolverine Lake) was with the U.S. squad in the World Juniors, while defenseman Michal Jordan was representing the Czech Republic.

"Between the World Juniors and injuries, we had four or five out and we really haven't played with our full lineup yet," said Vellucci, whose team is 4-0 in OT games and 3-0 this season against the Otters.

Although the Whalers are a whopping 19 points behind the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Whalers' Tyler J. Brown (26) squeezes the Erie Otters' Matthew Paton (37) along the boards during Monday's 3-2 OHL overtime victory at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

first-place Windsor Spitfires in the West Division, there's plenty to play for during the second half of the season.

Three players with area ties will figure prominently including Levi, who has eight points; Westland's T.J. Brown (four goals, eight assists); and Livonian Austin Mattson (three points).

"Levi has been getting so much ice time, and you've got to look at his upside with the NHL Draft coming up," Vellucci said. "I love the kid and he's a good player."

"T.J. (Brown) is a power forward, a physical guy who will fight when he has to. He's just gotten better and better."

"Mattson's struggled mainly

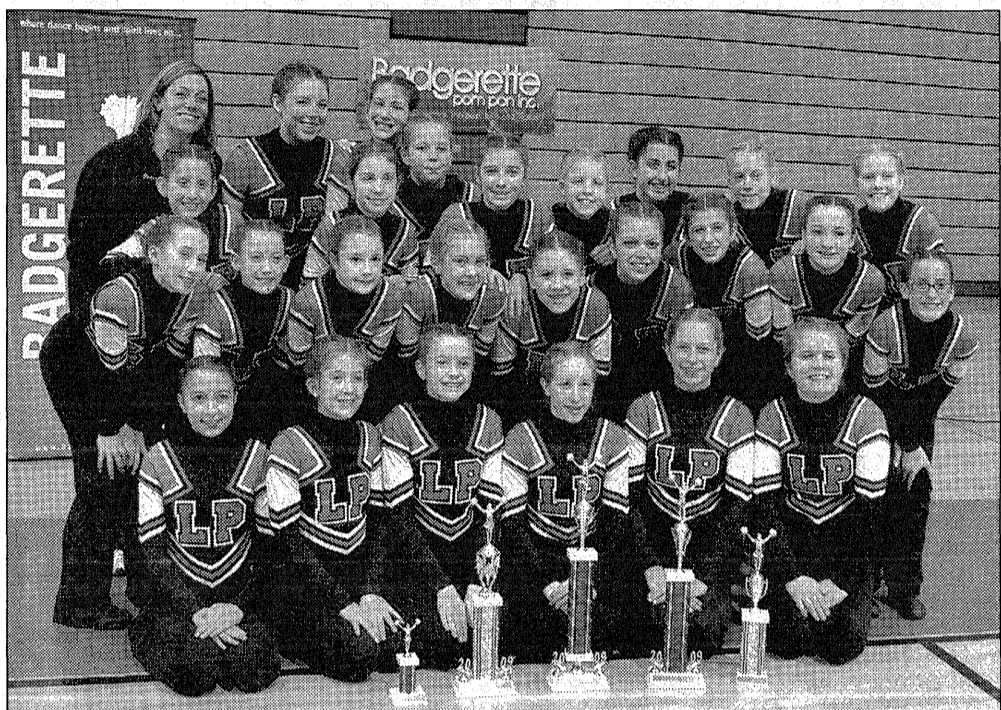
because he's been hurt and sick. He just had some teeth pulled. If he stays healthy, he'll help us out. And when he uses his speed, nobody can stop him."

T.J. Brown, meanwhile, knows the Whalers can elevate their game for the second half stretch run.

"The first half was disappointing, we could have played better," said the Churchill High grad. "The goal is to make the playoffs. We've had some injuries, but it will be good to see how we do when everybody gets back."

"Personally I want to have a impact every game. I just have to play my role and do my job."

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851



Pom champions

On Dec. 12, the Livonia Middle School Pom team competed at Badgerette Pom's Michigan Spirit Showdown held at Brighton High School earning firsts in the M.S. kick and pom divisions. Against all schools, they earned a second overall in high kick and a third in the open division, which included high school teams. They also placed fifth overall in their pom routine. Team members include (front row, from left): co-captains Jessyca DelCotto and Madison Pettit; captains Megan Mila, Heather Swirles and Kari Barden, co-captain Michaela Harter; (second row, from left) Darrian Wasil, Lauren Alcantara, Maria Leopardi, Lindsey Carpenter, Katie Clark, Jamie Brda, Alyssa DiDomenico, Maria Castrodale, Julia Alcantara; (third row, from left) Natalie Alcantara, Leah Dempsey, Madison Fret, Allison O'Brien, Alesandra D'Agostino, Julianna Jarosz, Heather Vallance; (fourth row, from left) coach Andrea McCleary, Savannah Sikorski, Lindsay Hickox and Rachel Pettie.

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

NORTHVILLE 148 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 38
 Dec. 17 at Churchill
 200-yard medley relay: 1. Northville (BoFang Zhang, Alec Wagner, Ben Schoenek, John Blicke), 1:49.07; 3. Churchill (Jacob Rimatzki, John Yurgil, David Vincentini, Derik Atzinger), 2:00.43.
 200 freestyle: 1. Eric Ostrowski (N), 1:59.6; 3. Vincentini (LC), 2:02.94.
 200 individual medley: 1. John Lubisco (N), 2:09.2.
 50 freestyle: 1. Nate Lunn (N), 22.96.
 1-meter diving: 1. Kevin Bain (N), 266.25.
 100 butterfly: 1. Anthony Adamowicz (N), 1:00.34.
 100 freestyle: 1. William Greenlee (N), 50.22.
 500 freestyle: 1. Chris LaFayette (N), 5:08.79.
 200 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Lubisco, Lunn, Ryan Winkler, Greenlee), 1:31.12; 3. Churchill (Vincentini, Zack Anderson, Lance Kortesoja, Mark Freyberg), 1:47.06.
 100 backstroke: 1. Zhang (N), 59.81.
 100 breaststroke: 1. Vincentini (LC), 1:08.14.
 400 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (A.J. Aquino, Adamowicz, Tim Shea, LaFayette), 3:35.47.
 Dual meet records: Northville, 2-0 overall; Churchill, 0-2 overall.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

JAN. 14-20, 2010

St. Thomas a' Becket Parish
Time/Date: Mass at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 17, 2010
Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton
Details: Fellowship and refreshments follow Mass sponsored by Widowed Friends
Contact: Pat at (734) 895-6246

Leon's
Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Jan. 16
Location: 30149 Ford Road, in Garden City
Details: Monthly breakfast meeting of Bethany Suburban West for divorced individuals and singles
Contact: Kathy M. (734) 513-9479

ONGOING

AWANA
Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays
Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills
Details: AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade
Contact: (248) 426-0096.

Classes/study
Time/Date: 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesday
Location: Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile
Details: Tuesday Ladies Bible Study; \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5
Contact: (248) 348-7600

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia
Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun
Contact: Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.

Livonia Unity
Time/Date: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions
Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@

energeticarts.org.
Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 p.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

Merriman Road Baptist Church
Details: Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening.
Contact: (734) 421-0472; leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you

New Life Community Church
Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays
Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville
Contact: (734) 846-4615

Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Scripture study
Contact: (313) 534-9000

St. Andrew's Presbyterian
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. Thursday
Location: 26701 Joy
Details: Wednesday study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith. Thursday group examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey
Contact: (313) 274-3820.

Seeds of Mercy Mission Home
Time/Date: 7 p.m., every Friday
Location: 21819 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills
Details: Bible study
Contact: Nicole Christ at (313) 531-1234

United Methodist Church of Wayne
Time/Date: noon and 7 p.m. Wednesday
Location: 3 Townsquare, Wayne
Details: Celebrate Recovery Bible Study is a Christ-centered and Bible-based 12 Step Recovery Program
Contact: (734) 721-4801

Please see RELIGION, B5

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. Feel free to send a related photo in jpg form. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

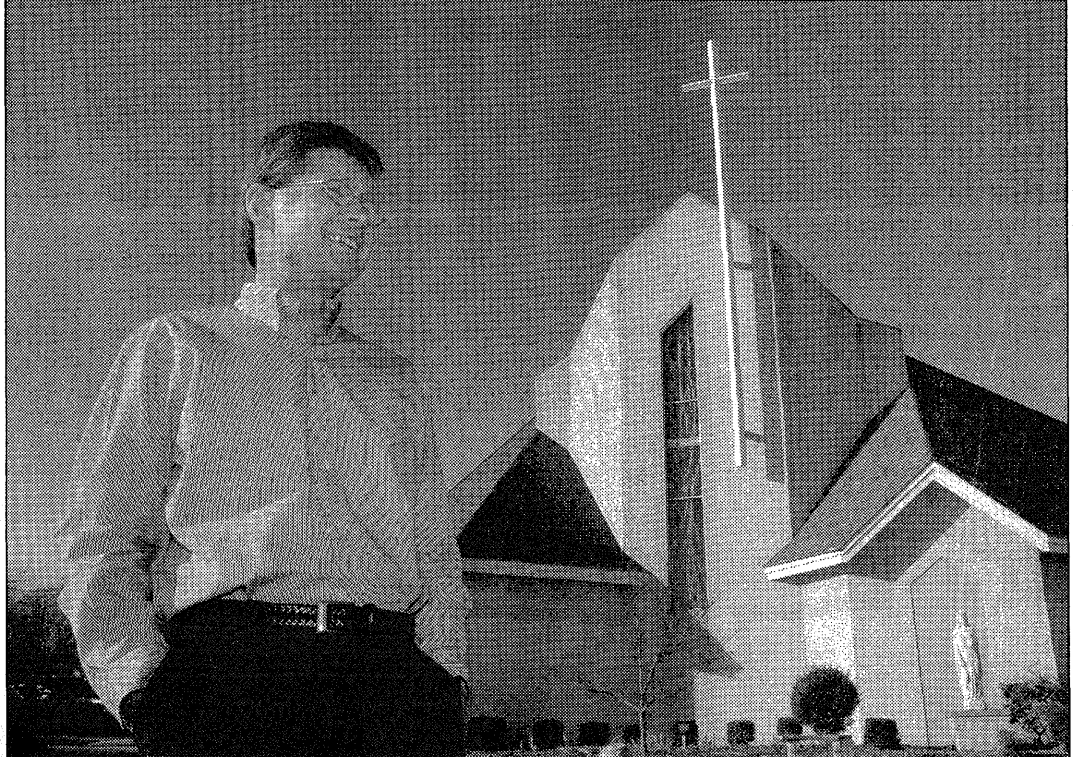
DEC. 31-JAN. 6, 2010

Lola Park Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m., New Year's Eve Service, Dec. 31
Location: 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523

Newburg United Methodist Church
Time/Date: Call in orders from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 4-5, 2010
Location: 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia
Details: The church is making and selling Cornish pasties as a fund-raiser. Pasties are \$4 each and can be ordered by calling into the church office. Call in orders only. Any orders left on the church answering machine will be ignored. Pick up times are noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010 and noon to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, 2010
Contact: (734) 422-0149

St. Robert Bellarmine
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010
Location: 27201 W. Chicago Road, corner of Inkster Road, Redford
Details: Monthly Bethany Suburban West Singles dance; dance lessons and DJ
Contact: Diane K for more information at (734) 261-5716

JAN. 7-13, 2010
Our Lady of Loretto Parish
Time/Date: Starting at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010
Location: 17116 Olympia, Redford
Details: A "Grief Recovery" series runs for six-weeks and deals with the phases of grief, loneliness and other related issues. A \$20 fee covers all materials. Sponsored by Widowed Friends
Contact: Joan at (248) 478-1084



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ric Misiak is a deacon at St. Edith Church in Livonia. He and his wife, Colleen, who serves as a coordinator of youth ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, are active volunteers in the Catholic Church.

Livonia couple passionate about serving in Catholic Church

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
 CORRESPONDENT

Colleen Misiak remembers being amazed and a little embarrassed when her boyfriend at the time, Ric, emerged from a confessional after an hour. When he walked out everyone had cleared the church, he was still talking to the priest and he promised to volunteer as a catechism teacher.

After 35 years of marriage, they agree that Ric's encounter with The Rev. Richard Schmidberger, who served at St. Genevieve parish in Livonia at the time, was the beginning of the couple's lifelong devotion to working and volunteering for the Catholic Church.

Colleen, 56, is coordinator of youth ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. She oversees the Life Teen liturgy, community service, social events and faith formation for middle and high school teens.

Ric, 58, serves as deacon and pastoral associate at St. Edith in Livonia. He works full-time as pastoral associate to help in whatever ways the pastor needs. Some of his many duties include coordinating the baptismal sacramental program, visits to the sick and home outreach, as well as making hospital and home visits.

"I also assist the various parish ministries, like religious education, faith formation, youth ministry and Christian services," says Ric, a 1969 Stevenson High School graduate.

He refers to Schmidberger as his mentor and "a great friend of mine."

As a young couple they both volunteered in many positions at St. Genevieve. Colleen, a 1971 Bentley High School graduate, has served as a youth minister, catechist and Christian Youth Organization softball coach at St. Edith.

When they started out so many years ago, they didn't have a master plan in mind, because as Ric explains, "ministry has a mind of its own."

They met on a blind date, married in 1974 had three children, Matt, 32, Shannon, 30, and Meghan, 25. They also have three grandchildren. Colleen was born in Livonia and the couple has lived in the community more than 30 years.

PASSIONATE ABOUT FAITH

Looking much younger than their years, they both bubble with enthusiasm when they talk about their work.

"It's been an honor for me to be in service for youth for all these years," Colleen says. "There were so many opportunities. The Holy Spirit keeps moving you. It's what you do. It's your life and you don't separate it."

While they flash each other big smiles and still look like they might be dating, Ric says, they are very different in many ways.

"I'm very structured and linear and Colleen is free flowing," he says adding that faith is their commonality. "It is at the essence of your life. It's supposed to be who we are."

Colleen, 56, is coordinator of youth ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. She oversees the Life Teen liturgy, community service, social events and faith formation for middle and high school teens.

They also quickly deflect questions about how many people they have helped spiritually throughout the years even though they are now seeing the children of kids they first worked with in youth ministry.

"They've been longtime parishioners here and from the beginning they've looked for ways to share their gifts in religious education and ministry to youth," says the Rev. Mike Kazer, St. Edith Church pastor.

"They're continuing to further their education with masters' degrees so they have a broader base from which to draw to better serve the community," Kazer said. "St. Edith's parish is certainly better off because of their involvement."

WORKING WITH TEENS

Over the years, Ric says, he hasn't seen a dramatic change among young people.

"Teens are teens," he says. Pointing to the thousands of teens from around the world who attend World Youth Day and the Rainbow Youth Conference, held annually for teens in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Ric says: "I think teens have a lot more faith than we give them credit for."

Colleen and Ric recently returned from the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City; and they're planning to attend the Rainbow Youth Conference next month at the Renaissance Center, as well as an annual youth mission trip to the Appalachians at Easter.

Their schedules have always been full with obligations to the church, yet it wasn't a direct journey from catechism teacher to deacon for Ric.

Shortly after he earned a teaching degree at Eastern Michigan University he took



Colleen Misiak



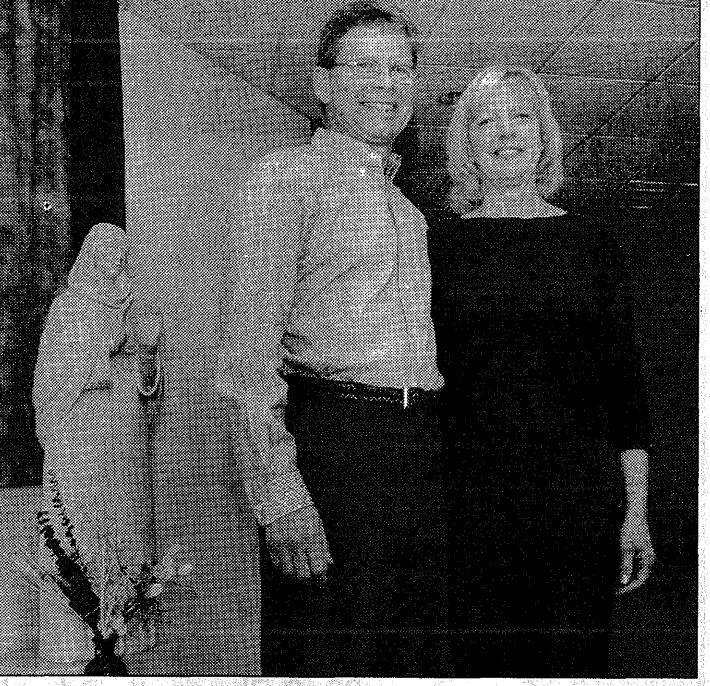
Ric Misiak

a job as district manager at the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and then various circulation positions at the *Ann Arbor News* where he worked for 31 years and retired as circulation manager.

Colleen held part-time jobs occasionally when their children were young. All the while they pursued their real passion working in youth ministries at St. Genevieve and St. Edith.

Colleen also earned her bachelor degree in religious studies from Madonna University and is a certified director of religious education and youth ministry. She also took most of the 12 courses, over six years, that Ric completed to become a deacon. This is while they raised their three children.

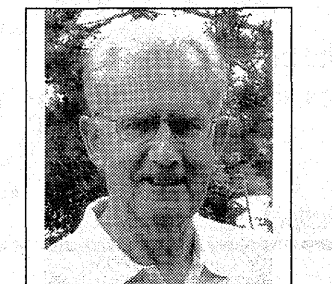
Ric has married some of the teens he worked with in youth ministry and is now baptizing their babies.



Ric and Colleen Misiak are devoted to working and volunteering in the Catholic Church. He's a deacon at St. Edith in Livonia and she's coordinator of youth ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel of Plymouth.

Passages
 Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances
 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968
 email: oeobits@hometownlife.com
 View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

SAMUEL LEE BEAN
 Age 38, of Monroe, died Dec. 24, 2009. Visitation 2-8pm on Tuesday, December 22, 2009. He was born October 28, 2008 in Dearborn, MI, son of Namir Derek & Pamela Eileen (Graben) Gharabeh. He is survived by his parents, two sisters Lessa & Ivy, grandfathers "Pops" Melvin Graben and "Opa" Hashem Gharabeh, grandmother "Omi" Ria Laub, aunts Becky and Dima, and many other family, friends, therapists, teachers, and doctors. He was preceded in death by his brother Galen on January 18, 2006. Reid was born with Joubert Syndrome and had low vision and was able to attend the Early On Program at Stottlemeyer Elementary School, Westland, MI and was a frequent participant at Oakwood's Center for Exceptional Families in Dearborn, MI. A Visitation was held Saturday, December 26, 2009 from 11-12:30 PM at DAVID C. BROWN FUNERAL HOME, Belleville, MI. Cremation rites will be accorded. Memorial contributions to the Joubert Syndrome Foundation would be appreciated. Please sign his guest book for the family to keep. www.davidcbrownfh.com



MILLARD J. LETOURNEAU
 December 23, 2009. Age 76, of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Kay. Loving father of Greg (Christine), Paul (Barbara), Lisa (Lanny) Lancaster, Tod (Suzin), Darin (Elone), Kirk (Ann), Lee (Bev) Dancey, Mike (Sara) Dancey. Proud grandpa of eighteen. Dear brother of Al, Gloria, Gladys, Sherita and Jean. Mr. Letourneau served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He also served in the Livonia Fire Departments for 27 years, retiring in 1988 as Battalion Chief. The Memorial Service will be Saturday January 9, 11 AM at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (Btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Visitation Friday 4-8 PM. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association 20300 Civic Center Dr., Ste 100 Southfield, MI 48076. To share a memory please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

MARIE AGNES MISKOLCI (Sylvestre) "Agnes"
 Age 90. Born Nov. 21, 1919 in Maidstone, Ont., Canada, died Dec. 11, 2009. Preceded in death by her beloved husband of 58 years, Anthony, and loving daughter Margaret (Thomas) Renaud. Survived by children: Alan (Linda), Charles, Tina (Jim) Miller. Also survived by nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, her sister Mary Laesser, brothers Frank and James Sylvestre, many nieces and nephews. Agnes retired from the Plymouth-Canton Schools as a Special Ed school bus driver. She was very active in volunteering including Plymouth-Canton Civitans, Operation Good Cheer and Special Olympics events. Memorial Mass and luncheon will be celebrated on Sat., Jan. 2, 2010 at 10:30am at St. Robert Bellarmine Church. Family suggests donations to Plymouth-Canton Civitans or Special Olympics.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends



Let others know...
 When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.
 Observer & Eccentric
 Call 1-800-579-7355

RELIGION

FROM PAGE B4

Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Clothing bank
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon, fourth Saturday
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, West of Canton Christian Fellowship, at 41711 Joy
Details: Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

Fellowship dinner
St. James Presbyterian
Time/Date: 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month
Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford
Details: Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals
Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

Films
Kenwood Church of Christ
Time/Date: 10 a.m. Wednesday Kids Matinees and 4 p.m., Saturday family movie
Location: 20200 Merriman, Livonia
Details: Guitar Praise game precedes the film on Saturday. Children in second grade or younger can play prior to the film; those in third grade and up can play after the movie. Pizza will also be served following the movie. All

events are free
Contact: (248) 476-8222

Moms
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday and 7-9 p.m., fourth Tuesday
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers. Aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners
Contact: Angie at (248) 427-1020

Dunning Park Bible Chapel
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope
Contact: Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

Prayer
Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. the first and third Tuesday
Location: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Details: Prayer, spiritual healing and outreach
Contact: (734) 427-3660

Nardin Park United Methodist Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests
Contact: (248) 476-8860

St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia.
 Enter through the back of the

church
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906

St. Michael's Church of Livonia
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. third Wednesday
Location: Corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia
Details: Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Benediction service follows
Contact: 734 261-1455

Singles
First Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social topics, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry meets; cost is \$5
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Sunday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Single Point Ministries, for ages 30 and older, offers fellowship and related topics. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Support
Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202
Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling
Contact: (313) 255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August
Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group
Contact: (248) 433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church
Time/Date: 1-3 p.m., second and fourth Thursday
Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City
Details: Metro Fibro-Myalgia support group meets; no dues, but donations are accepted
Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Lucy with questions at (734) 462-1768

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday morning
Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available. There are no requirements, this a service the church wants the community to be aware of and use if needed. Donations of nonperishable items also accepted for the cupboard.
Contact: (734) 421-8451

St. John's Episcopal Church
Time/Date: 10 a.m., the first and third Friday
Location: 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets. Respite care is provided. The group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association
Contact: Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426

Thomas a' Becket Church
Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group meeting starts at 7 p.m., Thursday
Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton
Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly encourages members to lose weight and keep it off
Contact: Margaret at (734) 838-0322

Unity of Livonia
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia
Details: Overeaters Anonymous meets
Contact: (313) 387-9797. www.aa.org

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m., praise and worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts)
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is free
Contact: For child care call (248) 374-7400. Visit www.celebrater-recovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate

Thrift store
St. James Presbyterian
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday
Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford
Contact: (313) 534-7730

Way of Life Christian Church
Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m., third Saturday from October through May
Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth
Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a question to know God more in their lives
Contact: (734) 637-7618

WORSHIP
Adat Shalom Synagogue
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., Saturday, 7:30 a.m., 8:30

a.m., Sunday and 6 p.m., week days
Location: 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills
Contact: (248) 851-5100

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and youth and adult Bible classes
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia
Contact: (734) 522-6830

Due Season Christian Church
Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, with 7:15 p.m., Tuesday Bible study
Location: Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, in Livonia
Details: Nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church services
Contact: (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org.

Faith Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Sunday, learning hour is at 9 a.m. for all ages. Starting Sept. 13, Sunday service time changes to 10 a.m.
Location: 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia
Contact: Visit www.livonfaith.org

Garden City Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music; 10 a.m., youth Sunday school and nursery care; 8:30 a.m. adult Sunday school; 6 p.m., informal gathering with scriptures and discussion every Sunday
Location: Middlebelt one block south of Ford Road
Contact: (734) 421-7620

Good Hope Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school followed by 10:30 a.m. worship service with communion each Sunday; Bible study 10 a.m. Wednesdays
Location: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Contact: (734) 427-3660

Your Invitation to Worship

CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Tridentine Latin Mass
 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8
 38100 Five Mile Road
 Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200
 Mass Schedule:
 Fri. 7:00 p.m.
 Sat. 11:00 a.m.
 Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.
 Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
 Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
 Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. CE080826544

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church
 St. Genevieve School - PreK-8
 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-9220
 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)
 MASS: Tues. 7 p. Wed., Thurs. 9 a. Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church
 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616
 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads)
 MASS: Mon. 8:30 a. Fri. 8:30 a. Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a CE080826546

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525
 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
 Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
 Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
 Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
 NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER
 (734) 455-3196 CE080826538

LUTHERAN-ELCA

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA
 Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd 248-474-0584

SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 PM
Sunday Worship & Sunday School

9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE
 10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES
 11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
 NURSERY AVAILABLE
 BILL & LAUREN KIRSH-CARR, PASTORS CE080826506

UNITED METHODIST

Redford Aldersgate  2 blocks South of Plymouth
 United Methodist
 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170
 9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sunday School
 11:00 - Contemp Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org CE080826587

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills
www.orchardumc.org
248-626-3620

Worship:
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
 Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter CE080826597

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA
 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730
 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 8:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm
 Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible
 Rev. Paul S. Bousquette CE080826585

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)
(734) 422-0494
 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am
 Traditional Service 10:30 am
 Visit www.rosedalegardens.org
 For information about our many programs CE080826573

GREEK ORTHODOX

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI
 Sunday Services
 Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
 Rev. Fr. George Vapouris
 Parish Office 734-420-0131
 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
www.nativitygochurch.org CE080826579

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96
734-522-6830

Sunday Worship
 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional

Sunday/Bible Class
 9:45 am
 Early Childhood Center
 Phone 734-513-8413

Staffed Nursery Available

Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ
 Senior Pastor: Rev. Dean Davenport
 Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden CE080826597

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
 25830 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.
Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
 Nursery Provided
 The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor CE080826577

Risen Christ Lutheran
 David W. Martin, Pastor
 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth 11 mi. W. of Shedd
(734) 453-5252
 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am
 Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30
 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are.
www.risenchrist.linfo CE080826590

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360
WORSHIP SERVICES
 SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
 THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.
 website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org CE080826590

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD
 Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.
 Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.
 Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours
 Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.

Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560
 The WMUZ Word Station
 For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org CE080826577

CONGREGATIONAL

North Congregational Church
 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted)
 (248) 848-1750
 10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School
Faith - Freedom-Fellowship
 Ministers
 Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron CE080826567

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
 Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
 Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
 Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
 Services held at: **Saint Andrews Episcopal Church**
 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road
 Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org CE080826511

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

Start the new year with laughs at comedy festival film

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

A JIM DUDEK FILM



The Detroit International Comedy Fest Film debuts Jan. 5, 2010, at Emagine Theatre in Novi.

man who filmed it, wanted to do something that captured the festival ... that showed some of the people you may not know now before they get too big," he said, pointing out that *Open Mic*, one of Dudek's previous films, included then "unknown" comic Dave Chappelle.

"This is a way of getting a lot of people on film."

It also gives viewers a taste of what goes on during com-

edy festival week in March at Comedy Castle. The third annual event begins March 21, 2010.

COMEDY SHOWCASE

Ridley and David Moroz, owner of Aspen Talent, and a co-producer of both the film and the festival, create a comedy theme — such as "clean" humor, all-female comedians or best of the West Coast — for each festival performance

DETROIT INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

See the film: Catch the world premiere 8 p.m. Jan. 5, 2010 at Emagine Theatre, Novi. The film opens Jan. 8, 2010 exclusively at Emagine Novi, Emagine Canton, Emagine Woodhaven and Cinema Hollywood. The documentary shows a mix of stand-up comedy performances, as well as behind-the-scenes from the second annual festival held in March at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, in Royal Oak. Call the Novi theatre at (248) 468-2990 for ticket price and show time; Call Emagine Canton at (734) 721-3456; for premiere tickets visit www.arkdistribution.com

Attend the 3rd annual festival: March 21-27, 2010. Lewis Black kicks it off March 21 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre (\$55) and hosts March 22 (\$25) at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle. Nightly guest hosts include Dave Coulier, Kathleen Madigan, Kivi Rogers, Heywood Banks, and Cool-Aide. Visit www.comedycastle.com

night.

"We wanted something different," Ridley said, explaining that most other humor festivals schedule "one-person shows or films" each night of the event.

"It's a concept we think will catch on," he said, referring to the theme showcase. "What we're also trying to do is to get the industry people involved."

A talent booking agent or industry scout, for example, might be interested only in

female comedians or in ethnic humor and would choose to watch the corresponding theme night during festival week.

FILMING THE BEST

A panel of festival judges picks the top two audience favorites from each night to perform at a "best of" showcase on Friday and Saturday. The film's viewers also will see some of the best stand-up performances from the event

in March.

"We're not going to say it will happen in 2010, but our five-year plan is to grow the festival so that industry people take more interest," Ridley said.

Ridley and Moroz will take the festival to a new level next year by booking several headliners — including Lewis Black, Dave Coulier and Kathleen Madigan — to host each night of routines by "up and coming" comics.

"We'd like to get other venues involved like at other (comedy fest) cities," Ridley added.

That would include other clubs or theaters in Royal Oak and would enable the festival to expand its offerings. Ridley envisions comedy films as well as live performance.

"We want to keep it a week-long festival. But we'd like to get a few other venues in," Ridley said.

"If the film is any indication, we're hoping it (the festival) will continue to grow over the years."

GET OUT

ART

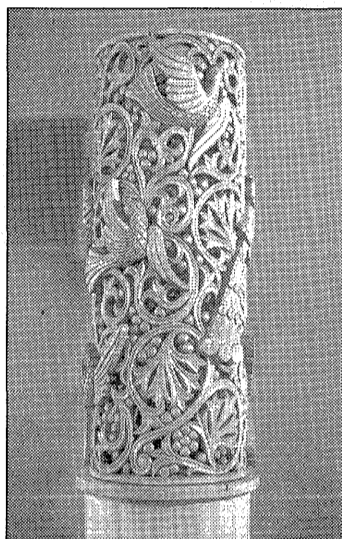
Costick Center
Time/Date: Through Jan. 8, 2010
Location: 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills
Details: The work of multimedia artist Susan Warner
Contact: (248) 473-1856

Lotus Arts Gallery
Location: 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth
Contact: (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734)453-5400

Northville Art House
Location: 215 W. Cady Street, downtown Northville
Time/Dates: "Made of Wood: Multiple Perspectives" opens Jan. 8, 2010
Contact: (248) 344-0497, or visit www.northvillearts.org

AUDITIONS

Farmington Hills Youth Choir
Time/Date: Auditions by appointment 5-6:30 p.m. and open auditions 6:30-7:30, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010
Location: Longacre House,



'Midst of the Garden' by Mike Kapetan, will be on display along with other art works made of wood at Northville Art House beginning Jan. 8, 2010.

located at 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills
Details: The Youth Choir, children, age 6-12, with no levels of experience the opportunity to perform a wide variety of choral music

in an engaging, meaningful setting
Contact: Call (248) 473-1859 for audition appointment
Schoolcraft College
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Tuesday-Wednesday, Jan. 12-13
Location: 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, in the liberal arts theater
Details: Auditions for "King Lear," 35 roles will be filled. Performances will be March 19-20 and 26-27 and April 19-20, 2010
Contact: (734) 462-4400 Ext. 5270

COMEDY

Go Comedy!
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays
Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings
Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside

Star Theatre complex, Southfield
Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday
Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Jazz Cafe at Music Hall
Time/Date: 9 p.m. third Thursdays
Location: 350 Madison Ave., Detroit
Details: Show Up, and Go Up, open call, free
Contact: (313) 887-8532, www.jazzcafedetroit.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Time/Date: Jim David, Dec. 31
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

Michigan Humane Society is featured on 'DogTown'

If you're a fan of the National Geographic Channel's *DogTown* series, you won't want to miss the hour-long season premiere at 10 p.m., Friday, Jan. 1, 2010.

In addition to checking in on two of Michael Vick's former fighting dogs being cared for at the sanctuary, the show also follows the Michigan Humane Society's Cruelty Investigation Department as it investigated an elusive dog fighting suspect in Detroit last summer.

Each year, the MHS Cruelty Investigation Department responds to approximately 150 cases of dog fighting in their service area of Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland

Park. The investigators regularly remove dogs from lives of aggression and abuse, and work to bring justice to those responsible.

The *DogTown* series regularly follows the rehabilitation of abandoned, neglected and "misfit" dogs at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

For more on the *DogTown* series, visit channel.national-geographic.com and click on the *DogTown* logo. For more on DogTown, the subject of the National Geographic show, visit the Best Friends Sanctuary Web site at www.bestfriends.org. The Michigan Humane Society Web site is www.michiganhumane.org.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

A Tip of the Hard Hat

Building trades workers living in the Wayne County community extend their thanks to

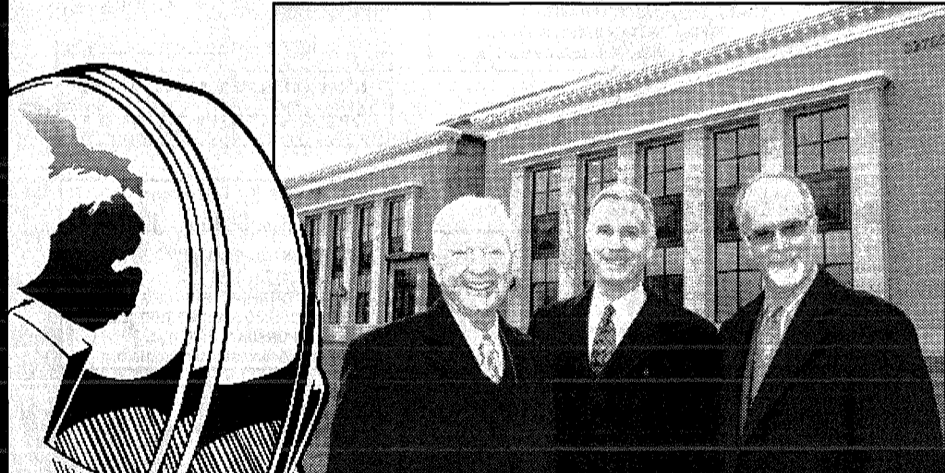
The Dailey Company

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And to the

City of Livonia

for employing local building trades workers for the construction of the new 16th District Court House.



Mayor Jack Kirksey, Steve Dailey and Mark King outside of the new 16th District Court House.

Good jobs employing Michigan workers:

- Help workers support local businesses.
- Make it possible to make contributions to churches and charitable organizations.
- Keep tax dollars in the community.
- Allow workers to afford health insurance and enjoy retirement benefits

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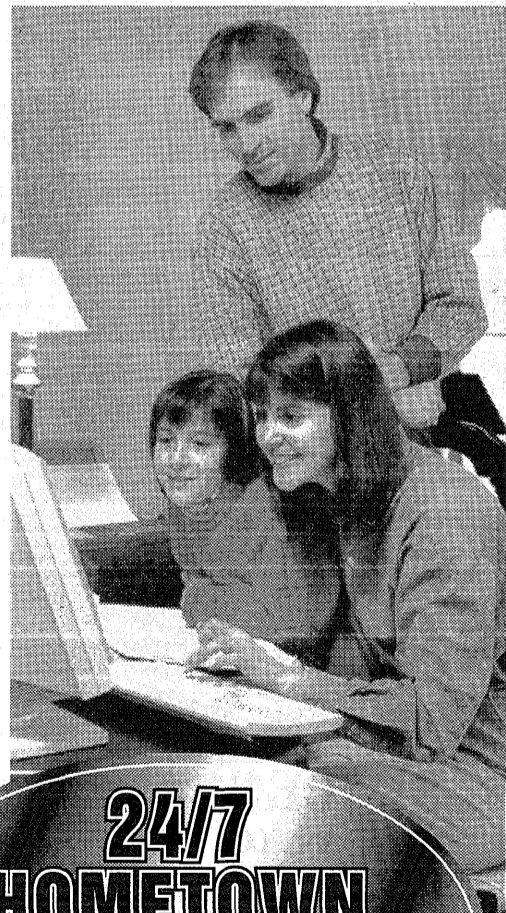
Local news.

South Oakland Eccentric
Birmingham Eccentric
Canton Observer
Farmington Observer
Garden City Observer
Livonia Observer
Plymouth Observer
Redford Observer
Westland Observer
Milford Times
Northville Record
Novi News
South Lyon Herald

Local sports.

Local school news.

Reader photos & videos
Weather updates
Business news features
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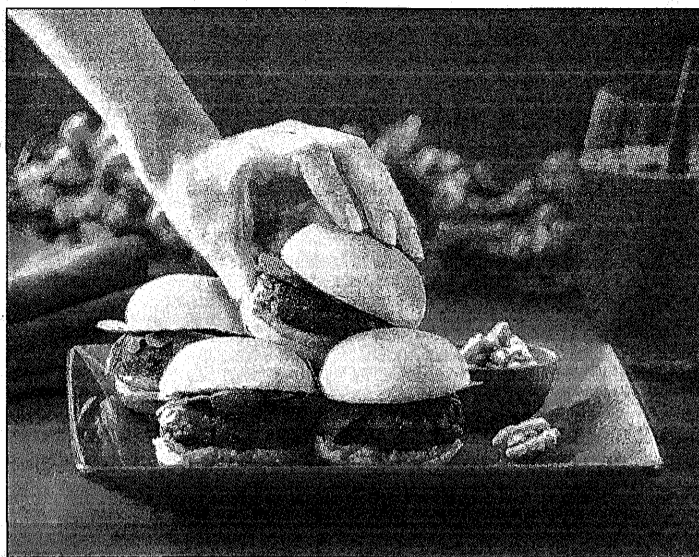
Bring on fun with family, friends and finger foods

The economic uncertainty of the last year has had at least one positive effect: consumers are retreating to the comforts of home for nurturing good times and reconnecting with family and friends.

According to U.S. trend watcher Iconoculture, consumers are rediscovering the comfort of home, as they save money by hosting more in-home get-togethers. Indeed, staying home is the new going out; 71 percent of adults report cooking at home more and eating out less.

With in-home entertaining on the uptick and the winter holiday season of celebrating with family and friends fast approaching, consumers are turning to simple solutions to minimize the stress and maximize the fun when entertaining. One sure fire way? Keep the menu simple, focusing on finger foods.

"Good food is central to the fun around the holidays and leads to memorable moments," says chef and cookbook author Tina Salter, who develops recipes for Diamond Foods, a processor and marketer of Diamond culinary nuts, Emerald snack



Diamond Walnut Chicken Sliders are easy to eat and simple to make.

nuts and Pop Secret popcorn. "Simple, wholesome ingredients combined with easy-to-use recipes help make it easy to get out of the kitchen during holiday celebrations and into the fun."

FINGER FOOD FIX

Finger foods can be eaten in one or two bites, do not require juggling silverware while trying to carry on conversation, and can be prepared in advance and placed on the table at the beginning of a

gathering, freeing the host to enjoy the party. They are perfect for a variety of occasions, from a small gathering to a big bash, giving attendees enough to be satisfied and keep the party moving.

Instead of the tired bowl of chips and salsa, consider spicing up your selection of finger foods with unique recipes, like Diamond Shelled Walnuts, Apple and Blue Cheese Bites, Diamond Walnut Chicken Sliders, or Egyptian Spiced Pop Secret Popcorn.

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

While planning a get together with finger foods, keep in mind these party organizing tips:

- Develop a manageable guest list. Can you handle serving this size group? Does this size group fit your budget? Will your home accommodate? Are children welcome?
- Consider incorporating a theme for added fun. Weave invitations, food, music and décor around it to simplify planning.
- Do not let your menu get the best of you; stay in your comfort zone when selecting recipes. Pick three to four finger foods to serve, and, preferably, recipes that can be prepared in advance.
- Rearrange as needed to make your living space party-friendly. For example, would your kitchen table be better suited pushed against the wall and used as a bar, freeing up the floor for mingling?
- Do not spend the entire party serving your guests; encourage them to help themselves so you can enjoy the celebration with family and friends, too.

- Courtesy of Family Features



Holiday Turkey Wreath is festive as well as tasty.

Dress up your buffet with a turkey wreath

Nothing says "It's the holidays" more than a decorative evergreen wreath and bow. Now it's possible to bring this same look to a brunch or buffet table with this sliced turkey and cucumber wreath. Whether entertaining for six or 60, the Sliced Turkey Wreath provides a festive feel and is easy to make. Using a large boule or any other round bread, halve and cut out the center. Arrange slices of roast breast of turkey and cucumber ribbons as shown. Garnish with sprigs of rosemary, skewers of fresh cranberries and sprinkle with diced roasted red peppers. Each wreath makes about six to eight servings.

HOLIDAY TURKEY WREATH

- Servings: 6 to 8 servings
- 1 large cucumber, ends cut off
 - 1 large round loaf crusty bread
 - 1 medium log goat cheese (Chevre)
 - ½ pound roast breast of turkey, sliced thin
 - 2 roasted peppers, cut into a small dice
 - 2 to 3 small sprigs rosemary
- Make the cucumber ribbons.

Cut thin strips of cucumber lengthwise with a vegetable peeler, making sure there is a line of green peel on both sides. Cut until you reach the seeds and then turn, repeating the cutting. Set aside.

Cut the bread by placing it on its side and pointing the knife at about an inch off the bottom. Use a sharp knife to cut out a hole in the center of the bread (like a big doughnut) and discard. Spread the goat cheese around the loaf. At the bottom of the wreath, place two cucumber ribbons in an upside down V and make a V-slit in the bottom of the cucumber as pictured.

Twist and curl each slice of turkey and place around the wreath. Place a few cucumber ribbons around the wreath as seen in the picture and gather cucumber ribbons at the top center, placing over the turkey. Stick fresh cranberries onto toothpicks and insert at the top of the wreath. Add fresh sprigs of rosemary. Sprinkle overall with the roasted peppers.

Courtesy of Family Features; recipe courtesy of Boar's Head, maker of Boar's Head Ovengold Roast Breast of Turkey

Spice up a gathering with festive finger foods

Forget that tired snack bowl of chips and salsa. It's easy to serve finger foods at your next get together with these recipes from Diamond Foods. For more finger food ideas, visit Diamond Foods at feedyourfingers.com.

DIAMOND WALNUT CHICKEN SLIDERS

- 1 cup shelled walnuts toasted and finely chopped
- 1½ pounds ground chicken or turkey, dark and light meat
- ½ cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- ¼ cup minced onion
- ¼ cup chopped parsley
- 2 Tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated lemon zest
- ¾ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme, crumbled
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper

- 3 Tablespoons canola oil
- 15 mini buns or rolls
- Arugula leaves, for serving

In a large bowl, combine chicken or turkey, walnuts, cheese, onion, parsley, olive oil, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, lemon zest, salt, thyme, black pepper and cayenne pepper. Divide mixture into 15 1-inch thick patties. In a large sauté pan, heat canola oil over medium-high heat. Add burgers, turning once, until cooked through, about five minutes. Assemble slider patties on buns with a dollop of Emerald Almond and Roasted Pepper Mayo and arugula leaves. Serve immediately.

EMERALD ALMOND AND ROASTED PEPPER MAYO

- 1 cup dry roasted almonds, toasted and finely chopped
- 1 cup roasted red bell peppers, peeled, seeded and cut into thin strips
- ¾ cup olive oil mayonnaise
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

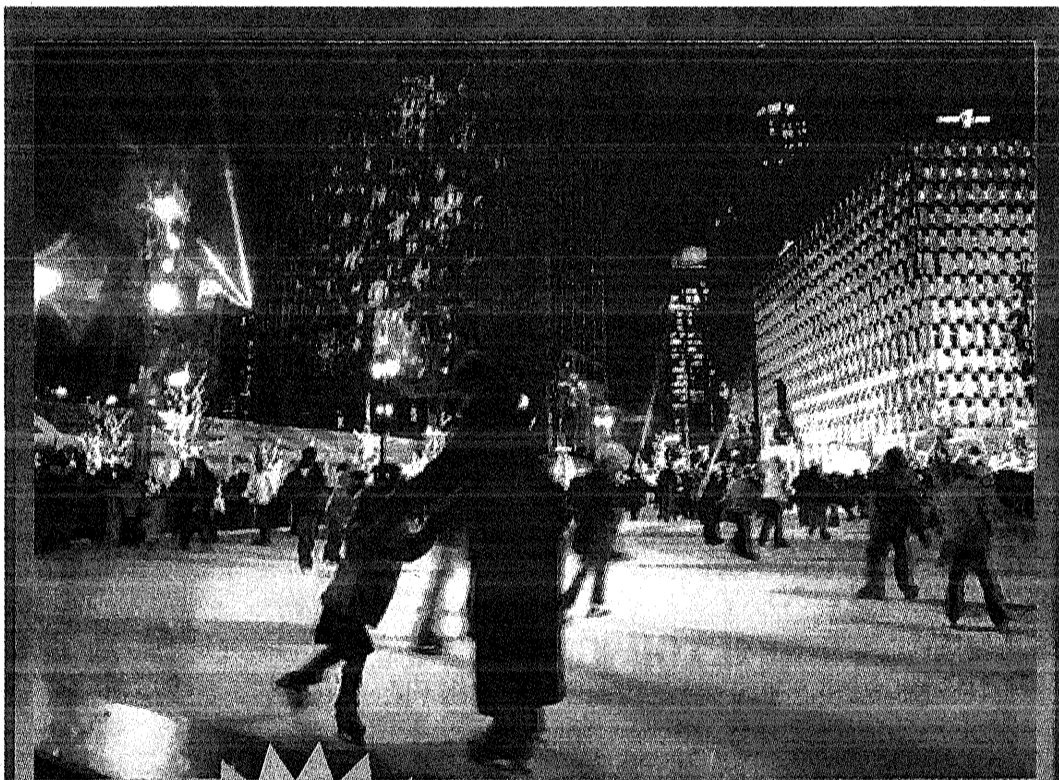
In the bowl of a food processor, combine almonds and peppers; pulse until almost smooth. Add the mayonnaise; pulse just to combine. Adjust seasoning. Serve immediately. Makes 15 sliders

DIAMOND SHELLED WALNUTS, APPLE AND BLUE CHEESE BITES

- 1 cup shelled walnuts, toasted
- 4 ounces cream cheese
- 2 Tablespoons milk or heavy cream
- 4 ounces blue cheese, chopped
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 large apples, cored and cut into 1/4-inch slices
- Chives, chopped, for garnish

In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese and milk or cream; whip until smooth. Add blue cheese and black pepper; stir to combine. Add about three-quarters of the shelled walnuts; mix well. Spoon about two teaspoons of the blue cheese mixture onto each apple slice. Garnish with a sprinkling of the remaining walnuts and chives. Serve immediately. Makes about 24.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

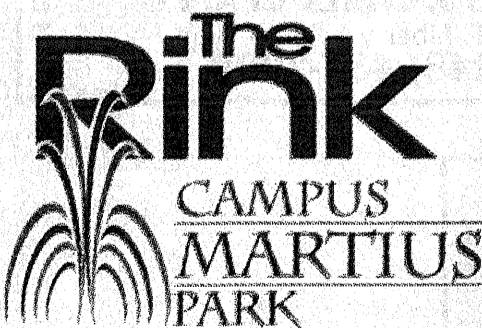


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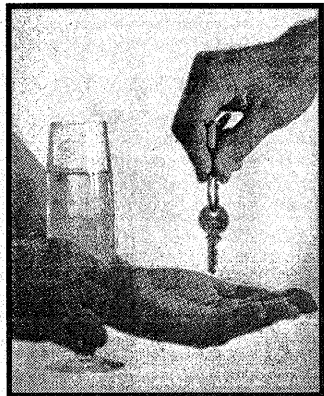
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Don't Drink & Drive Celebrate Safely!

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers along with these area businesses would like to wish everyone a SAFE New Year's Eve and New Year's Day! Remember to drink wisely and have a designated driver!

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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

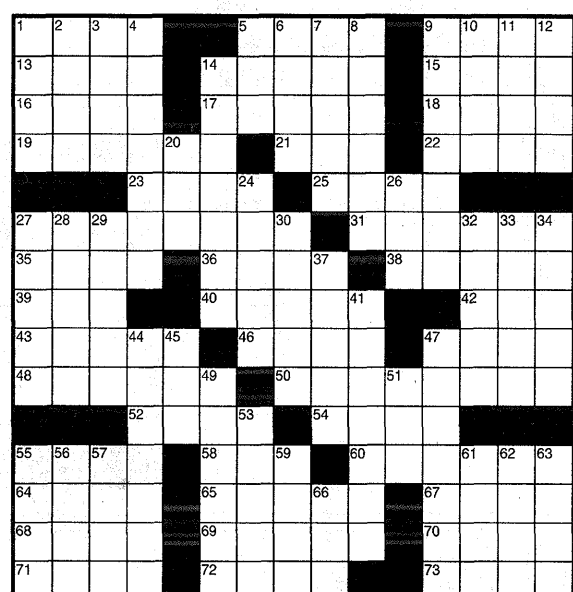
- ACROSS**
- Word to a feline
 - Roman historian
 - Quote from
 - Mystique
 - Hue and cry
 - Nose stimulus
 - Slue
 - Veld grazer
 - Gaudy sign
 - Piled high
 - Lillie or Arthur
 - Go out with
 - Knuckle under
 - Coating of frost
 - Refined (hyph.)
 - Herd followers
 - Adams or McClurg
 - Revival shout
 - Buddha's land
 - Famous Khan
 - Flood barrier
 - Border on
 - Pinches off
 - Kind of cracker
 - Dryden works
 - Trellises
 - Kind of pepper
 - Table extender
 - Squabble
 - Helm of "Alien"
 - Glorifies
 - Emmy's relative
 - Skin softener
- DOWN**
- Bathrobe tie
 - Salad veggie
 - Pavarotti piece
 - Pond dweller
 - de-sac
 - Mighty steed
 - Darkroom solution
 - Predetermine
 - Denounce
 - Thought
 - Beep
 - Sea eagle
 - Part of FDIC
 - Flowing back of the tide
 - Red Sea republic
 - Me, to Miss Piggy
 - Drive recklessly
 - Rims
 - Truth benders
 - With a Blue Dress On
 - Committee type (2 wds.)

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

SLATS	ABBA	BRIE
TIGHT	MOOS	EACH
AMORE	FLAP	ARES
ROGUE	MERCED	ES
SRS	DAP	
HASH	CEOS	OPERA
ALE	GOGO	SCENES
VENDING	MACHINES	
OTOOLE	PLUS	UIKE
CARED	PHIL	FIST
EAU	LYE	
FIDDLERS	ADAGE	
CLOY	TRAP	ROUND
PETE	ETTA	DREAD
LEAD	ROAM	SALTY

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- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 33 Vacuum tube | 57 Sticky fruits |
| 34 Epics | 59 "Faint heart — won ..." |
| 37 Himalayan country | 61 Word of mouth in |
| 41 Admirers | 62 Take pleasure in |
| 44 Long chat | 63 Oblique direction |
| 45 Watch carefully | 66 Abby's sister |
| 47 Kitchen gizmos | |
| 49 Served the cake | |
| 51 Take a toll on | |
| 53 Cocoon dweller | |
| 55 Forum attire | |
| 56 Wading bird | |



SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| BASSINET | CRIB | PLAYPEN |
| BLANKET | DIAPERS | POWDER |
| BONNET | LOTION | STROLLER |
| BOTTLES | PACIFIER | TOYS |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

I	P	A	C	I	F	I	E	R	U
L	O	P	O	W	D	E	R	P	L
E	J	P	L	A	Y	P	E	N	K
S	T	R	O	L	L	O	S		
N	R	T	I	D	W	S	L	W	N
A	B	O	T	T	L	E	S		
L	P	O	W	D	E	R	P	L	
I	P	A	C	I	F	I	E	R	U
B	A	S	S	I	N	E	T	F	T
E	I	R	T	P	I	Y	S	T	O
A	D	W	B	O	N	N	E	T	L

SUDOKU

SEEK AND FIND

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PLYMOUTH 1 Bdrm. \$575, 2 Bdrm. \$670. First month free w/approved credit. W/ 1 yr. lease. Walk-in closets. (734) 455-1215

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
PLYMOUTH - OLD VILLAGE, Small 1 bdrm, hardwood floors, ceiling fan, island style breakfast bar, cable ready, storage & laundry, very clean & cute. \$145/wk incl all util, 1 yr lease. 248-425-4853, broker

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PLYMOUTH - Prime location, 1 bdrm avail, \$580 plus security. Near downtown. Incl. heat. No dogs. 734-455-2635

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Plymouth 1 bdrm, single story Private entry/patio Plymouth/Livonia area \$300* MOVES YOU IN! 734-459-6640 EHO www.cormorantco.com *call for details

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
PLYMOUTH PARK APTS 65 and older. 1 & 2 bdrm apts available starting at \$450/mo. including all util. (313) 350-1270

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
Plymouth Rent Starting at \$449 FREE HEAT 1 & 2 Bedroom Apt's. Plymouth Manor Plymouth House 734-455-3880 www.yorkcommunities.com

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
PLYMOUTH SQUARE APTS. \$300 security deposit. 50% OFF 1ST 3 MO. RENT with approved credit 1 & 2 bdrm. \$570 - \$705. 734-455-6570

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
PLYMOUTH: 1 bdrm apt, in 4 unit bldg., new paint, coin laundry, c/a. \$575+sec. 1st mo free + free heat! 231-392-6373

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
WALLED LAKE-ON THE LAKE 1-3 bdrms starting at \$500. 1st mo free with approved credit. C/A, Close to 12 Oaks, schools & x-ways. (248) 624-9999

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Westland Estates "WOW" 1 Bdrms, \$475 2 Bdrms, \$615 No fine print in this ad! -Heat/Water included -\$10.00 Application Fee -\$200 Deposit w/ Credit New Resident's Only 734-722-4700 Mon.-Fri. 9am-7pm Sat.-Sun. 10am-4pm

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WESTLAND First Month Free! 1 bdrm - \$460/mo. walk-in closet, private entry. Near Ford Plant 734-721-6699 EHO www.cormorantco.com

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WESTLAND Hickory Woods Apts. \$224 MOVE IN! 1st Month Rent Free (for qualified applicants) 1 Bdrm-\$550 2 Bdrm-\$625 FREE GAS AND WATER (734) 729-6520 *Short term leases avail.

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Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
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Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
DETROIT - 16580 Woodbine, 6 Mile & Telegraph, 2 bdrm, basement. \$575/mo. (734) 521-1071

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
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Homes For Rent 4050
FARMINGTON HILLS Recently remodeled 3 bdrm ranch. Garage, full bsmt, fenced yard, \$950/mo. 248-478-9828

Homes For Rent 4050
GARDEN CITY: Refinished 3 bdrm, a/c, bsmt, fenced yard. No pets. \$850/mo. + 1/2 sec. No Sec. 8. 248-417-1210

Homes For Rent 4050
INKSTER - Remodeled 4 bdrm, bsmt, gar, sec 8 ok, no pets/smoking. Call for additional listings. \$950, (734) 927-4314

Homes For Rent 4050
LIVONIA: Brick ranch, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt, Fl. room, 2 car garage, C/A, no pets. \$899/mo + Security. (734) 674-8153

Homes For Rent 4050
REDFORD (S) - Spacious 3 bdrm ranch, partially finished bsmt, garage, \$995/mo + security. Call: (248) 354-3888

Homes For Rent 4050
REDFORD: 3 bdrm, 1 bath Ranch, fenced yard, C/A, tool shed, no bsmt, 5 Mile/Beech. Scott: 734-905-2644

Homes For Rent 4050
REDFORD: Very clean 2 bdrm, newly decorated, 2 car garage, 7/Beech. \$650/mo. 734-663-8010, 734-417-0106

Homes For Rent 4050
SOUTHFIELD - 3 & 4 bdrm homes on quiet street, new carpet/paint throughout, finished bsmt. \$1300-1500/mo. (443) 465-5386

Homes For Rent 4050
SOUTHFIELD: Indian St. Section 8 Welcome. 1 bdrm. loft style home, 2 car garage, \$650. (313) 574-5596

Homes For Rent 4050
WAYNE/OAKLAND COUNTY 8 houses avail, option/land contract, bad credit ok, rent from \$400-950. 248-788-1823

Homes For Rent 4050
Westland: 2 bdrm, fenced yd, new carpet, fridge/stove incl, \$850 dep. 1st mo. free. Sec 8 & pets okay. 734-732-3120

Homes For Rent 4050
Mobile Home Rentals (4070) Now Open Sat. from 10am-2pm

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MOBILE HOMES ON LOTS Low monthly rent. Family oriented. Used and refurbished 2 bdrm. homes for sale or rent. Inkster/Westland Riverview Mobile Home Park (734) 721-7215

Homes For Rent 4050
Living Quarters To Share (4120)

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GARDEN CITY - Small bdrm, \$400; large bdrm \$450. Laundry & utilities included. Call: (734) 989-3553

Rooms For Rent 4140
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HOLY SPIRIT you make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideals. You give me the divine gift to forgive & forget the wrongs that are done to me and you are in all instances of my life with me. I in a short dialogue want to thank you for everything & confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desire might be. I want to be with you my loved one in your perpetual glory amen. Thanks St. Jude for favors received. T.O.

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7020
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Auction Sales 7060

Notice is hereby given that on 1/20/10 at 2:00pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at National Storage Center - Westland, 39205 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: Household Items, Recreational Items and/or Misc. Goods.

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Notice is hereby given that on January 20, 2009 at 1 pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Stor-N-Lock Self Storage, 7840 N. Wayne Road, Westland, MI 48185. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: Household Items, Recreational Items and/or Misc. Goods.

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8220
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Trucks for Sale 8220

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FORD SPORT TRAC 2007 V8, 4x4, certified, \$23,997
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CHEVY EXPRESS 3500 2008 15 passenger van, \$16,495
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Vans 8260

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GMC DENALI XL 2008 White, loaded! \$45,995
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FORD ESCAPE XLT 2008 4x4, low miles, V6. Reduced! Stk.#6058A. \$17,985
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JEEP LIBERTY 2006 White, 4x4, \$14,995
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JEEP LIBERTY 2008 Black, 4x4, \$15,995
BOB JEANNOTTE
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Sports Utility 8290

FORD EXPLORER XLT 2009 4x4, 3rd seat, full power, 11K, silver bullet! \$23,995. Stk.#6293T
PAT MILLIKEN FORD
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GMC YUKON 2008 Black, loaded \$34,995
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CTS 2009 Black, leather \$27,895
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JEEP LIBERTY 2006 White, 4x4, \$14,995
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JEEP LIBERTY 2008 Black, 4x4, \$15,995
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Buick 8360

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LUCERNE CXL 2009 White, leather \$19,995
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Chevrolet 8400

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GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Just a note to let everyone know how our quest to finish #1 in the nation for 2009 is going...

Ford will count sales through January 4th, 2010.

As of December 25, 2009 we are only 6 sales ahead of the #2 dealer, Woodhouse Ford, in Nebraska, and 124 sales ahead of Galpin Ford in California. Galpin has finished #1 for 19 straight years. Both are well aware where they stand and are doing everything they can to catch us.

Likewise, we are doing everything we can to stay ahead. If you know anyone that is considering buying a new vehicle in the next few months, please ask them to see us now. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to finish #1 and that means the best deal possible for them.

We believe this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. It would truly be a proud moment for all of us at Bill Brown Ford as well as for our friends and customers to be able to say that **BILL BROWN FORD is the NUMBER 1 FORD DEALER IN THE USA.**

Total retail sales 2009 YTD, per Ford Division

BILL BROWN
 32222 Plymouth Rd., Livonia 48150
734-421-7000

SPECIAL SALES EVENT HOURS: OPEN JANUARY 2, 9 AM TO 3 PM