

StyleScopes 2005

Your fashion forecast for the New Year.

PINK, INSERTED SECTION

Not just for kids

Local comic book stores cater to adults.

LIFE, SECTION B



Buzzer beater

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SPORTS, PAGE A8



SUNDAY December 26, 2004

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Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm believes 2005 'is going to be a great year for us - a year of job growth; not straight up, but on a subtle trajectory.' Granholm made the remarks during a Dec. 16 press conference in Lansing.

Granholm at midterm

Governor says 2005 will be a great year of job growth, tax reform

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

Despite the fact Michigan's unemployment rate is among the highest in the nation and her approval rating is starting to take a beating, Gov. Jennifer Granholm believes the state has taken a turn for the better.

"2005 is going to be a great year for us," said Granholm during an

end-of-the-year news conference in Lansing Dec. 16, the mid-point of her first, four-year term, "It's going to be a year of job growth; not straight up, but on a subtle trajectory.'

Despite an unemployment rate that hovers at 7 percent - the national average is 5.4 percent -Granholm said it's still lower than last year and the state is on the right path. But Granholm does

acknowledge the state's future still rides with the automotive indus-

"We know the state is in a challenging economic time because of the reliance ... on the auto sector," said Granholm. "The Big Three's (General Motors, Ford and DaimlerChrysler) share of the market has been declining, and that poses a challenge for us. That's why we have to focus on

diversifying the economy and creating an environment for growth in areas in addition to the auto sector."

STEMMING JOB LOSSES

Granholm's own upbeat outlook partially has to do with the improvement in job loss numbers.

PLEASE SEE GRANHOLM, A5

MADD offers rides home on New Year's Eve

STAFF WRITER

If you have too much to drink this New Year's Eve, there's a safe way to get home. Mothers Against Drunk Driving chapters for Wayne and Oakland counties will again offer Project

"This is the 20th year," said Ne'chole McClendon, Wayne County MADD chapter director. "It's very popular. People are calling to

see if we're continuing to do this program." The Project LifeRide phone won't be operable until Dec. 31, she added. Those seeking information prior to then can call Wayne County MADD at (734) 721-8181 or Oakland County MADD at (248) 682-2220.

For New Year's Eve, the Project LifeRide phone

'It's very popular. People are calling to see if we're continuing to do this program.'

Ne'chole McClendon Wayne Co. MADD director

PLEASE SEE RIDES, A3

Kids, parents seek out holiday break activities

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

The holiday season annually brings a lot of shopping, eating, parties and fun.

For children, it also brings a two-week break from the rigors of school. For parents, that means two weeks of having their kids underfoot and scrambling to find things for them to do that don't

involve staring at a television or a computer screen. That translates into added holiday business for places like bowling alleys, movie theaters, muse-

ums, fitness centers and the like. "No question about it, business picks up over the holiday break," said Greg Wolcott, district vice president for the Livonia YMCA. "One of the things we have is an area next to our fieldhouse called 'The Zone,' for children ages 8-14 to participate in a variety of things. Mom and Dad can drop kids off to participate, and then go work out or whatever."

Most places which feature children's activities on a continuing basis pick up the pace a little bit during the holidays. For instance, the Plymouth YMCA offers a Winter Break Camp Dec. 27-29 for children ages kindergarten-fifth grade. Campers take field trips and do crafts, games and much more.

PLEASE SEE ACTIVITIES, A6



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scott Larabell, 11, of Plymouth, works on his snowman mug with his 18-year-old sister, Lisa, at Oasis Pottery in downtown Plymouth. Scott said he has been there with his friends before and enjoys spending time at the store.

Shoppers, shovelers brave snow

Leaning on his shovel, 69-year-old Lorenzo Boldrin took a break Thursday from shoveling snow in front of his house on Westbrook in Livonia.

"I was coming home from Ann Arbor last night around 10:30 and I saw just a few flakes falling," he

"This morning, I got up and looked out, and this is it," Boldrin said, smiling and gesturing toward the snow that covered his front yard.

to Laurel Park Place to get their lastminute Christmas shopping done.

Like others across the area, The snow didn't stop Boldrin worked all morning to dig out from the first winshoppers from going ter storm to dump significant amounts of snow on southeast Michigan. The snow didn't stop shop-

pers from going to Laurel Park Place to get their lastminute Christmas shopping "I need to get four or five more things," Paul Nolta, 35,

of Westland said, walking into the mall. He braved the weather, he said, "because it had to be done." As to whether he

wanted snow for the holidays, Nolta said, "I don't feel strongly one way or the other." Moments later, 19-year-old Jayna Graham of Westland walked into the mall with her bundled-up

baby, Jonah, just eight days old. 'I'm shopping for my mother," said Graham, accompanied by Kathleen Tadlock, an aunt visiting

from Seattle. 'We're both from the Upper Peninsula originally, so we're used to this kind of snow." Graham said. "This is like October."

Graham and Tadlock gave pause before going out into the winter's first major storm, but they decided

PLEASE SEE SNOW, A3



BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mike Hall should win a good neighbor award. The Livonia resident fired up his snowblower as the snow was still falling and cleared sidewalks for at least 14 of his Barkley Street neighbors.

Coming Thursday in Filter

Expect rock bands to get more emotional and draw inspiration from fresh sources.





Classified Index **Crossword Puzzle** For The Record Health Jobs

Obituaries E2 Observer Life E4 New Homes Real Estate Service Guide E7 Sports

81 88 **E2 E6**



Preschool's goodwill heads overseas

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 26, 2004

Children, family members and friends of the Northville Co-Op Preschool collected boxes filled with needed items for U.S. military troops in Baghdad. The youngsters attending the school live in Farmington Hills, Livonia, Plymouth, Westland, Northville, Novi. South Lyon and Canton.

The project got underway when Annette McGowan, the school's Community Outreach Coordinator contacted the Navy Recruiting District Michigan.

"My brother, Lance Cpl. Paul Buoniconti from the Marine Corps, will be joining the Alpha Company 2Trac in Iraq sometime in January," said McGowan. "Many of us in the community are affected personally by having a relative or knowing someone who has been or will be sent overseas. We wanted to get a jumpstart on helping military members have an enjoyable holiday season."

When she learned of the Support-our-Troops
Drive that was being sponsored by Madison
Heights VFW Post 9507, American Legion Post
354 and Augies Bar and Grill, McGowan wasted
no time. She had less than 10 days to collect
items for transporting to Baghdad. With the help
of Janine Bachat, teacher for 2-year-olds; Sue
Jarvela, teacher for 3-year-olds; Susan Collins,
teacher for 4-year-olds; school helpers and par-



Three-year-olds at the Northville Co-op Preschool share their message for the troops in Iraq.

ents, a generous amount of time and resources were utilized. The collective efforts were well spent. Navy Recruiter and VFW member Petty Officer Justin Tripp, from Navy Recruiting District Madison Heights, loaded a truck full of boxes that will go onboard a plane to Baghdad, which will soon depart.

For more information on supporting the troops, in addition to "Any Servicemember," there are other ways to reach the troops:

■ 'Operation USO Care Package' at http://www.uso.org/pubs/93_325_1391.cfm ■ DoD Launches America Supports You' to

Showcase Support for Troops http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Nov2004/n111 92004_2004111908.html

■ America Supports You: Operation Dear Abby Uses E-mail

http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Dec2004/n1 2022004 2004120206.html

Holiday shoppers return for exchanges and deals

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

For retailers across western Wayne County, it might be hard to tell the difference between the crowds of last-minute shoppers the day before Christmas and those who rush back Dec. 26.

One noticeable change, however, is the number of shoppers who arrive at stores armed with bags of merchandise — ready to return or exchange.

Gifts might come in the wrong size, color or style. And some recipients get more than one of the same item. Shoppers have their reasons for returns, and retail employees hear them all.

"Hopefully they'll find what they're looking for," said Denise Mills, marketing manager at Westland Shopping Center in Westland. She anticipates large crowds at the mall throughout the week.

To offset the post-holiday race to the cash registers Sunday, the mall will open three hours early, at 8 a.m., and close at 6 p.m.

Parisian, in Livonia's Laurel Park Place, also holds extended store hours today, Sunday, Dec. 26, to accommodate the still thriving crowds. Randy Dell, store manager, said the hours are only an hour shorter compared to the holiday rush — from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. — and the store will be fully staffed.

"People are just as antsy when they find an item they like," he said of those who come to return or exchange.

And shoppers keep coming, for the entire week following Christmas to do so.

Owners of The Colonial Collection, 44465 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, allow returns on holiday merchandise through Jan. 10.

"It gives them some time to return or exchange," said Kathy Ayers, a Plymouth Township resident who co-owns the store with

her daughter, Marilyn Von Gerichten.

Ayers took over the business in September after having managed the store for 33 years.

She knows what to expect around the holidays.

"We have done very well," Ayers said. "We bought cautiously, put in things we loved. It's been a good Christmas."

Unlike area malls, she doesn't expect huge crowds today.

In fact, the shop will open at its normal time, 10 a.m. Ayers said shopping will likely be continuous, thanks in part to those "after-Christmas bargain-hunters."

Post-holiday shoppers in the area can make the returning or exchanging of merchandise even easier by remembering two things: bring the receipt and leave the tags on the item.

Post-holiday shoppers in the area can make the returning or exchanging of merchandise even easier by remembering two things: bring the receipt and leave the tags on the item.

Mills said bringing a receipt or a gift receipt does speed up the process, and maintains the value of the item at the time it was purchased. Without a receipt, the item may be returned for the current, possibly sale, price.

In any case, Mills suggests all who venture out the day after Christmas should "be patient."

The Parisian store policy is clear with regard to exchanges of its merchandise.

According to Dell, gifts under \$10 may be returned for cash back, or a credit to the customer's Parisian card. Items over \$10 can be charged back to the Parisian card or returned for store credit.

Even exchanges of identical items are processed most quickly, he said.

Leaving tags on the items for return will also expedite the process, according to retailers.

"If you have the barcode, the store can tell two things," Mills said. "One, that it was bought from that store. And two, (you can tell) the price."

employees to seek out the same item for an even exchange. For Dell, saving shoppers' time is important.

"Because it is Sunday buyers will not be in

A barcoded tag also makes it easier for

"Because it is Sunday, buyers will not be in the office to help locate merchandise," Dell said.

Overall the 2004 shopping season has been good one at area shops. Mills said sales have been "steady and strong" and the after-holiday sales have barely begun.

"It's important to turn those returns into

sales," Dell said.

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SNOW

FROM PAGE A1

to defy Mother Nature.

"The sun came out and it's midday, so we felt like we could handle it," Graham

Snow emergencies had been declared Thursday in communities throughout western Wayne County, meaning that on-street parking was prohibited in order to keep roads clear for plows.

Local and Wayne County crews were out plowing the roads and applying salt.

The county had about 140 vehicles plows, graders and dump trucks - at work Thursday morning, said Patrick Hogan, director of the county's roads division.

He expected crews would be out Friday as well - on overtime, because of the Christmas Eve holiday.

"We've been at it pretty steady since 10:30 or 11 o'clock last night, and we're beginning to see some headway," Hogan said shortly after 10 a.m. Thursday.

Plowing was initially focused on the and freeways, but Hogan said he hoped sidewalk in front of his parent's home. crews with smaller trucks would begin plowing residential streets in area townships - includ-

ing Redford, Canton and Plymouth - later Thursday. The county is responsible for snow-plowing in town-

Hogan said road crews planned to make a lot of progress during a 24-hour period, beginning midafternoon Thursday, during which no snow was expected.

'As far as today's commute is concerned," he said Thursday, "it's a slow go but (drivers) can still get where they need to go."

This story was compiled by staff writers Darrell Clem and Matt Jachman.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

county's primary roads, state trunk lines Ginger the dog stands watch on Westmore Street in Livonia as Mike Siemasz clears the snow from the



Lauren Green clears the sidewalk in front of Jinaes, at the corner of Main and Penniman, in downtown Plymouth.

RIDES

FROM PAGE A1

number is (877) NYE-MADD, (877) 693-6233. Hours will be 11 p.m. New Year's Eve through 4 a.m. New Year's Day.

Sponsorships have been easy to come by this year, even with the economy in a downturn, McClendon said.

Sponsors include tech call center Minacs in Southfield, which will house the phone bank on New Year's Eve, and the Northville Police Department.

Project LifeRide is targeting 300 bars in Oakland County and 300 in Wayne County this year, she said. Free taxi rides home will be offered to those who've had too much.

The annual effort is also sponsored by 94.7 WCSX Classic Rock, Cameron's Clean-Up and presenting sponsor Takata. Taxi rides are paid by MADD and reimbursed with funds from Takata.

In 2003, Project LifeRide received 364 calls for taxi rides for about 865 people on New Year's Eve.

The project has provided approximately 8,000 safe rides to 24,000 people since its inception.

The Wayne County Sheriff's Department and local police plan additional patrols during the holidays. "Their primary responsibility will be enforce-

ment of OUIL," said Wayne County Undersheriff Harold Cureton of his department.

Law enforcement supports the MADD effort. "I think anything that would stop a person who is impaired from driving is a good thing," Cureton said. He's seen business owners be responsible about getting peo-

ple home. "I think it's a very good idea," Cureton said of Project LifeRide. "The police cannot

do this alone." Project organizers ask revelers to make advance plans to get imbibers home safely. Other tips from MADD

include: ■ Don't drink if you will be

driving ■ Host an alcohol-free party ■ Call for a copy of MADD's

Safe Party Guide ■ Choose a designated driv-

■ Stay overnight at a rela-

tive's or friend's home ■ Buy a hotel party/room package and enjoy an evening

away from home. MADD provides other services to aid those grieving the loss of a loved one due to drunken driving. This time of

year is difficult for those people, McClendon said. "It's very tough. This is a really tough time." Many

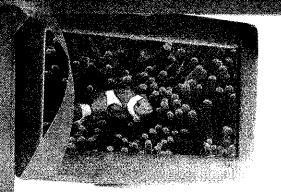
donate to the organization in memory of the loved one.

"That's the way of the families giving back," she said.



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CRIME BRIEFS

REDFORD

Shot fired in holdup

No one was hurt when a man with a pistol demanded money, then opened fire inside the White Castle at Telegraph and Schoolcraft roads Tuesday night.

Employees fled out the back during the holdup attempt, according to a Redford Township police report, and the gunman fired a single shot, which went through a wall behind the counter.

He then turned to a customer, a 77-year-old Detroit man, and robbed him of his wallet, police said. The gunman fled across Telegraph, where, in the Tel-Craft Plaza in Detroit, a Dollar Tree store was held up by a man who was

described similarly, police said. The robber ran eastward toward a Detroit apartment complex, a witness told police. Near the Dollar Tree, the White Castle victim's wallet was found.

QUICK FIXENS

Party \$800 / Deluxe... \$1000 ft.

One witness told police the robber

DELI SUBS - 4-5-6'

Mary's Special



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 26, 2004

For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page B7.

had escaped in a tan Chevrolet Caprice.

An officer spotted a brown Caprice at Fenkell and Lahser in Detroit and stopped the driver, but found his clothing didn't match the robber's and there was no evidence in the car.

Police recovered a bullet fragment from the White Castle. Bump and rob

A 23-year-old Brighton man reported being robbed Monday night by a gunman who drove a white Ford Explorer into his Mazda

DEARBORN SAUSAGE

on Telegraph Road.

The victim said he lost cash, keys, a cellular phone and compact discs to the robber.

It was about 9:40 p.m., the victim told police, when the Explorer rear-ended his 2004 Mazda on southbound Telegraph at Schoolcraft.

There was no damage to the Mazda, he said. The Explorer's driver told him to go to a nearby Marathon gas station, and he did. But there, he said, the other driver got into the Mazda, pointed a pistol at him and began rifling through the car. He reportedly struck the victim in the face with the pistol; police said the victim was injured but refused treatment. When the gunman left, taking the victim's keys, the victim ran into

the station to call police. Minutes later, police stopped a man in a white Explorer in southeastern Redford, but determined he had not been involved.

Wheel thefts

Tires and wheels were stolen last weekend from nine new vehicles

GOVT. INSPECTED SEAFOOD

belonging to a Redford automobile dealership.

It was the third such incident at Detroit Diesel, where the Snethkamp Chrysler Plymouth Jeep Eagle dealership rents a storage lot, in just over a month.

The latest thefts occurred between 6 p.m. Dec. 17 and 7 a.m. Dec. 20, a police report said. A window on four of the vehicles had

been broken. Police recovered a jack, a flashlight, a cap, rubber gloves and other items from the lot. Home break-ins

■ Cash was reported stolen from a house on Seminole Street north of Seven Mile after a break-in Tuesday.

The burglar or burglars had broken a front window on the house, a police report said. The break-in occurred between 4 p.m. and just after 11 p.m.

■ Cash and a digital videodisc player were reported stolen from a house on Wakenden Street north of Seven Mile after a recent break-in, which was reported Tuesday.

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Family Pac

A window on the house had been pried out of its frame, police said. Coin boxes raided

Two coin-operated vacuum cleaners at H&H Car Wash, on Beech Daly south of Seven Mile, were broken into between midnight and 5 a.m. Tuesday. A police report said the machines were heavily damaged and had been emptied of coins.

GARDEN CITY

Stolen vehicle

Police arrested a Romulus woman for driving with two license suspensions and possibly driving a stolen vehicle. The woman was stopped after her license plate came back as stolen.

The woman initially gave a false name – her mother, who was a passenger, gave the woman's correct name. The woman said she gave her sister's name since her license was suspended.

The vehicle had been purchased by the woman and her sister, the woman told an officer, but they didn't have the money to get new plates.

The owner told police that he'd parked with car with the keys in it so it could be picked up for service. He said the vehicle had disappeared.

Marijuana possession

A Ypsilanti man was arrested for possessing marijuana with intent to deliver Dec. 19 after officers responded to a call about two men in a vehicle with a gun outside the Shell Gas Station, 120 Middlebelt. No gun was found, but officers seized three baggies of suspected marijuana and impounded the car.

Computers stolen Two laptop computers valued at \$800 were reported stolen from CSI Computers, 28799 Ford, Dec. 12 following a break-in. An employee reported \$150 damage from a door

Arson

lock being broken.

A newspaper recycling dumpster at Memorial Elementary School, 30001 Marquette, was found on fire Dec. 18. Damage was set at \$500 from the rubber lids being melted. The Fire Department put out the

A witness told police three boys were seen running from the area. as the fire was noticed.

Credit card fraud On Dec. 17, a resident in the 33000 block of John Hauk told officers he had received a call about a \$600 overdue credit card bill on an account he hadn't opened. He said the card was in his name and used his Social Security number but had a different date of birth and a Detroit address.

Missing wallet On Dec. 15, a Dearborn Heights woman told police her wallet, containing \$110 cash and identification, was missing after she was at the Garden City Cafe, 5662 Middlebelt. She told officers she thought the wallet might have been left on a seat but couldn't be

located later. Larcenies from vehicles n A Garden City woman told police

that her cellular telephone, valued

at \$150, was stolen from her

unlocked vehicle while she was at Walgreens, 31415 Ford, Dec. 17. n A resident of an apartment in the 7000 block of North Venoy told police Dec. 17 that someone had stolen 150 CDs, valued at \$1,500, and stereo equipment valued at \$250 from her vehicle.

Drunken driving A Garden City man was arrested for drunken driving Dec. 17 after rear-ending another vehicle at Ford and Venov.

No license A Detroit man was arrested Dec. 16 after being stopped for going through a red light. The man, 49, admitted that he had never obtained a driver's license.

Vandalism A resident in the 30000 block of Rosslyn told police Dec. 20 that

someone had broken a vehicle window, causing \$200 damage. Vehicle impounded Police impounded a vehicle left

for sale at Middlebelt and Hennepin after receiving a complaint Dec. 18. An officer said the vehicle, parked on the greenbelt between the sidewalk and street, obstructed the view of drivers on Hennepin. The owner couldn't be contacted, so the vehicle was

By Observer staff



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Did you know that the number of people in metropolitan Detroit needing help with basics like food and shelter has increased by 33 percent over the past three years?

But our ability to protect and support our vulnerable men, women and children is at risk this holiday season. With fewer public locations available for our Red Kettles, we need your help to Make Change Happen for people who need us most . . .

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by Jody White Broker/Owner of Rice Realty

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Keep in mind that the guaranteed low rate offered on ARMs usually applies only for the first few years. This may be an advantage for buyers who plan to keep a home for only two or three years. The lower monthly payments offered by an Adjustable Rate Mortgage make it possible for such buyers to purchase a more expensive home than they would otherwise be able to afford with a fixed-rate loan. But longer term, the buver assumes much higher risk. Lenders factor in this risk. For example, some lenders may require

marginal borrowers to qualify for a loan that is several percentage points above the initial rate of the ARM, or the lenders may charge special fees or "caps" that increase the cost of the loan. If you are shopping for an adjustable rate mortgage (ARM), you can get a measure of protection against rate increases by ensuring that your contract includes a limit on your future liability. Some ARMs put a cap on the payment, so that it will rise no higher than the maximum rate

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GRANHOLM

FROM PAGE A1

She indicated the net job decline from 2000-02 was 196,000. In 2003, it was 94,000. And this year she expects it to be at 15,000.

We're headed in the right direction as far as the overall job decline," she said. "With state assistance, we created 132,000 jobs. When the country catches a cold, Michigan catches pneumonia because of the auto sector. We're very excited about the path we are on."

Granholm said she'll pursue changes in the business tax next year that will be revenue neutral, meaning the changes won't bring in additional dollars to the state. She wouldn't be specific about any changes until her State of the State address next

"We need to restructure the business taxes to make the state more competitive," said Granholm. "It's clear the business community is clamoring for that."

The state Legislature, which is controlled by Republicans in both the House and Senate, have blocked her attempts to change the business tax structure. And, since November, Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, has been highly critical of Granholm and her administration.

"I think there was a switch that flipped, and that's too bad." she said. "I hope it doesn't continue."

Granholm believes the way out of the state's dependence on the auto industry is to have a highly educated workforce.

Other states have focused on higher education, and if we had done this 10 years ago, we would have the most robust economy in the nation because we would have the most welleducated workforce," said Granholm. "High-end diversification has to be an emphasis."

Granholm is focused on retaining college graduates, many of whom are moving out of Michigan, to fill the more technical jobs the auto industry and its suppliers will need to fill in the future.

NEW WORLD

"We have to transform our



Some state legislators would like to see Granholm work more closely with both sides of the political aisle. 'She needs to bring us into the front office more,' state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, said of Granholm, 'It's a tough arena and needs some tough solutions, and we've got to work together, regardless if there is a 'D' or 'R' in front of your name.'

state with the most technologically advanced, creative economy in the country," said Granholm. "We need to focus on high-end research and development, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing opportunities. We're going to take some bold steps.

"Southeast Michigan, in particular, has and will continue to be, the epicenter of designing for the automobile industry, and that is what we've been focusing on," Granholm said.

Granholm has been working to bring more international auto-related companies to commit to southeastern Michigan.

"That's why I went to Germany and got commitments to get jobs here from German suppliers," she said. "Toyota is interested in bringing their research and development facility, and we will continue to pursue that." Even though Granholm is

taking a number of steps to improve Michigan's business climate, Chuck Hadden, vice president of government affairs for the Michigan Manufacturers Association, said the main goal needs to focus on retention of the state's current jobs. "The No. 1 goal should be to

retain jobs," said Hadden. "It costs less to retain jobs and keep them than look for new jobs. "And, she needs to settle the

business tax issue," added

decide if it likes it or not." While critics have blamed Granholm and the legislature for politicking instead of solving the state's problems, state Rep.

Hadden, "and then business can

Township, said the games must

"We must all put our heads together and not play the blame game," he said. "We must form consensus in regard to cuts and raising revenue."

Stewart said he expects Treasurer Jay Rising to come up with a new business tax structure "that will offer some personal property tax relief, it will focus more on a corporate profits tax."

Stewart, a small business owner with an attorney's office in Plymouth, said he'd welcome a cut in personal property taxes, "but, we must replace that revenue stream to local governments. The only source, it would appear, is the corporate profits tax."

Stewart said his main goals are to stop more cuts in K-12 education and revenue sharing to local governments.

State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, agrees with Granholm that jobs are the No. 1 priority, but said state government needs to take a look at its own house.

We have a changed world and a changed economy, we've got to being to be creative and run government more like a business," said Toy, a flower shop owner for 25 years. "We have to find out what people want to spend on government."

While Toy gives Granholm a B-plus for her first two years in office, she acknowledges Granholm needs to work more closely with both the House and Senate to get more accomplished. "She needs to bring us into the front office more," said Toy. "It's a tough arena and needs some tough solutions, and we've got to work together, regardless if there is a 'D (Democrat) or 'R' (Republican) in front of your name.

Not only is Granholm getting criticism from the legislature, recent polls have seen her popularity drop below 60 percent. However, the governor remains undaunted."If someone had said to me that in the face of budget deficits, loss of jobs, recession and all the challenges we face, that I would have a 57 percent approval rating at the end of my second year, I'd say that's really great," Granholm said. "But, what is really important is getting stuff done, not the polls."









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ACTIVITIES

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There are traditional "winter" events like sledding (if enough snow falls) at sledding hills in Hines Park and at Lola Valley Park in Redford. And there are indoor things to do to challenge the minds of children, for instance the Detroit Institute of Arts and The Henry Ford, which is currently running a three-dimensional version of the Tom Hanks film The Polar Express in addition to its other holiday activities.

Places such as D&M Studios in Canton also try to take advantage of the holiday break to bring children into their

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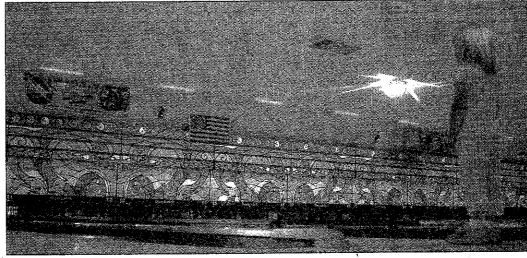
TWO POUND BÁG

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programs. For instance, D&M is offering all-day painting workshops (call (734) 453-3710 for details) Dec. 27-30.

"We always provide something for the kids to do during the holiday break," said Donna Knight, D&M's general manager. "It picks up a little for our workshops. We have some kids who come to the all-day paint and stay over for our Christmas workshop. That gives parents some free time. Any time the children are off school, parents know we have some type of workshop going

Oasis Pottery in Plymouth can provide a holiday distraction for youngsters looking to explore their creative side. Kids can come into Oasis and pick out a piece of pottery, pick



MONICA FOUTS I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Parents looking for things for their children to do during the holiday break from school can turn to local bowling alleys, as young Jessica Bishop did at Mayflower Lanes in Redford.

out the colors they want to use and then paint their own design on the piece.

Oasis owner B.J. Middaugh takes over from there, firing the pottery to create a personalized piece for the children.

"The kids love it, and parents are really trying to find different activities to keep their kids busy. It's a very interactive atmosphere. It's really a fun, easy way without any stress put on their artistic ability. It's more about fun, and it takes away the intimidation of art, as well. People enjoy the interactivity as opposed to going and sitting in a movie theater."

That's welcome news for parents, many of whom seek out things to do that get their children out from in front of a television or a computer screen.

Kathy Messics of Westland has three elementary school children and looks forward to the holiday break because it means there's time to do family things. The Messicses have memberships in places such as The Henry Ford and the Toledo Zoo specifically to pro-



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Oasis Pottery in downtown Plymouth offers fun for children and adults. Nikkole Widener (far left), formerly from Canton, brought family members to the store, (counter-clockwise) Lauren Daugherty, 8; Kalee Widener, 8; Madeline Wilson, 4; Linda Widener; Shelby Widener, 11; and Kathryn Daugherty, 11.

vide family activities.

"Those memberships are our savior," said Messics, whose children are 7, 9 and 11. "We can just pop in there for a couple of hours and it costs us nothing. As a result, I have kids who know how to act in a museum and are looking for

something to do other than staring at a Game Boy.

"I look forward to the holiday break," she added. "The kids are good students, they work hard, and they deserve

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THINGS TO DO

By halfway through the two-week break students have from school, parents are frequently looking for things for them to do.

Here is a partial list of some of the things available:

BOWLING

■ Beech Lanes, 15492 Beech Daly in Redford, (734) 531-3800.

■ Cloverlanes, 28900 Schoolcraft in Livonia, (734) 427-6410.

■ Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth in Livonia, (734) 522-4515.

■ Westland Bowl, 5940 Wayne Road, (734) 722-7570.

■ Wonderland, 28455 Plymouth

in Livonia, (734) 427-1060. ■ Plaza Lanes, 42001 Ann Arbor

Road in Plymouth, (734) 453-4880. ■ Merri-Bowl, 30950 5 Mile in

Livonia, (734) 427-2900. ■ Super Bowl, 45100 Ford Road

in Canton, (734) 459-6070.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

■ Plymouth YMCA, call (734)

453-2904.

■ Livonia YMCA, (734) 261-2161.

■ Livonia Community Recreation Center, (734) 466-2410. Oasis Pottery, 924 Ann Arbor

Trail in Plymouth, (734) 453-8797 ■ D&M Studios, 8691 Lilley in Canton, (734) 453-3710.

■ Plymouth Cultural Center Ice Arena, 525 Farmer, (734) 455-

6620.

OTHER IDEAS

■ Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, (313) 833-7900.

■ The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood in Dearborn, (313) 982-

■ The Henry Ford IMAX Theater, 20900 Oakwood, (313) 271-1570.

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El Nibble Nook 27725 W. 8 Mile

Ground Round 17050 S. Laurel Park Dr.

LIVONIA

Hitters Sports Bar 35085 Plymouth Rd.

Kickers All-American Grill 36071 Plymouth Rd.

Lake Pointe Yacht Club 37604 Ann Arbor Rd.

Masons Bar 13490 Farmington Rd.

LIVONIA

Merri-Bowl 30950 Five Mile

Penalty Box 28121 Plymouth Rd.

Wonderland Lanes 28455 Plymouth Rd

Woodland Lanes 33775 Plymouth

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Sunday, December 26, 2004

Brad Emons, editor (734) 953-2123 Fax (734) 591-7279 bemons@oe.homecomm.net

Clutch RU trey dooms Shamrocks

STAFF WRITER

Redford Union's dynamic duo of Gregg Hill and Anthony Smelley showed their mettle Tuesday night, collaborating on a game-winning buzzer-beater against host Redford Catholic Central.

Smelley's trey from the left corner as time expired enabled the Panthers (4-1) to escape with a thrilling 53-50 victory. The clutch shot ruined Catholic Central's furious fourth-quarter comeback, when the Shamrocks (0-4) outpointed RU 22-10.

Hill started the winning play by penetrating into the key, then dishing off to an open Smellev who knocked it down.

"I had to make it because I missed the layup I shot before that," said Smelley, who scored 11 points and grabbed five rebounds. "And it was fun to beat them. They (Shamrocks) beat us at home last year and we returned the favor."

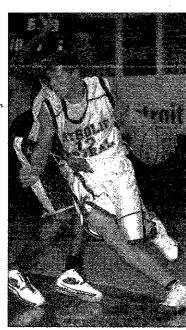
According to Panthers' head coach Brett Steele, the victory was "a big one for our program. They've kind of been our nemesis. Two years ago, we won 19 straight and we lost to them in the districts. Last year, they beat us at home.

"We had to get over this hurdle and it would have been a shame if we didn't."

Catholic Central, with Smelley on the bench most of the fourth quarter due to foul trouble, came back from a 15-point deficit and tied the game 50-50 with 3:22 to play on a trey by junior guard Rob Forte (six points) from the left

But the Shamrocks missed a subsequent chance to take the lead, missing two foul shots. The teams traded baskets until Smelley's big-time jumper. Catholic Central head coach Rick Coratti wondered out loud what the outcome might have been had his squad actually gone out in front down the stretch.

"If we hit those two free throws I think it would have changed the complexion a little bit," Coratti said. "It would have given us our first lead" since the second quarter.



Garrett Senczyszyn of Redford Catholic Central drives around Redford Union's Anthony Smelley during Tuesday night's game.

GETTING IT DONE

Steele, meanwhile, lauded his players for riding out the storm and making plays in crunch time.

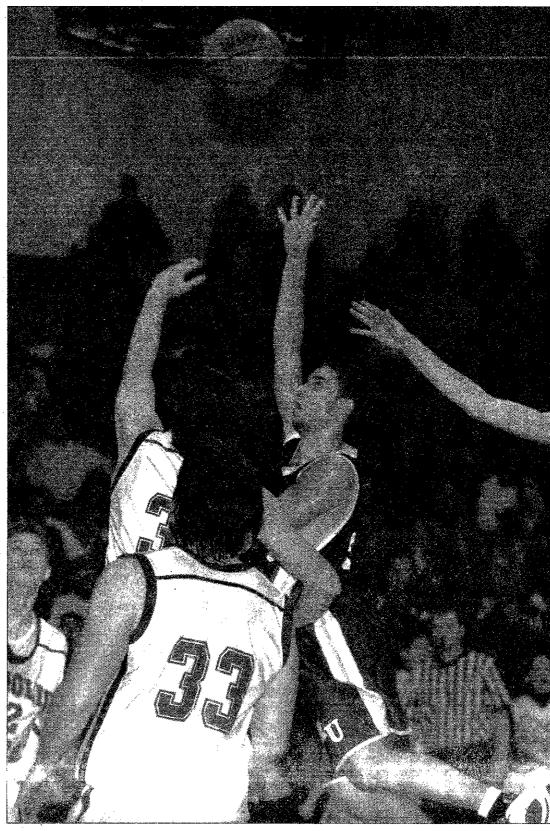
"Gregg made good penetration and Anthony made a great shot," Steele said. "It showed the character of our kids to find a way to win that game. We executed in our last two possessions the way we wanted to. That's why they're very good basketball players."

Hill led the Panthers with 16 points while junior guard Chris Brown also had a solid game with 15 points (including three triples). Chipping in with five and four points, respectively, were junior forward Steve Brown and senior center David Johnson III.

Catholic Central's top scorer, with 16 points, was junior center Aras Butkanas. Junior forward Garrett Senczyszyn tallied 11 while senior forward Dominique Fischer netted nine. Scoring six each were Forte and jumor forward Chris

Redford Union, after falling behind 7-0 in the early stages, tied





Gregg Hill of Redford Union wades through Redford Catholic Central defenders and tries to hit a fourth-quarter shot.

Nets & notes

PCA's Sumner accomplished in athletics, music

BY ED WRIGHT

There aren't many high school basketball players around who are talented enough to perform the national anthem, then moments later go out and make the nets sing on the basketball court.

Count Plymouth Christian Academy's multi-faceted senior point guard Stephen Sumner among that small fraternity.

"We've brought it up with Stephen," PCA basketball coach Doug Taylor said, referring to the singing/playing combination. "But he is so focused on basketball prior to the game, he said he'd rather not sing, too. If he did do both, he'd do a great job at both. Stephen is one of those kids that is solid in everything he does."

Sumner has made a strong impression at PCA with his three-pronged combination of athletic ability, musical skills and academic achievements. Athletically, the Livonia resident has earned letters in basketball, baseball and soccer over the past three years while accumulating a stellar 3.6 grade-point average in the classroom.

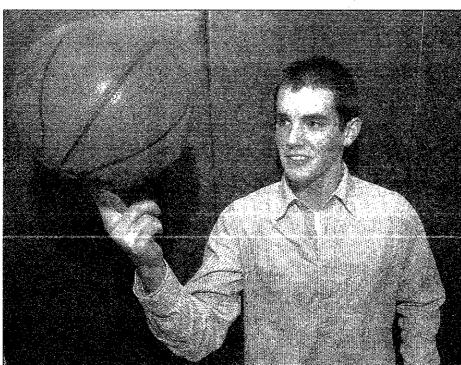
Musically, he plays both the piano and guitar, and leads the music portion of the school's weekly youth chapel sessions.

Sibling guidance

Sumner's proficiency on the basketball court developed as a youngster when he followed around older sisters, Sarah, 25, and Rachel, 22, who both excelled at hoop

"It seems like I've been playing basketball since I started walking," Sumner said. "I have great memories of going to my sisters' games and running around on the

I love basketball because it's fun when you have a group of guys trying to accom-



Plymouth Christian Academy basketball player Stephen Sumner is also a talented musician and excellent student. A three-year starter, Sumner serves as the Eagles' point guard this season.



plish the same goal, then working together to achieve the goal. I also like the self-discipline it takes to get out and shoot for

hours on the driveway to improve my skills. If I could only play one sport, it would definitely be basketball. I love it." Sumner's fondest high school basketball

memory came during his sophomore year, when he played through a series of injuries to lead the Eagles to a homecoming night victory.

"I actually played with a broken arm and a busted eyebrow," he said. "I hurt my arm during warmups, but I didn't know it was broken until I went to the hospital after the game. My eyebrow got messed up during the game. I only scored six

points, but I remember that game because of everything I went through."

Sumner also shined in another game during his 10th-grade season, Taylor remembered.

"Stephen has had a number of good games over the past couple of years, but there was a district game we won his sophomore year against Detroit City when he played really well," Taylor said. "I knew he was going to be a player after I saw him

Small-school appeal

play that well as a sophomore in a big dis-

trict game."

Attending a small, private school has been enjoyable for Sumner, who has been a student at PCA since kindergarten.

"We only have 50-some students in my senior class, so you get to know everyone a

PLEASE SEE SUMNER, A11

Chargers win mat tourney

The Livonia Churchill wrestling team won the Olivet Invitational for the second year with blowout wins against Charlotte (63-18), Westland John Glenn (50-17) and Mayville (56-18), and a thriller against Grand Ledge

The Dec. 18 tournament win marks the fourth in a row for the Chargers who, along with Grand Ledge, are ranked in the top 10 in the state.

Lightweights Alex Fowler (103 pounds) and Tim Hexsel (112) outlasted their opponents from Grand Ledge, winning by points 10-0 and 14-2, respectively. Justin Smith, wrestling at the 130-pound weight class, downed Brett Nichols 14-6 while 152-pounder Ben Adams defeated Pat Wright 10-6 in the match against Grand Ledge, and both Smith and Adams won by decision in the Glenn matchup as well.

Manuel Schubert downed Mike Churchill 12-4 at the 171-pound level, Joe Bargerstock defeated Josh Bond 8-4 at 189, Hafeez Qureshi needed only 52 seconds to pin Kyle Boging at 215 and heavyweight Pat Draheim needed only one more second than Qureshi in pinning Joe Nelson.

Adams bumped up to 160 pounds to down David Wood from Glenn, and Schubert, Bargerstock, Qureshi and Draheim all won their matches. Jamie Murray (145) and Greg Roberts (119) each recorded victories in the Glenn match while falling in the Grand Ledge match. Winners for Glenn against Churchill were: Rowdy Glasgow (125) beating Johnpaul Gafke 15-4, Orlando Carswell (135) downing Eric Brace 10-6, Saif Naber (140) over Dale Rush 11-2 and Reese Cox pinning Josh Kelly at the 145-pound level in 1:22.

Wrestling tourney

The Elks-Salem Wrestling Tournament will be held Wednesday at Salem High School in Canton. Wrestlers representing 18 teams - including Salem, Westland John Glenn and Redford Union will compete in the individual-format tourna-

The first match will start at 9:30 a.m.

Spring leagues
The North Redford Central Little League will be accepting registrations for the 2005 season from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15; 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25; and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5 at the New Redford Township Library.

Players must be ages 5-16 for baseball, 6-16 for softball and 5-18 for the Challenger League (for disabled individuals).

Boundaries for North Redford Central Little League are as follows: For baseball, Six Mile north to Eight Mile and Telegraph west to Farmington; for softball, all of Redford. The Challenger League does not have boundaries. Birth Certificates are

required for registration. For further information, please contact the following individuals: Baseball, Robert, (313) 516-2512; softball, Andy, (313) 533-0237; Challenger League, Darryl, (313) 532-5706.

Wolfpack tryouts Tryouts for the Western

Wayne Wolfpack AAU basketball teams for girls between the ages of 10 and 13 will be held on three separate nights in January.

On Jan. 4, tryouts for the 12-and-under team will be held 6-7:30 p.m. at East Middle School. Tryouts for the 13-andunder team will be held 7:30-9 p.m. Jan. 4 at East.

Tryouts for the 10-andunder Wolfpack squad will be held 6-8 p.m. Jan. 12 at Isbister Elementary School. The final tryout for the 11-and-under unit - will be held 6-8 p.m. Jan. 13 at West Middle

School. For more information, call Fred Thomann at (734) 484-7746; or Bob Blohm at (734) 495-3160 or (734) 414-8156.

Youth wrestling

The second session of the Canton Wrestling Club will run from Jan. 3 through March 13. The cost is \$45 and includes membership in the Michigan Youth Wrestling Association and a club T-

Registration will be held Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in room 305 of Canton High School's Phase III building. Practices will be held Mondays and Wednesdays. Athletes from first through eighth grades may participate. Practices will be divided

advanced wrestlers. For more information, contact Canton wrestling coach Casey Randolph at (734) 697-2083 or e-mail

into beginning and

c_randolph44@yahoo.com.

Salem falls to Crestwood

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Twas a few nights before Christmas, and all through the Allen Park High School gym, not many Plymouth Salem jump shots were falling, most bounced harmlessly off the rim.

Tuesday night's opening-round game of the Allen Park Christmas Tournament was anything but merry for the cold-shooting Rocks, who dropped a 61-53 decision to Dearborn Heights Crestwood. Salem's shooters had a difficult time finding the range against the Chargers' mostly zone but always scrappy — defense, as they managed to connect on just 20-of-66 field goals (30 percent). The Rocks found the mark on only 1-of-15 3-point attempts.

The setback dropped Salem to 0-5. Crestwood improved its record to 3-2 heading into Wednesday night's championship contest against the host Jaguars, who upended Woodhaven, 64-51, in Tuesday night's second semifinal game.

"We pressured the ball in the first half, but in the second half we dropped back into a zone and focused on putting pressure on the wings," explained Crestwood coach Bob Ostrowski. "The main thing we wanted to do was get a hand in their face every time they shot, and I think we did that for the most part.

"I have to hand it to Salem, though. They played extremely hard and they adjusted well to the defenses we used."

The Chargers' low-post tandem of seniors Ellis Russ (6-foot-5) and Jesse Adams (6-5) combined to make it a rough night for the Rocks. Russ twined five of his first six shots from the field and made 12 free throws en route to a 26-point effort. Adams only scored 10, but he pulled down a

game-high 12 rebounds.

Senior guard Steve Popp was Crestwood's most effective perimeter player, netting 13, including a pair of 3's.

Senior forward Dave Cardenas turned in a solid performance for the Rocks, finishing with 14 points and five rebounds. Kyle Price chipped in with seven points while sophomores J.P. Truesdell and Jierah Dixon had six each.

Joe Halewicz and Kevin Bradley also pulled down five boards for the Rocks.

Both teams struggled handling the basketball as Crestwood turned it over 28 times while Salem committed 24 miscues.

The Rocks led 15-13 after the opening quarter, but Crestwood used a 10-0 run toward the latter stages of the second quarter to secure a 31-30 halftime lead.

The half ended in spectacular fashion for Salem, which was bolstered — at least momentarily by a rare four-point play by Dixon, who was fouled on a successful 3-point shot before nailing the subsequent free throw.

The Chargers built a sevenpoint lead mid-way through the third quarter before Truesdell scored four straight points to bring Salem to within 41-38. However, Adams tallied two quick successive baskets to finish the quarter and give Crestwood a 45-38 cushion with eight minutes

Crestwood sealed the victory by outscoring the Rocks 11-2 over the first three minutes of the closing quarter. Russ accounted for six of the points, which included a break-away dunk.

Salem was successful on 12-of-22 free-throw attempts (54.5 perthe stripe.

Farmington cagers oust Spartans

BY PAT ALLEN STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday night, Farmington's boys basketball team sure didn't play like an 0-3 squad.

The Falcons did what they needed to do down the stretch to come away with their first victory of the season against Stevenson, 53-49.

Falcon senior guard Garry Abidin led all scorers with 20 points but Farmington coach Steve Norgrove credits Edwin 'Carey (9 points) with opening up the Falcons' offense.

"I thought (Carey) had the best game of anyone on our team today," said Norgrove, "not only contributing the nine points but what he did offensively for us."

Carey, who scored six of his nine points in the final 2:12 of the game, put heavy pressure on the Spartans' point players forcing numerous turnovers, especially late in the game.

"We talked a lot this week about effort level," Norgrove

"As a staff, we felt that we weren't getting the energy and enthusiasm from our team that they were capable of giving. Tonight they demonstrated what they're capable of."

Spartan senior forward Tom Clements again led Stevenson, this time with 19 points and 10 rebounds, but the inability to get Clements post opportunities late in the game cost Stevenson (2-3) their third loss of the season.

"We weren't really efficient

in getting the ball to the places and the people that we needed to get it to," Spartan coach Bill Dyer said. "In the first half when we made plays it was when we got to the basket. In the second half, it seemed like we settled for jump shots too

Trailing after each of the first three quarters, Farmington (1-3) battled back and took the lead at 44-40 with 4:24 to go.

But then the Spartans went on a seven point run to jump back into the lead by three with under three minutes left.

After Farmington scored five straight and Carey hit a deuce to keep the Falcons up by a pair, it became a free throw contest as Stevenson couldn't knock down their

jump shots.

"We just didn't make plays," Dyer said, "we need to get better at making plays down the stretch."

The Falcons hit only two of their final six free throws, but after the Spartans missed their final four from the stripe Abidin's free throw with 11 seconds left sealed the deal for the Falcons.

Norgrove tried to help Abidin settle down after missing three potential game-sealing free throws.

I put it in terms, not so $\sin \phi$ opposed to hey, you need to and be out there and pad your - stats," Norgrove said. "If you want to be a key player you area need to be able to handle those situations." 11 1 (1)

SHAMROCKS

FROM PAGE A8

the game at 9-9 after one frame and then seemingly took control of the game in the middle two quarters. It was 26-18 at halftime and 43-28 after

But the Shamrocks opened the fourth on a triple by Butkanas to trim the RU lead

Butkanas had left the game with about three minutes left in the third after tweaking an ankle injury. With his ankle taped, he came back with a

Please

vengeance and to the chagrin of Steele, momentum shifted.

With the Shamrocks putting tremendous pressure on the RU backcourt, Fischer scored three layups in a 45-second span to suddenly cut the margin to 43-37 with nearly seven minutes remaining. Forte's trey capped off an 18-3 run and knotted the contest at 46-46. The shot hit the rim, bounced high into the air and rattled through.

But Steve Brown kept the Panthers on top with a couple of key layups, the second one on a nifty shovel pass from

Catholic Central made it 50-

50 with 14 seconds to go in regulation, when Davis scored from the paint.

That set the stage for Smelley's three-ball.

GOOD EXPERIENCE

Both coaches said the upand-down tilt should provide invaluable experience.

"We learned a valuable lesson in a positive way because we won the game," Steele said. "But you can't be tentative against pressure. You have to attack pressure and I take responsibility for that."

Coratti said his team battled back when it could have

mailed it in.

"The kids played hard and mog (they) saw that good things can happen if you do that," said-u Coratti, noting his team might and be pressing to win its first of will the season.

The Shamrocks will have another chance to break into the win column when they face in Detroit Rogers 5:45 p.m. Monday at the annual Motor ...() City Roundball Classic (hosted ov by University of Detroit-Jesuit). Redford Union is idle o until 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4, against visiting Livonia Franklin.

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cent) while the Chargers sank 18recycle this of-28 shots (64.2 percent) from paper ewright@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2108

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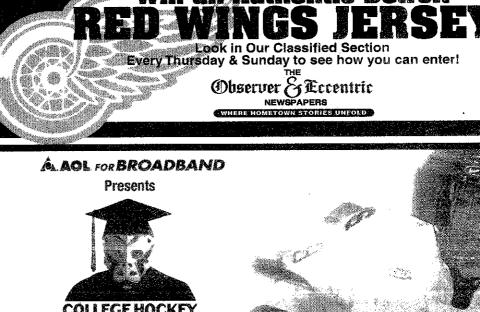
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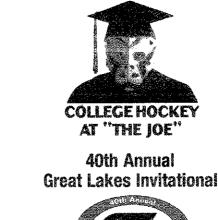
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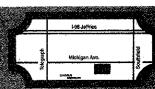




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ANDREW RUBENSTEIN

CC icers double up Grosse lle

STAFF WRITER

Sometimes hard work brings a payoff, and that was the case Tuesday night.

Redford Catholic Central senior forward Mike Oakleaf scored on a breakaway in the third period to break a 3-3 tie and send the Shamrocks on to a 6-3 non-league triumph over Grosse Ile in a game played at Trenton's Kennedy Recreation Center.

"I was real happy to see Mike Oakleaf get the game-winner," said Catholic Central head coach Todd Johnson, whose team improved to 6-2-1. "I'm trying to preach to these guys that if you do all the little things, you can be rewarded. And Mike Oakleaf does all the little things that hopefully make you a better hockey team."

Squirt champions

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 AT 6 PM

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Fifth Third Bank

SULDING

On the winner, an unassisted goal scored with 7:30 to play, Oakleaf stripped the puck from a Grosse Ile defenseman at the Catholic Central blue line and took it the rest of the way before stuffing it into the Red Devils'

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 26, 2004

Securing the Shamrocks' victory were late goals by junior forward Wade Lafever (assisted by Kevin Horal and Colin Ronayne) and senior forward John Horal (assisted by Lafever and Kevin Horal). The latter marker was scored into an empty net.

Catholic Central broke out to a 3-1 lead after the first period on a goal by senior forward Chris New and two by senior forward Jason Lewarne.

"Jason is a good goal scorer," Johnson said.

"He led the team with six

The Livonia Squirt Blackhawks finished 5-0, including a double overtime victory over the Dearborn Thunder in

the finals, to be crowned Souirt Champions at the third annual Thanksgiving Tournament, Nov. 26-28, at the

DISC Arena in Dearborn. The Blackhawks defeated the Livonia Flyers (6-4), St. Clair Shore Gold Wings (4-2),

Dearborn Hawks (7-6) and Livonia Canadians (8-2) en route to the title. Members of the Blackhawks include

Adam Panaretos, Jimmy Röznowski, Brenden Massucci, Matt Cassar; (second row, from left) Stuart Saules,

Austin Stevens, Chris Leach, Derek Raupp, Jacob Sawecki, Andrew Ioanou. Coaches include Scott Sinclair,

Randy Stevens, Greg Panaretos (head coach), Chuck Cassar, and Jim Roznowski. Team Sponsors include

Tregaskiss, LTD, Leo's Coney Island-Laurel Park, and Standard Federal Bank-Westland.

(bottom): goalie Michael Kanitra, (front row, from left) Alex Stavar, Matt Sinclair, Tony Wilson, Adam McPherson,

Uncoming TV & Radio Schedule: Tomorrow vs. Nets on WB20 @7:30 pm

Wed. 12/29 vs. Wizards on WB20 ⊕7 pm Thu, 12/30 vs. Heat on TNT ⊕8 pm

All Pistons games can be heard an WOFN 1130 AM

Sat. 1/1 Prime Time Pistons on WB20 @7 pm

Pistons Weekly show Sundays at midnight on DIV4 and Tuesdays at 6:30 pm on FSN Detroit

shots on goal and that's what good goal scorers do — they shoot the puck."

Senior forward Harrison Niemann assisted on two of the first-period markers. Other Shamrocks collecting assists were junior forward Dan Barczuk, Oakleaf, junior forward Steve Jankowski and junior defenseman Tim Buttery, playing his second game after recovering from a back injury.

But for the second consecutive game, Johnson's team relinquished a two-goal lead. The Red Devils knotted the game at 3-3 after two on goals by Kenny Kobb and Cody Holzworth.

Unlike Saturday, when the Shamrocks coughed up a 2-0 lead but managed a 2-2 tie with Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Catholic Central had a better result thanks to the three-goal

Observer

Classifieds sell!

Johnson hopes it is a trend that won't be repeated.

"It was just another typical game that we've played so far, where we look good for 20 or 25 minutes and then fall asleep for lapses," Johnson said. "Our schedule is too tough. If you fall asleep against these teams, they'll take advantage.

"That's two games in a row that we lost two-goal leads against good teams. We weren't so fortunate against St. Mary's." Earning Tuesday's goaltend-

ing victory, with 16 saves, was

sophomore Brian Hogan. Catholic Central is now idle until 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5. The Shamrocks are slated to face University of Detroit-Jesuit at City Arena in Detroit.

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HOOPS WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL Monday, Dec. 27 (Motor City Roundball Classic at UD-Jesuit) Redford CC vs. Detroit Rogers, 5:45 p.m. (River Rouge Holiday Classic) Wayne vs. O.L. St. Mary's, 4 p.m. John Glenn vs. Southfield, 6 p.m. Agape Christian at Emmanuel Warrior Christmas Classic, TBD

Tuesday, Dec. 28 (River Rouge Holiday Classic) Wayne vs. Southfield, 4 p.m. John Glenn vs. Utica Eisenhower, 6 p.m. Agape Christian at Emmanuel Warrior Christmas Classic, TBD Wednesday, Dec. 29

Friday, Dec. 30 Plymouth Christian at MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday, Dec. 29

Thursday, Dec. 30 Hope College DeVette Classic, 6 & 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5 Alpena at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.

Schoolcraft at Delta CC, 3 p.r WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Monday, Dec. 27 Madonna at Dominican Univ. (Calif.), 10 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 29 (Peninsula Hoops Classic, Menio, Calif.) Madonna vs. Notre Dame de Namur. TBA Thursday, Dec. 30

(Peninsula Hoops Classic, Menlo, Calif.) Madonna vs. Menlo College (Calif.), TBA

Canton at Harper Woods Notre Dame, 7 p.m.

(Hope College Russ DeVette Classic) Madonna vs. Augustana (III.), 6 p.m. Hope College vs. Grace Bible, 8 p.m.

UM-Dearborn at Madonna, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8 Siena Heights at Madonna, 3 p.m.

"Challenge Cup" game. DeMars is pictured above making a save against Canton's Bryan Wioncek in a game played earlier this season. Challenge met Salem icers outskate Lakers, 4-3

Plymouth Salem senior goalie Brandon DeMars made 29 saves Tuesday

night in the Rocks' 4-3 victory over West Bloomfield in the annual

BY ED WRIGHT

It was appropriate that Salem's hockey team was participating in the annual "Challenge Cup" game against West Bloomfield on Tuesday night.

Considering four of the Rocks' top players were serving game-misconduct penalties and several others were suffering from the flu, simply putting a team on the ice was a challenge for coach Fred Feiler.

Despite the adversity, Salem skated past the Lakers, 4-3, before an enthusiastic crowd at the Plymouth Cultural Center. The victory boosted the Rocks' record to 6-4-1.

"We found out a lot about ourselves in that game," said Feiler. "Some of our young and inexperienced players found out what it's like to play a full game. The guys that were playing with the flu really dug down deep and toughed it out. I was very proud of the entire team's effort."

Salem played without starters Tommy Cooper, Adam Gillikin, John Maurer and Chris Wilson, who were serving the second game of a twogame game-misconduct penalty that was dished out during the final seconds of Salem's 4-3 victory over Canton on Dec. 15.

The Rocks led 1-0 following the opening period thanks to a Kris Brant goal. Craigen Bauldry picked up his first of four assists on the night.

David Carey made it 2-0 when he beat West Bloomfield goalie Mike Perec with three minutes into the second period. Carey was assisted by Brant and Bauldry.

The Lakers cut their deficit in half with six seconds remaining in the period when Anthony Giglio scored off a pass from Alex Smith.

Joel Cheesman found the back of the net twice for Salem in the third period to help ice the victory. Luke Smith and Giglio lit up the scoreboard in the final 15 minutes for the Lakers.

West Bloomfield outshot the Rocks, 32-24.

"Our goalie, Brandon DeMars, played real well," Feiler said. "He had a big game, considering they outshot us by quite a bit."

Bauldry played the final eight minutes of the game with a broken nose, which he suffered in a mid-ice collision with a Laker.

Salem returns to action on Tuesday, Jan. 4, when it battles P-CEP neighbor Plymouth at the Compuware Sports Arena. The opening face-off is set for 6 p.m.

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Redford Township Department of Solid Waste Management 2004 Holiday Sanitation Schedule

Redford Township residents are reminded there will be no change for curbside sanitation collection for either the 2004 Christmas or New Year's Holiday. Your trash and recycling will be picked up on your normal scheduled collection day.

Happy Holidays from:

Charter Township of Redford

Publish: December 23, 26 & 30, 2004

OE08279829

FIRST TENNESSEE BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

FIRST TENNESSEE BANK NATIONAL

ASSOCIATION

Association, 165 Madison Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38103, has

filed an application with the Comptroller of the Currency on

December 22, 2004, as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to

establish a staffed branch at 20600 Eureka Rd., Taylor, Michigan 48180, to be operated under the name of First Horizon Bank, a

division of First Tennessee Bank National Association. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in

writing with the Licensing Manager, Office of Comptroller of Currency, Southern District, 500 North Akard Street, Suite 1600,

Dallas, Texas 75201, within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Notification is given that First Tennessee Bank National Association, 165 Madison Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38103, has filed applications with the Comptroller of the Currency on December 22, 2004, as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to establish staffed branches at 38701 7 Mile Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152 and 37551, 37557 & 37561 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150, to be operated under the name of First Horizon Bank, a division of First Tennessee Bank National Association. Any person wishing to comment on these applications may file comments in writing with the Licensing Manager, Office of Comptroller of Currency, Southern District, 500 North Akard Street, Suite 1600, Dallas, Texas 75201, within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Publish: December 26, 2004

Publish: December 26, 2004



Publish: December 26, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES OF REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the approved minutes for Regular and Special Meetings of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Redford are posted at the following public places within the Township:

Ice Arena, 12400 Beech Daly Community Center, 12121 Hemingway Library, 15150 Norborne Department of Public Services, 12200 Beech Daly Town Hall, 15145 Beech Daly

Approved minutes may also be viewed on-line at www.redfordtwp.com

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Join us Thursday, January 13, 2005 at 6 PM Admission is Free but you must have a ticket to enter.

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Cougars splash way to Mega Blue relay win

It wasn't pretty, but they'll take it.

The Garden City varsity boys swim team captured the Saturday, Dec. 18, Mega Blue Relays at Eastern Michigan University with a 76-67 margin over second-place Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

But the Cougars won due to the disqualification of Crestwood's 400 individual medley relay team, Garden City head coach Julie Johnston said.

"If that didn't happen, Crestwood would have won the meet," Johnston said. "We would have lost the meet by two points. But still, we were gearing up for second, we were prepared for second. So finishing first was a nice surprise."

Lincoln Park took third place, with 62 points. Garden City collected four first-place finishes:

The unit of Jeremy Bird, Brent Alexander and Ken Kastl took the 600 free relay with a time of 7:11.15.

Awarded first in the 400 IM relay due to the Crestwood disqualification was the quartet of Bird, Jon Turnbull, Chris Clendenning and Eric Thackaberry. They swam the event in 5:04.8.

■ Bird, Kastl, Thackaberry and Carl Ford came in first in

Cadillac

Toyota

Pontiac

GMC

Ford

Dodge

Lincoln Publish: December 26, 2004

1989

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1991

the 400 free relay, clocking in at

Garden City dominated the 200 free relay, finishing first, third and fifth, Johnston said. The first-place unit was composed of Turnbull, Ford, Matt Fitzgibbons and Ryan Day, finishing the event in 1:47.74.

The Cougars, who resume action Thursday, Jan. 13, at Gibraltar Carlson, also picked up five seconds and one third.

"My team did an awesome job," Johnston said. "They really wanted it bad."

RU fourth

Also last Saturday at EMU, Redford Union placed fourth in the Mega White Relays, trailing Wyandotte, Southgate and Woodhaven.

Head coach Maury Masalin said the Panthers lacked energy, possibly due to a heavy earlyseason meet schedule.

"This was our sixth meets in less than 22 days overall (and) we have had only had 14 days of practice during that time," Masalin said. "What I did like was our divers (Dan Holst, Mike Yantz), who finished second in our division."

Masalin said the team will enjoy eight days of quality practice in preparation for the next meet, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 6, at Redford Thurston.

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TOM HAWLEY I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephen Sumner is a talented ballhandler and perimeter shooter for the Plymouth Christian Academy basketball team.

SUMNER

FROM PAGE A8

lot better than you would at larger schools," Sumner said. "There are probably about 15 students who I've attended school with since we were all in kindergarten."

Despite his athletic prowess, music will probably play more of a role in Sumner's future, he admitted.

"Since I love music, and I don't think I'm going to go

anywhere with basketball, I'd like to work in a youth ministry and use music as a tool to get into that," Sumner said.

Although he may not play collegiate basketball, Sumner won't give the sport up altogether. His 10-year-old brother, Matthew, will make sure of

"We play a lot of basketball together," Sumner said. "He's actually pretty good, and it will be fun watching him play as he gets older."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on December 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at

Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather Road, Plymouth,

Michigan a public auction of the following:

DeVille

Corolla

Taurus

Ram Van

Continental

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The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for:

CHILLER REPLACEMENT AT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Bid forms and specifications may be picked up at the Purchasing Department, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday thru Friday. Deposit of \$25.00 (NON-REFUNDABLE) is required.

All questions regarding this bid may be directed to Ray Irvine, Maintenance Supervisor at (734) 744-2514.

Bids will be received until 10:00 A.M. on the 25th of January, 2005, at the Board of Education Purchasing Department, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan. At this time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read. Vendors are encouraged to

Bid security in the amount of 5% of the total proposal, in the form of Bid Bond or Certified Check must accompany each bid. Performance bond and payment bond may be required of the

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part in the interests of uniformity, design, equipment, delivery time or preference, to waive any informalities and to award to other than the low bidder, with rationale to support such a decision.

Publish: December 26, 2004 and January 2, 2005

PUBLIC STORAGE MANAGEMENT NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, the undersigned will sell at public auction by competitive bidding. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units, which rent and fees are past due.

On the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Public Storage, 34050 Nine Mile Road, Farmington, MI 48335, (248) 473-0202, on December 29, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.. Personal property described below in the matter of:

B002 - Annie Lockhart - misc. bags, misc. boxes

B029 - Samuel Way - bikes, misc. boxes, chair

B066 - Frank Hall - tools, fax machine, golf clubs, misc. boxes B078 - Randell McGriff - misc. bags, misc. boxes

C073 - Terry Gabrielson - misc. boxes, vacuum, misc. bags, bed

D026 - Susan Bunn - misc. boxes, sewing machine

D045 - Armanda Hebert - computer, furniture, misc. boxes,

E046 - Nayana Nunley - weights, computer monitor, misc. boxes,

chairs E077 - Ella Brye - Misc. totes

F012 - Anita Jennings - bikes, washer, dryer, misc. totes F018 - Michelle Dickerson - refrigerator, bike, dresser, furniture

F039 - Jason Cossin - misc. boxes, misc. bags

 ${
m G040-Tonya}$ Swift Miller – vacuum, misc. boxes, furniture, glass table top G051 - Blair Weiss - lawnmower, TVs, entertainment center,

On the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Public Storage, 12900 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150, (734) 591-6447, on December 29, 2004 at 12:00 p.m. Personal property described below in the matter of:

C025 - Kirk Bennett - TV, lawn equipment, bikes, misc boxes D019 - Rachel Talbert - 4 tires, book shelf, mattress, bike

Publish December 26, 2004



Borgess cagers cruise to victory

STAFF WRITER

Four players hit double digits Tuesday night to lift Redford Bishop Borgess to a 77-63 boys basketball victory over visiting **Detroit Charlotte Forten** Academy.

Leading the Spartans (2-2) was sophomore guard Darryl Warthen, with 15 points and eight assists. Chipping in with 13 points and 17 rebounds was 6-6 senior center D'Angelo Seale.

Contributing 12 points and four steals was junior guard T.R. Ellis, while senior forward David Davis scored 10 points and pulled down five boards.

"Coming off that tough loss against (Harper Woods) Notre Dame, this was good," Spartans head coach Tony Woods said. "The fellas became a team."

The morning of the 55-41 loss to Notre Dame, a shooting took the life of Ellis' father. Despite that tragedy, Ellis and the Spartans gave it their all against the Fighting Irish, but played "with a heavy heart," the coach said.

Tuesday, the team came out with spring in its collective step, rushing out to a 14-2 lead.

Charlotte Forten made a game out of it, however, cutting the Borgess lead to 34-33 at halftime. But the Spartans started to break open the game in the third frame and capped it off with a 25-point final stan-

"Our big fella (Seale) played a terrific game and so did T.R. Ellis," Woods said. "He (Ellis) has been solid all year."

The Spartans resume action Tuesday, Jan. 4, at Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes. The next game at Borgess is 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7, against Detroit Holy Redeemer.

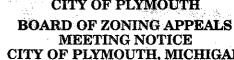
BERKLEY 48, CHURCHILL 38: Junior guard Eli Weiner led all scorers with 19 points for the Bears as they dropped winless Livonia Churchill to 0-4 overall

Tuesday night. Matt Weitzman had 10 points for Berkley, which outscored the Chargers; 14-4 in the pivotal second quarter.

"They played with more energy," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We're still searching for answers and we'll find them eventually, we've just got to get through it."

Corte Diaz and Sean Adkins each had eight for Churchill and Mark Shuber cohtinued his strong play on the boards with 16 rebounds.

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH

MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following items:

Z 05-01 501 Industrial

Interpretation of Allowed Uses Zoned: 1-1, Light Industrial Applicant: Plymouth Family YMCA

Non-Use Variance Requested Lot Area & Lot Width Frontage Z 05-02 797 N. Holbrook

Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential Applicant: Jeffrey & Nicole Gray

All interested parsons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Carol Stone, ADA Coordinator Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: December 26, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH **BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING** TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2004

Supervisor Reaume called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present, with Mr. Curmi arriving at 7:18 p.m.

Mrs. Massengill amended the agenda by removing Item J.7 under New Business, Amend 2004 Special Assessment District Fund Budget, and by adding Item J.11, Set Date for Public Hearing of Necessity for the Beacon Estates Subdivision Road Rehabilitation SAD. She then moved to approve the agenda for the December 14, 2004, Board of Trustees Regular Meeting as amended. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all, with Mr. Curmi absent.

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the Consent Agenda for the December 14, 2004, Board of Trustees Regular Meeting as presented. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all, with Mr. Curmi absent.

Mr. Richard Sharland asked if the retirement plan approved by the Board for the Fire Department was a defined benefit plan and if that plan was organized under Public Act 345.

Supervisor Reaume said the Board ratified their end of the agreement with IAFF which has a provision that the firefighters could go to a defined benefit plan if they do, in fact, ratify and all agree to participate in such a plan. He wasn't sure if it would be under PA

Ms. Arnold moved to approve the Cluster Housing Option for Plymouth Hollow (McClumpha/Ann Arbor Road Detached Single Family Residential Condominium Community), Application 1848/ 0804, for property located east of McClumpha Road, south of Ann Arbor Road, as recommended by the Planning Commission and subject to the boundaries of the Cluster Option being as shown on Sheet L2, Conceptual Site Plan, dated November 24, 2004. Seconded by Mr. Mann. Ayes all.

Mrs. Massengill moved to postpone the first reading of Ordinance No. C-2004-04, amending the Noxious Weed Ordinance of the Charter Township of Plymouth Code of Ordinances until the Regular Board Meeting of January 11, 2005. Supported by Mr. Mann. Ayes all.

Mr. Curmi moved to approve the agreement dated July 27, 2004, between the Charter Township of Canton and the Charter Township of Plymouth for the provision of sanitary sewer service for the DWSD Pumping Station located at 43147 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187, per the recommendation of the DPW Manager. Seconded by Ms. Arnold.

Mr. Doroshewitz moved to approve Change Order No. 1 – Final on the contract with Sunset Excavating Company for the Golfview Lane Sanitary Sewer Replacement in the amount of (\$2,311.72) which will decrease the project total to \$55,012.28 and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute same. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all.

Ms. Arnold moved to approve Resolution No. 04-12-14-55, appointing the Supervisor and Clerk of the Charter Township of Plymouth as the authorizing official for the Township Pension Plan. Ayes all on a roll call vote. A copy of the Resolution is attached to the official minutes and is on file in the Clerk's office for public perusal.

Moved by Ms. Arnold to approve Resolution No. 04-12-14-56, adopting the Amended General Fund Budget for 2004. Seconded by Mr. Mann. Ayes all on a roll call vote. A copy of the Resolution is attached to the official minutes and is on file in the Clerk's office for public perusal. Mr. Mann moved to approve Resolution No. 04-12-14-57, adopting the

amended 2004 Improvement Revolving Fund Budget. Seconded by Mr. Edwards. Ayes all on a roll call vote. A copy of the Resolution is attached to the official minutes; and is on file in the Clerk's office for Mr. Doroshewitz moved to approve Resolution No. 04-12-14-59,

amending the Plymouth Township Downtown Development Authority

Budget for 2004. Seconded by Mrs. Massengill. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Doroshewitz, Massengill, Arnold, Edwards, Mann, Reaume. Nays: Curmi. Motion carried. A copy of the Resolution is attached to the official minutes and is on file in the Clerk's office for public perusal.

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve Resolution No. 04-12-14-60,

adopting the Amended 2004 Water and Sewer Budgets and adopting, the 2005 Water and Sewer Budgets. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all on a roll call vote. A copy of the Resolution is attached to the official minutes and is on file in the Clerk's office for public perusal. Mr. Edwards moved to approve the appointment of Trustee Robert 4

Doroshewitz to the Zoning Board of Appeals as the Plymouth

Township Board's liaison, term ending December 31, 2007. Seconded S by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all. Ms. Arnold moved to set date for the Public Hearing of Necessity to 🚜 January 11, 2005, and add this item to the agenda for that meeting. Further moved to approve Resolution No. 04-12-14-61, scheduling Hearing of Necessity for the Beacon Estates Subdivision Road

Ayes all on a roll call vote. Supervisor Reaume commented on the nomination by the Rotary Club of Scott Linton as Policeman of the Year and Pat Conley as Firefighter of the Year.

Rehabilitation SAD for January 11, 2005. Seconded by Mr. Edwards.

He noted the grand opening on December 6 of New Liberty Bank in w the Ann Arbor Road corridor.

He stated that Senate Bill 928 now allows clerks of charter townships to satisfy publication requirements for agendas and minutes by posting on-line and in their offices.

various pictures, and an engraved gavel to honor his years as supervisor of Plymouth Township. With regard to Item J.8, amending the DDA budget, Mr. Curmi asked whether the 2005 budget should also have been amended since the

Mr. Reaume presented Mr. Mann with his Supervisor nameplate,

money was being transferred from the 2005 budget to the 2004 Mr. Reaume indicated the 2005 budget would be amended in 2005.

Mr. Anulewicz updated Mr. Curmi on the progress made toward the water tower and Mr. Reaume updated him on Township Hall progress. Ms. Arnold and Mr. Reaume discussed the possibility of election finance reports being available on-line via the MERTS software. Mr. Curmi wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mrs. Massengill moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Edwards. Ayes all. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

> MARILYN MASSENGILL, Clerk Charter Township of Plymouth

RICHARD M. REAUME, Supervisor Charter Township of Plymouth

The foregoing is a synopsis of the minutes of the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees meeting held on December 14, 2004. The full text is available in the Clerk's Office for public perusal. The minutes will be submitted for Board approval at the next regular meeting held on 🔁 January 11, 2004.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township Meetings, to individuals with disabilities at the Meetings/Hearings upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the following: Human Resource Office, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone number (734) 354-3202 TDD units: 1-800-649-3777 (Michigan Relay Services)

Publish: December 26, 2004

THE WEEK AHEAD

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 26, 2004

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Monday, Dec. 27 UM-Dearborn Invitational, 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28 West Bioomfield Invitational PREP WRESTLING Wednesday, Dec. 29 Salem Invitational, 9 a.m. Brother Rice Invitational, 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 30 Redford CC at Toledo St. John's, 9 a.m.

PREP HOCKEY Wednesday, Dec. 29 Plymouth vs. Taylor Truman at Taylor Sports Plex, 6:30 p.m. ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Tuesday, Dec. 28 Thursday, Dec. 30

Whalers vs. Brampton Battalion at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m. Whalers vs. Sarnia Sting at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.



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2 PAINTS / STARENS TH 11:30, 12:20, 1:50, 2:40, 4:20, 5:00, 6:45, 7:15, 9:00, 9:30 6:45, 7:15, 9:00, 9:30 FRI: 11:30, 12:20, 1:50, 2:40, 4:20, 5:00 OFLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) 2 PRINTS / 2 SCREENS FRINTS/200, 12:40, 2:20, 3:00, 4:40, 5:20, 7:00, 7:40, 9:20, 9:55 FRI 12:00, 12:40, 2:20, 3:00, 4:40

ALEXANDER (R) TH 6:15, 9:30 THE INCREDIBLES (PG)2 PRINTS / 2 SCREE TH 11:20, 12:30, 1:40, 2:50, 4:00, 5:10,



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Roma 🐠 Banquets

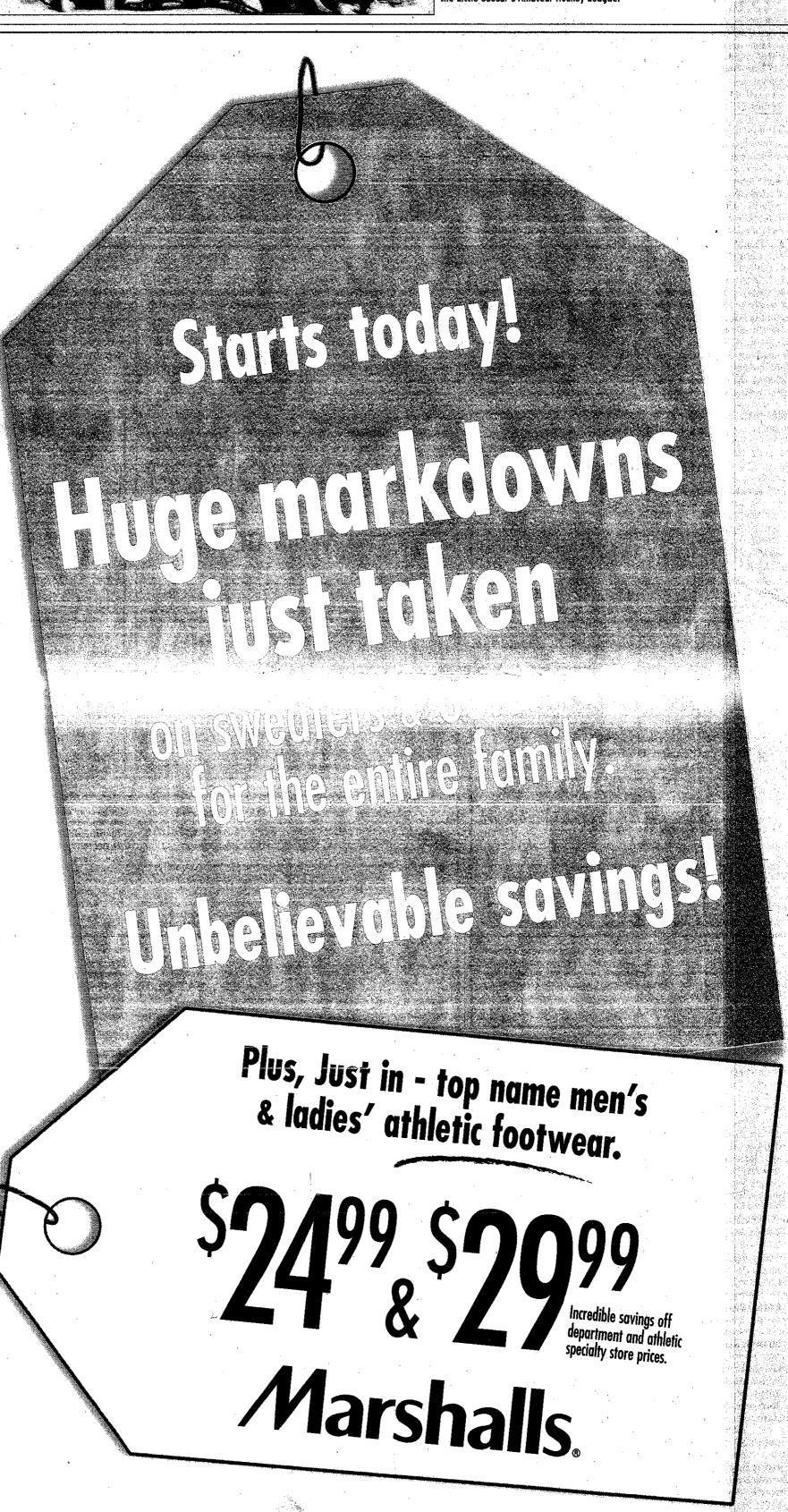
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Penguins victorious

The Arctic Pond Penguins Bantam AA Team captured the 2004 Waterloo Memorial Tournament Championship Nov. 19-21 in Waterloo, Ontario. The Penguins outshot their opponents 203-62 in six games, outscored them 29-4 behind the strong play of netminders Joe Burgio and Bobby Smith, who combined to record four shutouts. Forward Jerry Pitts was named Tournament MVP. The team's forwards include Adam Szajner of Novi, Court Murtland of Farmington Hills, Tony Thomas of South Lyon, Lou Lemak of Brighton, Jerry Pitts of Canton, Chris Gendron of Farmington Hills, Caleb Hamlin of Battle Creek, DJ Konfrst of Livonia and Jon Ponte of Novi. The defensive squad includes Justin Mongrain of Canton, Cody Longuski of Westland, Ian Barnaby of Plymouth Township, Alex Kolpacke of Livonia, Ryan Shepard of Canton and Colin Rolfe of Canton. The head coach is Britt Ponte. Assistant coaches are Dino Szajner and Kevin Longuski. The team is managed by Maria Pitts. The Penguins play in the Bantam AA Ranked Division of the Little Caesar's Amateur Hockey League.



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Jennifer Sawalha

Don't rush to make friends

I start a new school after Christmas break and I don't want to be in the dork crowd. What do I need to do to be popular? Wanting to be a star in Livonia, 14

First of all, starting a new school is a huge adjustment ... slow down. What if these popular kids at the new school aren't nice or aren't good friends? When starting a new school, you want to seek out new friends that you have something in common with ... not friends just because they're popular. The first week you start you want to be able to get a feel for the school, the crowd and people you might be interested in getting to know better. Find out what activities, sports or clubs you can get involved in where you can meet people with similar interests. It can be very hard to break into a crowd that is already established, so take it slow. Get to know people at your new school for who they are and not their social status!

Dear Jen, I have a ton of stuff going on in my life and am not looking forward to the holidays. Every holiday is a mess. The people in my family are always fighting with each other and my mom is always in a bad mood. What can I do to make it easier on my mom? Trying to escape the holidays in Canton, 16

Well, unfortunately the holidays are stressful for most people and tempers end up flaring. No family is perfect; so don't feel alone ... there are a lot of families who argue during the holidays. If you feel the need ... you can always try to talk to everyone in the family to request a somewhat peaceful holiday! Now for your mom, why don't you try to help her out a little more in the next couple weeks. Find out what she needs for you to do to make her life a little easier over the next couple weeks. You taking some of the strain off of her will lighten her load and her mood!

Dear Jen, Do you think it's OK for 15year-olds to be in love? I mean, really in love in high school ... is it too stressful or is it more stressful if they're not in love? First love in Garden City, 15

You can be in love in your teens, but it doesn't mean that you are emotionally mature enough to deal with the other aspects of the relationship. If you feel you are ready for a serious relationship then I think you are ready. Just remember, the serious relationship should never be so stressful that it interferes with other areas of your life, such as grades, family, friends, sports, etc. It also depends on the other person in the relationship ... are they mature enough for a serious relationship? Do vou both feel the same way? These are things to talk about with that other person. Be cautious, though, you have many more years to experience relationships on different levels ... don't rush anything!

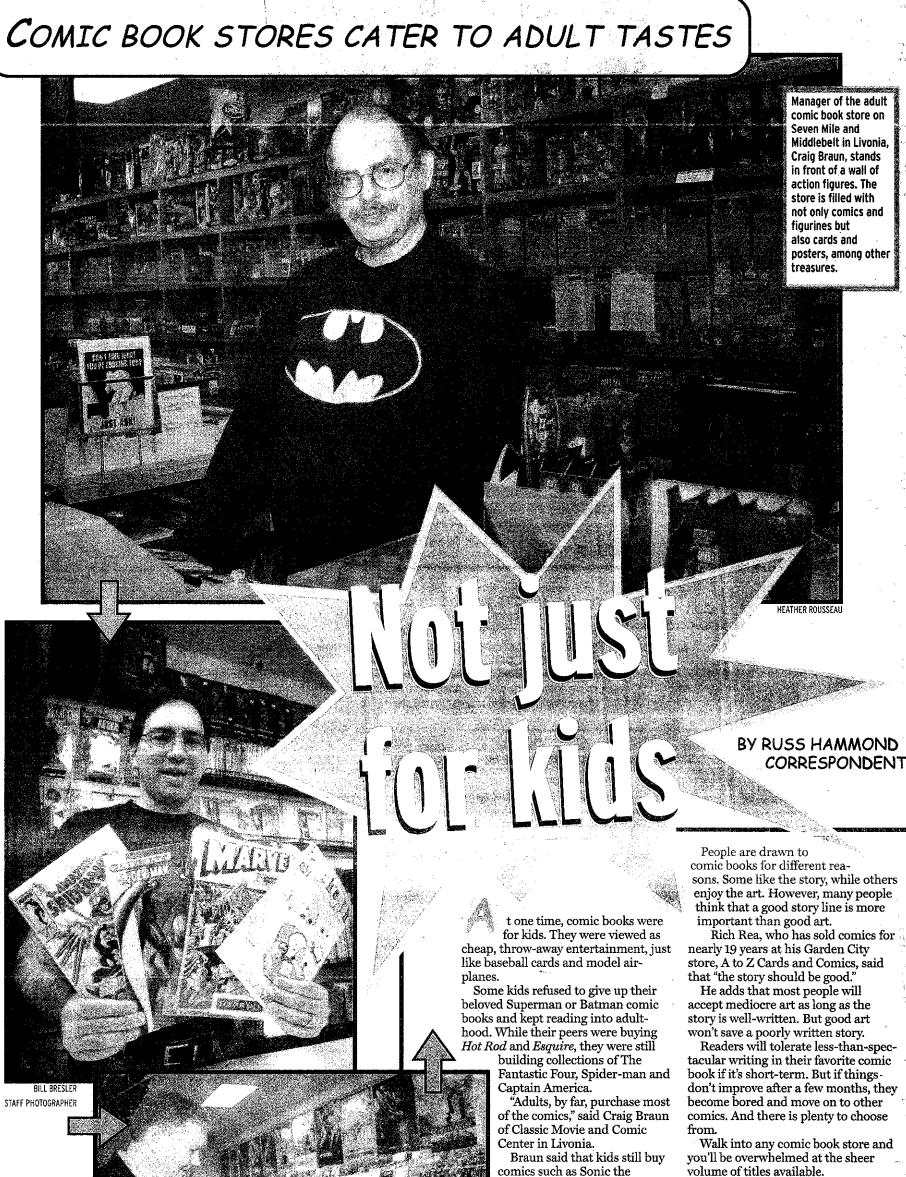
Jennifer Sawalha of Livonia has a master's degree in psychology from the Center for Humanistic Studies. She can be reached by e-mail at JGSKarma@aol.com.

Ohserver

Section B Sunday, December 26, 2004

Hugh Gallagher, editor (734) 953-2149 Fax: (734) 591-7279 hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

www.hometownlife.com



People are drawn to comic books for different reasons. Some like the story, while others enjoy the art. However, many people think that a good story line is more

Rich Rea, who has sold comics for nearly 19 years at his Garden City store, A to Z Cards and Comics, said that "the story should be good."

He adds that most people will accept mediocre art as long as the story is well-written. But good art won't save a poorly written story.

Readers will tolerate less-than-spectacular writing in their favorite comic book if it's short-term. But if thingsdon't improve after a few months, they become bored and move on to other comics. And there is plenty to choose

Walk into any comic book store and you'll be overwhelmed at the sheer volume of titles available.

The Punisher, Birds of Prey, 1602, Daredevil and The Goon are some of the titles outside the circle of well-

known comics. The superhero has also been redefined. Blade, Spawn and Hellraiser, are the comic industry's attempt to make a "darker, edgier, hipper type of superhero," said Braun of Classic

Movie and Comic. "Comics today are a lot more graphic than they used to be," Braun said. "It's a loss of innocence from the 1960s

PLEASE SEE COMICS, B3

Many people make the same resolutions every year

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Above, Rich Rea

19 years at his

has sold comics for

Garden City store,

A to Z Cards and

Comics. At right,

Gordon Johnson

comic book.

looks at an Action

Robin Forystek is resolving to drop the pounds she gained while pregnant with daughter Kaylee, now nearly a year old. All dolled up in a velvet dress and Santa cap, Kaylee waited in line at Westland Shopping Center to see the big guy in the red suit with her mother and grandmother, Tammy Schulz of Westland.

Many people were too busy shopping the week before Christmas to even think about making resolutions but those who did were committed to

keeping them in the New Year. "I'm making the same one as



always to lose weight," said Robin Forystek. "This year it's losing my baby weight."

Karen Shelton of Canton

kept her resolution to lose and keep off 50 pounds this year. She hadn't thought about making a resolution just yet but probably will make the same one because of her success. Her husband, Tom, doesn't make any resolutions. That way he doesn't break any.

Dawn Shemanski of Canton feels the same way about making resolutions. Greg Griffiths of Westland never makes a resolution not because he's perfect, he jokes. "Just ask my wife."

Debbie Brown is just too busy working to make resolutions. As owner of the Gold Tones DJ service based in Garden City, she coordinated

entertainment for 25 to 30 parties in December including three on New Year's Eve. Brown is celebrating her 25th year in business.

Hedgehog or Archie but adults

"Our average customer has

about 1,000 comics and spends

It's easy to build up a comic

cost \$2.25 to \$3 per issue. That's

something that most people can

\$20 to \$30 a week on them,"

book collection. Most comics

afford. Graphic novels, which are basically trade paperbacks,

outspend them.

sell for \$8 and up.

said Braun.

"If I make one it would be to try to enjoy life," said Debbie Brown, whose father died in October. "Life is too short."

Nancy Marceau has been busy shopping, but never bothers to make a resolution anyway. The Livonia resident strives to improve herself throughout the year.

"It's something I do all the time," said Marceau. "A good one for everyone is to be nice to other people. It would be a nicer world."

Ruth Johnson would like to

break the habit of smoking for the last 30 years. The Westland resident's incentive is her 11year old granddaughter, Kaitlyn Johnson.

"I'm trying to get her to quit," said Kaitlyn Johnson. "I wrote letters for science class to my mom and grandmother to get them to stop."

All Rick Blanke wants for Christmas is a job as a graphic designer. Blanke has been looking for a position ever since graduating from Ferris State University two years ago.

Downstairs in the general manager's office at Westland Center, Ed McHale is making a

PLEASE SEE RESOLUTIONS, B5

B2

The Cultural Council of Birmingham / Bloomfield presents

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 26, 2004



NEW YEARS' EVE CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2004 Midnight



FIRST NIGHT EVENTS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"SNOW WHITE" - 4:30, 6:00 & 7:30 pm

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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ADDITIONAL FIRST NIGHT LOCATIONS

St. James Episcopal Church, First Christ Scientist Church and Birmingham Historical Museum

OTHER PERFORMANCES & ACTIVITIES

DAVID SYME, Pianist - 7:00, 8:15, 9:30 pm Bernie Stevens Magic -7:00, 8:30 pm Teddy Bear Puppet Show - 7:15, 8:30 pm Adam Mellema Storyteller - 6:00, 7:15, 8:30, 9:45 pm



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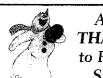
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Full schedule and tickets available at



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By Dennis Fairchild

ARIES (March 21-April 20th)

Try to stay on good terms with colleagues as the New Year approaches, even to the extent of avoiding them if they're spoiling for a fight. The planetary problem isn't so much what they might do, as what you might do in retaliation, Rambo, Be smooth, not sarcasticl

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Although you will have a warm holiday time, you must be aware of a couple of mattersnamely, jealousy and envy! The more others make you feel guilty for all the good things in your life, the more you should remind them that nothing comes for free. You've sacrificed enough, Bull. And you do deserve it all!

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Lately, your patience has been testy at best and this week it could reach a new low, as you have to deal with people who seem incapable of making up their minds. If you have to make decisions for them, make sure you slant them in your favor, Twins! Listen to your heart and celebrate a new year!

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

It's time now to practice 'silence', MoonKid. With all of your recent busy-ness, you've reunited with some weird-Os. By all means, offer your services as a peacemaker or listening ear, but don't get your hopes up. Some people enjoy arguing, so don't be surprised if your efforts to mediate are thrown back in your

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

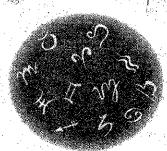
You can chip away at a financial problem for only so long before it must be tackled head-on, Lion. With no shortage of ideas on how to resolve the issue, you now need to identify those with potential and as well as honest and helpful, and those that are unrealistic or opportunistic.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

Your only astro-danger now is that you'll allow yourself to be misled by someone who sounds as if they know what they're talking about. The problem with being such a "can do" person is that you think everyone else can do as well as you. Virgo kiddo: they can't!

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Whether you're a jock or a jokester, the holiday



word for you is "health," kidde! If your body sends you signals this week that not everything is a-okay, you must take notice, get off the couch and do something about it! Most likely, all it means is that your either working or worrying too hard and need to slow down a

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Are you happy that the holidays are almost over, Scorp? I bet so! Still, before New Years you have to get tough with someone who is hoping that by kicking up a fuss you'll do their dirty work for them. (Hal) You should know by now never to give in to emotional blackmail.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

There is no point in overtaxing yourself with so many commitments that you up doing none of them properly and feeling exhausted. Use the next few days to discard things that are neither worthwhile nor pleasurable. Others will benefit, too, if you look after yourself, Archer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 21)

Be careful not to take your personal insecurities out on someone who has enough of their own. As the New Year arrives, you are likely to overreact to a suggestion or comment and jeopardize a good relationship. Patience and understanding will get you where you want to go, Cap.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 22-Feb. 19)

Are other folks so difficult to deal with right now or is it just you? According to the planets, it's more likely to be the latter, so stop blaming others for your predicament and start looking for ways to get yourself out of it. You're very intuitive as '05 arrives But do listen to others, WaterBear!

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Whatever negative feelings about friends or Tamily you've been storing up inside must be let out now. With any luck, you'll discover a constructive outlet for them, something that doesn't harm you or them. But if that's not possible, a battle is inevitable. Be cool, not cranky, Fish.

Birmingham astrologer Dennis Fairchild is an author of several books on divination. For information about personal consultations, phone (248) 646-3555 or e-mail DenFairchild@aoi.com.



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kids are the

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COMICS

FROM PAGE B1

superheroes like Spider-man, the Hulk or The Fantastic

"Comics have always been violent," said A to Z Cards and

Comics' Rea. "Today's comics are more graphic, as is everything else. They're just following the trend in society," Rea said. "R-rated is more popular than PG-13."

That isn't to say that every comic book out there is filled with death, doom and destruction. Not everyone lusts after big explosions, decapitations and rapid fire. There are plenty of comics that avoid the violence and instead rely upon humor, love or just plain weirdness.

One of the hottest types of comics, which are off-the-beaten superhero track, are the Manga books from Japan. Based on the multi-million dollar Japanese animation scene, these books have attracted a whole new crowd of comic fans.

Flower

Directory

More fans are always a good thing for comic retailers.

"Right now, Manga comic sales are exploding," said Rea. "They're released in a graphic novel form every few months with a

price range of \$8 to \$10." The Manga comics reach far and wide for their story themes. They cover love, horror, comedy and alien life forms, to name

a few. Rea said that Manga is extremely popular with kids. There are several video games and television shows that are based on Manga books and

characters. Movies have also played an important role in getting people, especially kids, into comic book stores.

"The movies based on comic book characters were good for bringing kids into our store," said Bill Barker of Comic Archives in Redford. "These

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'Right now, Manga comic sales are exploding."

comic read-He adds that the A to Z Cards and Comics

movies also brought back adults who "wandered" away from the comic scene.

Many of the adults who read comics now did so as kids, but left comics behind. Now they're older and settled down. They also have a few extra dollars in their pocket and after watching the latest superhero movies, the old comic bug has returned.

Braun, Barker and Rea all feel that the future of comics is strong. Sales will never match the 1940s, where single issues would sell a million copies. But they all agreed that comics will remain popular as long as Hollywood keeps using superhero characters in their movies.

Right now, there are movies coming out for Blade. Superman, Batman, Hellraiser, The Fantastic Four and Electra from Daredevil.

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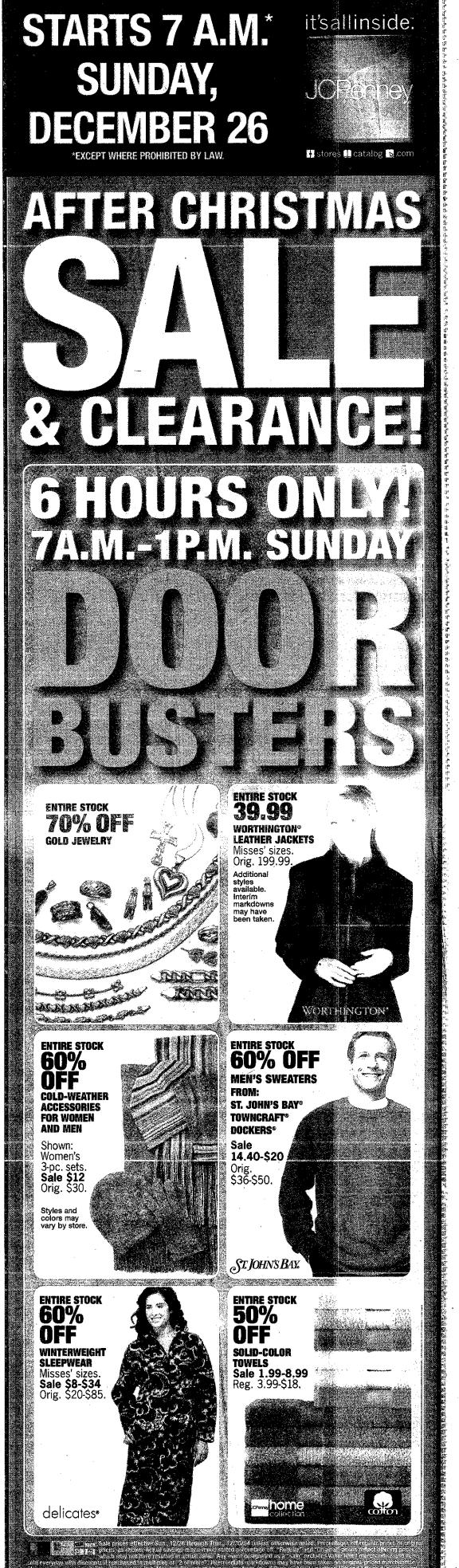
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University big band teaches teamwork

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

'Mark Nilan's hands move as effortlessly over the keys as those of his teacher Matt Michaels. The 21-year old jazz student has come a long way from his classical beginnings. Now in his third year with the Wavne State University Big Band, Nilan plans to earn a master's degree in jazz studies at the University of Southern California after spending next gummer playing with legendary musicians such as Earth, Wind & Fire, and Smokey Robinson in Greece. Nilan began playing piano at age 5 but it was only six years ago that he first tried his hand at jazz as part of the Creative and Performing Arts Program at Churchill High School in Livonia. The WSU Lab Band I is the group to play with at the university. It is composed of graduate and undergraduate students who must pass an audition to perform alongside musicians such as Mel Wanzo, lead trombone with the Count Basie Orchestra for 28 years, and Vincent Chandler who blayed trombone with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and Wynton Marsalis before returning to school. During the year, they perform at a variety of venues around town includ-



Lab Band I members Michael Karloff (left), Colton Weatherston, Shannon Wade, Ben Jannsenn, Sam Beaubien, Nate Winn (drums), and Brishen Miller rehearse with a smaller group at Wayne State University.

ing the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival and Michigan Jazz Festival at Schoolcraft College.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 26, 2004

'The band gives us an opportunity to play in front of a crowd," said Mark Nilan who's interest in music comes from his father who owns the Live Wire recording studio in Livonia, "Twice a week we get to play just for ourselves."

Lab Band I is one of many opportunities for students to gain experience playing with a group. The 60 jazz majors can take their choice of two guitar bands, 11 combos and three big bands.

Michaels co-founded the jazz studies program with Dennis Tini and James Hartway in 1979. Today, students earning undergraduate and graduate degrees learn not only to perform, but compose and arrange music.

"The most important function of the band is to give students discipline in learning to play with other people so when they do it in the professional world they will have had that experience," said Matt Michaels, a Southfield pianist who plays frequently around town with his trio. Michaels is

director of jazz studies at the university.

Michaels steps down as director of Lab Band I in January when Chris Collins returns from a sabbatical. Michaels led the group for 18vears.

"We train them to do theater or shows at the Fox," said Michaels. "Our goal is the ultimate in training as a big band. We try to make them team

To practice what he preaches, Michaels takes the bands to play at high schools.

"We take it out to schools to expose the younger people in high schools," said Michaels. "Most high schools have jazz bands now. I also use it to recruit students."

Playing for crowds is important to Joshua Marion of Romeo, a 23-year old baritone saxophonist. Marion graduates in May with a bachelor's degree and plans to go on for a master's before teaching junior high students.
"This is the premier band at

Wayne State," said Marion. "The music is very challenging. You learn to read very well and it gives you an idea of what it's

like to play a club scene." Colton Weatherston of West

Bloomfield especially appreciates being able to play with musicians that were on the road with the likes of Basie and Marsalis.

"I'm interested in jazz history. We have living history in the band with Mel Wanzo," said Weatherston, a 31-yearold graduate student who earned his bachelor's at the University of Michigan School of Music.

"Jazz is kind of the foundation for many other kinds of popular music. Jazz musicians need to perform with each other. It creates a greater understanding of our form of expression.

Big band styles were popular in the 30s and 40s. The foundation was created during that era. For young guys it helps us learn about our instruments and repertoire. Even though the bands are no longer economically viable it helps us to study that and take the ideas to play what we do now."

For more information about the jazz studies program, call the music department (313) 577-1795.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Zaremberg-VanDyke

Mark and Lillian Zaremberg of Redford announce the engagement of their daughter, Marlene Lisa, to Gregory VanDyke of Waterford Township.

Marlene is a graduate of Michigan State University. She is a regional group banking specialist for Huntington Bank.

Her fiancé, Gregory, is the son of Roger and Janice VanDyke of Grand Rapids. He is a graduate of Grand Valley State University. He is business owner/regional sales manager for International Logistics Co.

Gregory and Marlene are planning a May 2005 wedding in East Congregational Church in Grand Rapids.

Moon-Guzowski

Joseph and Marilyn Moon of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Michelle Anne, to Michael Ray Guzowski of Belleville.

Michelle is a graduate of Ladywood High School. She received her bachelor's degree in English literature and political science from University of Michigan-Dearborn. She is a second year law student at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Her fiancé, Michael, is the

son of Mike and Vicki Guzowski of Canton. He is a graduate of Catholic Central High School. He is currently



Carey-Liebau

Dan and Denise Carey of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Danielle, to Dan Liebau of Garden City.

Danielle is a graduate of Garden City High School. She received a bachelor's degree in marketing from Eastern Michigan University.

Her fiancé, Dan, is the son of Bill Liebau of Plymouth and Jackie Liebau of Livonia. He is a graduate of Catholic Central High School and received his bachelor's degree in marketing from Northwood University. He is a senior mortgage broker with First Horizon.

Dan and Danielle are planning a June 2005 wedding at St. James Catholic Church in



attending Eastern Michigan University. He is a full-time police officer in Dearborn Heights.

Michael and Michelle are planning a May 2005 wedding at Howe's Chapel in Evanston,

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RESOLUTIONS

FROM PAGE B1

resolution to enhance the shopping experience by adding, a play area, the Longhorn House restaurant in January, and Pizzeria Uno in May. Personally, he's making a resolution to get himself back into

Merrick Kreer plans to live a healthier, more spiritually satisfying life.

That will lead into a happier life," said Kreer, a 24-year old security officer. "I'm going to change what I eat. I'm trying to be conscious of calories, work out, and grow spiritually. I've been visiting different churches but it's difficult because I work Sundays."

At Madonna University, Sister Ann Stamm is resigning herself to the new year. The Felician nun is professor and chair of religion and philoso-

SUNDAY

CHRISTMAS:

 Fruit, Berries and Candle Rings Christmas Drieds & Pinecones Holiday Wrap, Bows and Bags

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phy at the university, and chaplain for the Livonia Police Department.

It's something I've done for years," said Sister Stamm. "I'll take the 2005 calendar and on Dec. 31, I write yes and sign my name to accept whatever comes that year."

Jack Wilson will have plenty of time to formulate his plans for 2005 on New Year's Eve. The Plymouth resident decided not to attend The Resolution Ball for singles because of his 9-month old Leader Dog in training. Wilson doesn't want to bring along a jumping puppy. It's not a good way to impress ladies at the Rochester dance put on by Table for Eight & The Social Connection, a networking and introduction service. For more information or to make reservations, visit www.TheSocialConnection.co m, www.TableforEight.com, or call (248) 543-1000.

"I hadn't thought about it, but I have goals to do more

volunteer work," said Wilson, a 44-year-old bachelor who's never been married. Wilson became a Table for Eight member after attending the New Year's Eve Party in 2001. "I work for an automotive supplier and I'm in the process of being laid off. I want a job I'm more passionate about. I'm going back to school full time in January to become a

teacher. "Finding Mrs. Right is a perennial on the list."

Regina Stocco, president of The Social Connection Companies, has come up with tips for finding the perfect mate in the new year. She advises singles to be proactive. Don't sit home New Year's Eve. Go out and make things hap-

Think like the opposite sex. Go to places they like to go. Try new things and don't be afraid to go it alone.

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Michael 1

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Dances are 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Top D.J. Cash bar, hors d'oeuvres (8-9 p.m.) Door prizes. Admission is \$5/members, \$9/non-members unless otherwise noted. Ballrooms are non-smoking. Attire is dressy casual (no blue jeans or tennis snoes) unless otherwise

New Years Eve - Friday, Dec. 31, at Double Tree Guest Suites, Novi, 27000 Sheraton Drive, Novi Road at I-96, Exit 162. \$55/advance or \$65/door. Aftire is holiday dressy, men must wear a coat and tie. (248) 851-9919 or (248) 544-

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REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

Clawson High School Class of 1955

A 50-year reunion is being planned. For more information, call Barbara or Warner at (248) 435-4351 or email

wiseppi@wideopenwest.com. Grosse Pointe North

Class of 1991 Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylor27 reunions.com or e-mail: info@taylorreunions.com.

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Looking for classmates for reunion. Please contact Kathie at (734) 525-

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Classes of 1964, 1965 1966 A combined reunion is planned for the summer of 2005. Volunteers needed. For details contact Howie Ambinder, email at nancyambinder@comcast.net.



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Observer & Eccentric

Page B6

Hugh Gallagher, editor

Fax: (734) 591-7279 hgallagher@oe.homecomm:net

Sleep: It's what your body needs

t may sound odd, but sleep is an important part of living an active, healthy life.

However, studies are showing that parents and children are not getting enough sleep. And when we get into this time of the year, it's even easier to miss out on our sleep, what with all the parties and visiting and

Now some people may think that sleeping is a waste of time, but really it's as important to our well-being as a good diet and exercise. Lack of sleep can affect our moods, our minds and our bodies. Without it we can be cranky, not think clearly or perform as well.

So here are a few tips that I follow:

■ Set a regular bedtime each night

Get into a routine to help you wind down Don't eat before going to

Give thanks for the good

things that happened; forget about the others

Turn off that TV or that computer, and just go to sleep. You'll feel rested, recharged and more alert for the following

And remember, take care of your health before it's lonnggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns titled Life After Baseball, is available at local bookstores or by calling (800) 245-5082.

Hands-on education

Center gives hope to parents of children with autism

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

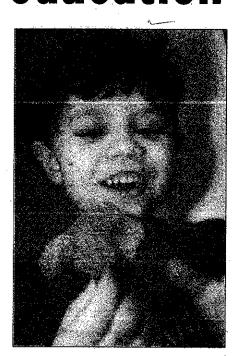
In a colorful room filled with toys, Gail Hieronymus coaxes 4-year-old Max to make a happy face. Expression doesn't come easily to the young Livonia boy with autism, a neurodevelopmental disorder affecting a child's ability to speak, play and interact social-

Max is slowly learning to communicate thanks to training Hieronymus received at the HOPE Center, the Hands-On Parent Education program run by William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, At the center, staff showed Hieronymus how to teach Max during three-hour sessions, five days a week for three months. His father Mark and brother Justin, 13, went a few times as well so they could work with Max on fine motor skills like tying a shoelace. Upon completing the program, families have the option of continuing behavioral intervention at the center or with the assistance of a consultant at home.

"We use a scavenger hunt for teaching prepositions. It takes two people," Gail Hieronymus said during a working session in the basement of her home. "We try to get Max to include you in play and promote verbalization. It teaches him to interact with others.

You have to be real creative and have reinforcers that are fun for him. Treats aren't real effective with Max."

Mark says he's seen a huge improvement since Max and Hieronymus attended the program. He was more



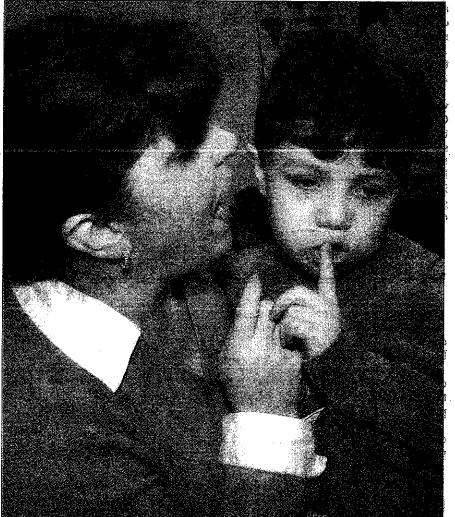
Max has fun playing with Play Doh.

like the old Max they knew until shortly after his second birthday. Until then Max was able to say words like mama, but then quit talking and making eye contact after a bad reaction to an HIB vaccination. Hieronymus first thought it was speech delay when Max was a puppy for Halloween and wouldn't

For the last two years, Max has attended preschool three hours a day at Perrinville Early Childhood Center, a Livonia Public Schools program for children with visual impairment and developmental delays. Hieronymus leads a support group there on the fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, send e-mail to gail61500@aol.com.

"His speech has improved tremendously, eye contact, listening," Mark Hieronymus said. "You can tell him to do things he now does. He had some verbal skills, but not a lot."

Progress happens one step at a time. Max recently was signed up for a bowl-



PHOTOS BY HEATHER ROUSSEAU

Five-year-old Max Hieronymus, who is autistic, has one of his regular learning sessions with his mom Gail Hieronymus. Max learns various hand gestures such as to be quiet.

ing league at Woodland Lanes in Livonia to learn turn taking and other social skills. Until recently, it was always Max's turn.

"You pull things out of him you don't know he can do," Hieronymus said. "He can read. He knows his numbers. He loves to do things on the computer. I use it as reinforcer. It's what works."

At the HOPE Center, Jamie McGillivary oversees the training going on in rooms devoted to using the principals of applied behavior analysis, a field within psychology.

"We're taking giant size skills and

breaking them down into bite size pieces," said McGillivary, director of the center which opened two years ago. "We're teaching them to communicate" to play, to socialize, self-help skills, stepby-step. The moms take data on how fast the child is making gains. Our goal is to teach parents to teach their children. We focus on ages 2-5. Early intervention is key for these kids. They don't learn the same way.

"They're in each room for 12 to 15 minutes focusing on a different skill. ABA is not sitting at a table drilling a

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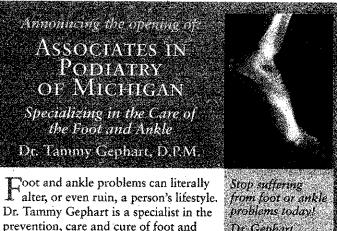


Seminar to focus on nutrition, learning

Good nutrition can improve learning. The Center for Lifelong Learning of Henry Ford Community College, in conjunction with Wayne County RESA, is offering a one-day seminar "Feed the Brain for Learning & Achievement," 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at Wayne County RESA, 33500 Van Born Road, Wayne.

The cost is \$50 and includes a 70-page workbook and lunch. Preregistration and payment required by Jan. 21. Call (313) 317-1500.

In this seminar, Sandy Baumann, author of Feed Your Brain for Learning, will provide easy, research-based strategies for parents and educators to nourish students' brains for learning.



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MS patients receive help

Group Exercise for Multiple Sclerosis meets every Friday at the Livonia YMCA on Stark Road, group swim from 6-7 p.m. Support group meeting is 7-8 p.m.

For more information, contact Karolyn Davis at (734) 459-9715 or Mike Hickey at (734) 522-0036.





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Treatment for kids with autism costly

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Joan Kern and Gail Hieronymus would do just about anything to help their dpildren overcome developmental and social delays caused by autism. Cost sometimes prevents them from try-

ing treatments. Both participated in the 12week program at the HOPE Senter to learn how to teach heir children fine motor and social interaction skills but neither was able to afford the folow-up care based on behavisral intervention. They strugd just to afford the initial st of \$7,000.

"It's a lot of money and insurance doesn't cover it," said Joan Kern, a Bloomfield Township resident who participated in the program five days a week from August to October with her 4-year-old son, Luke.

Like Kern, Hieronymus said the improvement in her son Max, 4, was worth every dollar but wonders why insurance companies don't pay for treatment.

"We couldn't afford the continuing CARE Program for three hours a day with a therapist. It costs \$12,000," said Gail Hieronymus. "At home a consultant comes out. We never stop working. We're constantly working at it. At the

center Max made a 23-month gain in three months in knowing what he's seeing (visual reception). In speaking it was 12 months of gain. By the time he left, he was able to ask for things like a ball."

Frequently families of children with autism are frustrated by the lack of effective treatments. Hieronymus and Max tried a variety of options before discovering the HOPE Center. "Everything costs a fortune," said Hieronymus. "We tried an Internet program that cost \$1300 and it was just a scam. We tried diets. Not everything

At the HOPE Center, direc-

works for each kid."

tor Jamie McGillivary and parents in the program continue to amass data attesting to the effectiveness of the behavioral intervention program so that insurance companies will eventually cover the expense.

"This is medically necessary." said McGillivary. "So far, since we opened two years ago, we've had 10 families covered 100 percent, and some who received partial reimbursement. We're receiving some scholarship money through Cadillac, but thus far, autism has been a disorder only for the wealthy."

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child. It's teaching based on rewards - what will motivate them? Every child is different. A lot of times it's food, but we soon substitute with praise, sometimes toys, tickles, bubbles, which are more natural."

Joan Kern has seen tremendous growth in her 4-year-old son Luke since they participated in the program this fall. The Bloomfield Township boy was diagnosed with autism a year ago. Since age 3, he has been enrolled in an early intervention program through the Avondale School District. Like Hieronymus, Kern is continuing to teach Luke at home with the

help of a consultant. When Luke was little he was a good baby, but I had a son who was speech delayed and noticed Luke was quiet," Joan Kern said.

abilities involved. "The HOPE Center designed a program for him, then they teach

you. They're always there work-

"But autism is more than communication. There's cognitive

ing with you. It helped Luke a lot. He didn't talk before. Now he. can say I want a cookie. Before he would just get what he want-

Like Hieronymus, Kern in the past used a PEC (Picture Exchange Communication) system to make it easier to discern Luke's needs and wants. Photographs are taken of familiar objects and placed in a book the child uses to convey a wish for something like a cookie. Hieronymus says the system allows family members to communicate without the use of sign language, which is sometimes taught at the center.

"They're real structured," Kern said. "It keeps you hopping so you don't get bored. You want that cure and it's not there. It's hard. His accomplishment is extra special."

For more information on autism, visit the American Academy of Pediatrics at www.aap.org. To learn more about the HOPE Center within Beaumont's Center for Human Development, call (248) 691-

Ichomin@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2145.

Snow shoveling calls for some caution

Shoveling snow can lead to medical complications particularly resulting from

heart strain. The staff of the Emergency Medicine department at Henry Ford Hospital says the key to avoiding problems is dressing properly and taking it slow.

Shoveling snow can be dangerous to one's health. Studies have shown that physically unfit people who engage in

activities such as shoveling snow were 100 percent higher at risk for a heart attack than the physically fit.

Those who should not shovel snow are the elderly, people with high blood pressure, those with a history of heart disease or risk factors such as smoking, obesity and high cholesterol levels.

Everyone else should lift small rather.

than large, heavy loads. Dress in layers. As you warm up, remove layers.

Perform light exercises before shoveling and rest every few minutes as you work.

Don't use a heavy shovel, eat a heavy meal before shoveling, drink alcohol, smoke or take caffeine immediately before or after shoveling. These substances constrict blood vessels adding additional strain to the heart.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JANUARY

Benefit performance

UA3

An evening's entertainment can help a child get a good night's sleep. The Tuesday, Jan. 4, performance of Mitch Albom's new play, "Duck Hunter Shoots Angel," will benefit Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit, a non-profit program that works with the University of Michigan Steep Center and provides bedtime essentials and sleep education to at-risk children to help improve their school performance. Tickets are \$25, with half of the proceeds going to Sweet Dreamzzz. Call (248) 645-6666; enter code DREAMZ. The performance is at 8 p.m. at City Theatre, inside Hockeytown Cafe in

Menopause & More Support Group Urologist Dr. Levran speaks about urinary incontinence 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, in West Addition Classroom No. 2 at Marian Women Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration necessary. No charge. Call (734) 655-1100. The group meets the first Nednesday of the month. Feb. 2 Rebecca DeLoy shares tips to help us organize our times and lives to help

us work more efficiently and smarter. For more information, visit www.cometoorder.biz.

Prostate Support Group Learn how prostate cancer develops in the body at a discussion of the pathology of prostate cancer 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 6, at University of Michigan Hospital, Room 20108, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor. For information call (734) 936-5938.. The program) sponsored by the Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, will feature Rajal Shah, M.D., clinical assistant professor of Pathology at the U-M Medical School, who will explain the nature of prostate cancer, its causes, processes,

development and consequences. **Blood Drive**

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 West 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. No appointment necessary. For more information, call

(248) 476-8860. lunger Within W

The step-by-step workshop explores the reasons for overeating, identified

COMMUNITYFINANCIAL

Thinking forward. Banking right.

triggers that precipitate a binge, and helps break the vicious cycle of emotional eating, Marilyn Migliore, author of The Hunger Within: A Twelve-week Self-Guided Journey from Compulsive Eating to Recovery, facilitates the workshop's two sessions running 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10 to March 28, and noon to 1 p.m. 5:30-6:30 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13 to March 31, at the University of Michigan Health System Preventive Cardiology Clinic in Domino's Farms. To register, call (734) 998-6000. Ext. 258. The cost is \$300 and includes the

Divorce support

book. The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College offers a free Divorce Support Group 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, attorney Patricia Kasody-Covie will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come. First served basis, 4 Room 225 of the McDowell Center on cambus, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia, The group provides a forum for discussion receiving and sharing of infor-

mation for those contemplating, in

the process of or having difficulty

adjusting to divorce. For more information, call the WRC at (734) 462-4443.

Preventing osteoarthritis

A free seminar with Dr. Nicole Whitehead for people who want to remain active and pain-free into their senior years 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. Whitehead will focus on what contributes to arthritis, nutrition for healthy joints, and how to prevent arthritis. To register, call (248) 426-0201.

Fibromyalgia workshop

Dr. Kramer will give the free workshop 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, at the Carl Sandburg Library on Seven Mile in Livonia. Kramer reveals the truth behind what can be causing fibromyalgia. Seating is limited. To register, call (248) 426-0201.

Divorce Recovery Workshop

Bethany Rochester conducts a worksnop beginning 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, for 11 weeks, at St. Irenacus Catholic Church, 7710 Old Perch Road, Rochester Hills. The workshon is onen to the divorced and separated of all faiths. For more information, call Mike at (248).652-3860.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860



ARM PAIN

Often, arm pain does not result from arthritis, but occurs because of impaired nerve endings. At times, you feel the presence of a damaged nerve because of numbness in the hand or arm. But such is not always the case. You may interpret pain, stiffness, or tingling down the arm as a form of pain. The discomfort movement brings to the arm may cause you to use the arm less or put strain on muscles in the wrist or hand. The result is that you teel your grip or arm strength is weakening.

The pattern of your pain, numbness, tingling or weakness allow the doctor to decide if your problem comes from joint or muscles, or is primarily due to damaged nerve.

If the problem comes from a pinched nerve in the neck, your discomfort radiates from the neck, down the back of the arm to the fingers, if the cervical nerve 7 is pinched, the 2nd and 3rd finger feel numb or tingly. If the 8th cervical nerve is compressed, then your discomfort radiates in a similar manner into the 4th and 5th digits. If you experience nerve impingement by your elbow, then the palmer side of the arm and he 4th and 5th fingers on the palmer side of the hand are either painful or numb. If the

reason for your problem is carpal tunnel compression, then the thumb, 2nd and 3rd digit on the palmer side are numb and tingling, mainly at night.

In most instances, your doctor does not need x-ray of the neck or MRI of the neck or wrist to make a diagnosis; the features of your pain reveal the source of the problem. However, nerve conduction studies are useful, as they tell how extensive the damage is. www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com



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MARY JANE(nee Gerbig) WOLFORD-HUGHES Age 84, December 20, 2004. Wife of

late John Patrick Hughes Sr. and Eugene Wolford. Loving Mother of Diane (Robert) Sheppard, Maureen (Jeffery) Blackman, Michael (Joanne) Wolford, John Wolford, James (Maureen) Wolford, Joseph (Cathy) Wolford, and Therese (David) Jamison. Step-mother of Judith (William) Petrere, Christine (Jack) Berry, Dianne Haas (William Hatz). John P. Hughes Jr., Michael Hughes, Elaine (Richard) Grohman, Maureen (Mark) Peterson, Paul (Lisa) Hughes and the late Brian Hughes. Loving friend and companion Lily Underwood. 26 beloved grandchildren. Sister of Frank (Patricia) Gerbig. Visitation was held at the O Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home 41555 Grand River, Novi, 248-348-1800. Family requests contributions sent to: St. Leo Soup Kitchen, 4860 15th. Street, Detroit, MI 48208. Capuchins Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207-3496 and The Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17152 Baltimore MD 21298-8452. Online sympathy message www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

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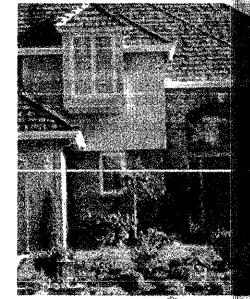
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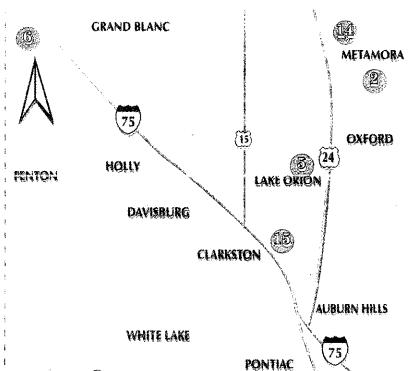
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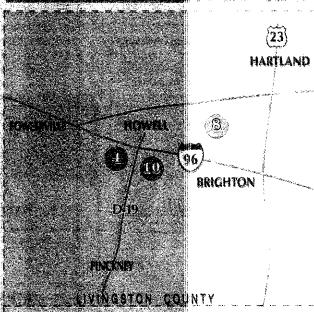
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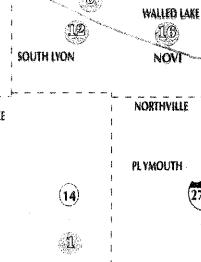


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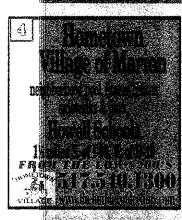
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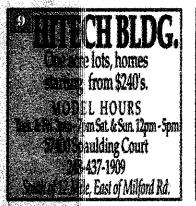
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Boomer retirees stay put to enjoy family, friends and work

when the Rock 'n' Roll generation retires. The people who came of age in the '60s continue to reinvent culture as they approach their own sixties.

These Baby Boomers will redefine retirement. "Following the sun" may be the conventional image of the sunset years but 89 percent of Americans aged 55 and older say they want to remain in their homes when they retire, according to the American Association of Retired

What's more, the Bureau of Labor Statistics says older Americans will work in record-setting numbers over the next

"More than ever, Americans seek to build on family and community ties in their later years by staying close to relatives and by keeping active in the business world," says home furnishings expert Susan Dountas of Sauder. "They're rethinking their living spaces to create their own retirement havens right

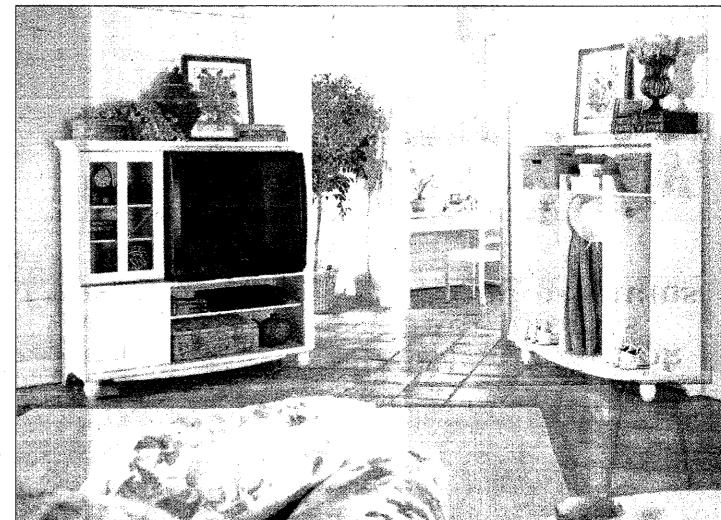
at home." She suggests several ways to redesign the home front.

Transform formal rooms into relaxed retirement retreats with kid-friendly spaces. Start with a welcoming light color scheme and add traditional elements such as cottage or country furnishings, for a sense of warmth and connectedness.

Choose low maintenance, skid-free flooring, easy-care fabric covers and washable furniture finishes. A storage cubby adds organizing ease and provides space for young guests to stow outdoor gear and sports equipment.

"Adding a ground floor bedroom can enhance safety and convenience," notes Dountas.

Retirees can incorporate many favorite elements into home decor. An oversized window can fill the room with light and make the most of a view. Repositioning outlets and switches or adding shower and bath "grips" can bring greater comfort and security.



Today's retirees outfit their homes for upbeat, active lives revolving around family, friends, work and fun. Adding furniture... recreation-minded components creates a well-rounded, multi-purpose room.

A guest room can encourage visits from family and friends. Choose furnishings that accommodate children and adults. Put out favorite stuffed animals and games for the grandchildren. Tuck away the toys for a grown-up guest room. Incorporate all pages a guest

room amenities, such as reading lights, books and frequently torgotten toiletries.

Create a home office/home entertainment center." Mature adults can maintain their professional lives in the same space where they enjoy time with friends in Legand (1946) - Done has says,

"Adding furniture for large-scale TVs and other recreation-minded components creates a well-rounded, multi-purpose room, Doumas notes. "As retiring becomes an active verb, Boomers are reshaping the hour front along with convention dayis an about later life."

make your nouse sater, more livable as you age

hey say that we live in "Peter Pan" housing: Built for people who never grow old. But we all grow old. The overwhelming tendency for aging adults is to adapt their behavior to the house. It's a natural response because aging takes place so slowly we don't even realize we're doing it. We use the furniture to steady ourselves when we get up quickly. We hold on to the wall when climbing into the bathtub. We put brighter bulbs in our lamps so that we can keep on reading the newspaper.

But there comes a time when you find yourself scooting sideways to make your walker fit through the bathroom door, and yet you just keep adjusting to the house you've always lived in. It never occurs to you to make your house adjust to you.

That one step from the family room to the kitchen level that is all too prevalent in the 1960's houses is a prime example. You have to somehow get all four legs of your walker up or down that step, which requires you to lean entirely too far forward. A small ramp would solve that problem. Falls in the home are the singular most significant problem among aging

It's time that we realize that aging is something that happens to everyone if we're lucky. Let's enjoy it and realize that our houses should work for us, not against us.

Here are the top 9 simple changes that the AARP recommends to make your home safer and more livable as you age.

- 1.) Use plug-in night lights in your bathroom and hallways. 2.) Install non-skid strips in your bath-
- tub and shower 3.) Replace light bulbs with higher
- wattages to help you see better. 4.) Replace faucets knobs with lever handles to make turning on and off water
- 5.) Replace your telephone with one that has larger numbers, letters and the keys that you hit to dial.
- 6.) Use double sided tape to secure car-



It's time that we realize that aging is something that happens to everyone if we're lucky. Let's enjoy it and realize that our houses should work for us, not against us.

pets and throw rugs.

7.) Install an emergency response system that automatically notifies authorities in the case of medical or fire emergencies.

8.) Replace door knobs with levers to make opening doors easier.

9.) Install non-slip step strips on your stairs.

The faucets, door knobs and emergency system would require some professional assistance, but the majority of that list could be done in a day from items purchased at your local hardware store.

Just as aging is a slow process, so could be the adjustments you make to your house. The key is to remember that your house works for you and not vise-versa. Here are the next modifications you should consider. Consider these modifications before you think you need them. Don't wait for a fall.

1.) Light switches at the top and bottom of your stairway can reduce the chances of falling or tripping. And if you want to go all out, get the lighted switches.

2.) Install handrails on both sides of your stairways. 3.) Install grab bars in your bathrooms, toilet area and tub/shower area.

4.) If you need a walker, even temporarily, widen your bathroom doorway and any doorway that you use frequently.

5.) Add a ramp. One step is enough to need a ramp. The garage entry, the family room step-down.

There are so many ways to make your house work for you. Handicap accessible bathrooms are a wonderful way add value to your investment and make your home livable for a lifetime. It's worth considering. For the cost of a typical bathroom remodel, you can add the features that will allow you the amenities you need. A roll in shower eliminates the typical shower curb. Walker or wheelchair access is achieved with a designer look. Add a seated area in the shower, handrails, somewhere to stash the soap so that you don't slip on it, and an adjustable arm shower-head. It looks like a bath at the Ritz, your needs are met and you've increased the value of your home. Admit it, that bathroom needed an update any-

So where do you find the professionals who know how to accomplish this? Check with your local Remodelors Council at www.remodelor.org. Some remodelers specialize in Aging in Place modifications. The National Association of Home Builders along with the AARP created training and certification for Aging in Place and it's called, CAPS: Certified Aging in Place Specialist. That's a good place to start. Both the NAHB and the AARP Web sites will direct you to CAPS builders in your area. But like any remodeling project, ask your friends, get a referral, check references, make sure that you feel comfortable with the person with whom you are dealing. Do your homework. Don't be shy. You're still the boss.

Patty Shea has 23 years experience in building and remodeling homes. She was honored as the 2004 Remodelor of the Year by the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan and will serve as Vice Chairperson of the BIA Remodelors Council in 2005

Meadowbrook Townhomes Condomini



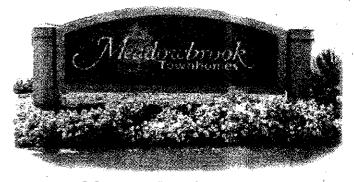
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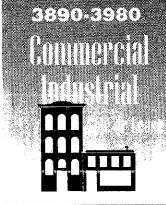




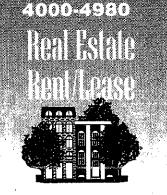






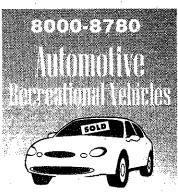


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Mint condition 2 bdrm, 1 bath ranch has updated roof, furnace, C/A., Hot water heater & concrete drive. Living room w/fire-place. Florida room over-looks fenced yard. Bsmt.

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garage. \$153,900 (NA127) CENTURY 21 TODAY (313) 538-2000

bsmt. 1.5 car garage. Large front porch & patio. 2 fire-places. 1 yr. home warranty. 8933 Rockland. \$145,900.

REDFORD

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3370 Royai Oak

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ease also available

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Look for this to appear in Section C of the paper!

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Living room w/fireplace Formal dining room, den

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Huge newer kitchen w/granite counters. 7' peninsula opens to family room. Partially finished bsmt_\$419,000 (R0181) **Century** (248) 647-8888

Real Estate 517-223-0100

Over 3,000 sq. ft. fin Ished living space, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. FO-534 \$334,109 New Construction,

\$269,900

\$229,900 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2,500 sq. ft., FO-439 Pinckney Schools \$349,900

2.5 acres, 4 bedroom

3.0 acres, 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, Fowlerville Schools

2,300 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, FO-511 Fowlerville Schools

Updated, fresh paint! FO-509 Fowlerville Schools \$169,900

Walled Lake Schools \$299,900 Convenient location.

\$169,900 Nice Sub! Newer 1,440 sq. ft. home, 3 BRs, 1.5 baths. FO-531.

Fowlerville Schools \$197,900

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Fowlerville, MI 48836 517-223-0100



Both properties are a must see! Great detail, crown moldings, neutral decor in each.

bathrooms.

Rose Auction Group, LLC 877.696-7653 Beth ROSE Www.hethroseauction.com



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3030

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3047

JUST LISTED! A HOME FOR YOU! Classic 50's brick ranch offers 3 bdrm & full bsmt.



3060

A HOME FOR YOU! Beautiful 5 bdrm, 3.5 bath colonial on nearly an acre. Open floor plan. Updated kitchen opens to family room w/fireplace. Finished walk-out lower level opens to paver patio. 3 car garage. Immediate occu-

garage. Immediate occu pancy. \$304,900 (BU116)

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JUST LISTED!

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Garage, immediate Occup Move in ready \$217,000 CALL CAROL COPPING

JUST LISTED!

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www.century21today.com JUST LISTED A HOME FOR YOU! Family room wifirplace har movie theatre & sauna. car garage. Gazebo. ooded lot. \$380,000

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Ferndale

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Century

CENTURY 21 TODAY (248) 647-8888 www.century21today.com 3250 Livonia

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JUST LISTED! **BEDROOM BRICK RANCH**

yard. Newer roof, driveway, patio, furnace & C/A. \$144,900 (LE174)

Make



Newer windows. (\$149,900. (AR890)

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Perch. 2 car garage. \$140,000. (TE914)

www.century21today.com JUST LISTED! A HOME FOR YOU! Updated ranch w/3 bdrm. & 1.5 baths. Newer kitchen. bath, windows, furnace C/A., roof & more! Finished hsmt

www.century21today.com BEAUTIFUL 3 bdrm 2 bath Brick Ranch. New carpeting, newer roof, built in dishwasher, all appli-ances stay. Partially finished

MERRY CHRISTMAS! This 3bdrm brick ranch,1.5 baths, completely remodeled w/Oak Merrilat Cabinets in Kitchen. Newer stove and refrigerator. Immediate Occu-pancy. Available w/zero down and/or No Closing cost. If Offer is Accepted by Dec. 31 2004 a BIG SCREEN TV up to 52" will be included. For more info: Call Bill at McHenry Realty 734-266-1955

Move Right Int

3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,800 sq. ft., FO-516 Fowlerville Schools 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2,000 sq. ft., FO-487 Fowlerville Schools

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\$199,000

over 1,800 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, Fowlerville Schools

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housing cooperative locat ed on 13.5 acres of oper landscape. Near majo Wayne freeways Westland School District Immediate occupancy for & 2 bedrooms. Equities: \$4480-\$4590

For more info, contact 734-729-7262. West Bloomfield

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A HOME FOR YOU! Elegant colonial. 4 bdrm 3.5 bath, 2,242 sq. fi Living room, dining room family room w/fireplace cathedral ceiling. Man updates. Appliances stay Finished bsmt. 2 car garage w/opener. Deck. Sprinkler system. \$299,900 (GL591)



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West Bloomfield

JUST LISTED! A HOME FOR YOU!

Spacious 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath olonial. Circular staircase amily room w/fireplace Kitchen w/breakfast room Master bedroom suite Nicely finished lower leve w/private office. 2 car garage. \$309,900 (AP554)



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Condos

Wayne County

INKSTER - 3 bedroom, for sale by owner. Land contract. \$4,000 down. Weak credit okay. (734) 578-3579.

3720

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www.century21today.com PLYMOUTH **DAISY SQUARE CONDO** Lease 2,400 sq. ft., 3.5 baths

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townhouse. Living room, dining room. Finished bsmt, w/full bath. Private courtyard & balcony. 2 ca attached garage w/extra long driveway. Pool & club-house. \$175,000 (SH250)

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7.39 acres, FOV-527, \$140,000 8.13 acres, FOV-528, \$160,000 60 acres w/splits, FOV-533, \$299,900 25 acres w/splits, FOV-535, \$269,500 3.6 acres rolling, w/pine trees, FOV-537, \$75,000

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Thomas Ervin

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"A CLEAN HOME SELLS"

One of the most sensitive topics to discuss with any homeowner is the state of cleanliness of his or her home. One person's opinion of cleanliness may be much different than that of another person. There is one fact, however, that is indisputable. a clean house sells faster and at a higher price than a similar home that is not as well kept.

If you are planning on selling your home, don't overlook the value of cleanliness. Remember, that people make many of their decisions with their emotions. this is also true when buying a house. People feel better when walking through a home that is clean. They stay longer during the showing and give it more serious consideration.

Another factor to keep in mind is the importance of the perception of the real estate community. A motivated Realtor® is your key to selling success. Realtors® have feelings like everyone else. If Realtors® see that your home is clean and well kept, they will be much more enthusiastic when describing your home to their customers.

If your home is not as clean as it could be, buyers are turned off. They don't stay in the house any longer than they have to. They also suspect, rightly or wrongly, that there may be other problems with the house. Some of the following questions go through their minds: If the house is not kept clean, has it been mechanically maintained? Does the roof leak? What hidden defects will I encounter if I choose to buy this house?

There are some things you can do to keep your home clean and looking its best while your home is for sale. Ask for cooperation from all family members to keep bedrooms in top shape after rising in the morning. Make periodic inspections of all bathrooms on a regular basis. Choose one room every two or three days for special cleanup attention: You might want to consider hiring a cleaning service to come in once a week while your home is on the

ADVICE: Your Realtor® is quite aware of the condition of other homes that are for sale. Ask your agent how your home compares from a cleanliness standpoint.

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charm. Three bedroom brick ranch, built full basement, two car attached garage, a windows '03, carpet '02, master suite ('02), newer windows (92), glass block secluded setting with mature trees with fireplace and Jacuzzi. Skylight, pool, (approximately 3/4 acres). Call Mike patio & deck. Call Sylvia Florence Albert. appliances and home warranty. Call Judae.



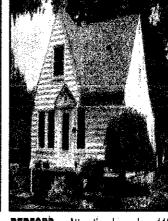
\$314,900 (H31380) 734-591-9200x155 \$229,900



bedroom custom quad with gourmet oak ranch with gourmet oak kitchen, family ('99), 2-tier deck, backs to woods. All



Four bdrm, 2 bath, 2,133 sq. ft. Open floor plan with vaulted ceilings in living room, dining room and kitchen New roof ('04), new windows & door. Florida room overlooking landscaped and fenced yard. Call Mike Judge. 734-216-4942 \$269,000 (W34175) 734-591-9200x155 \$145,000 (K15544) 734-591-9200x155 \$279,900 (M1396)



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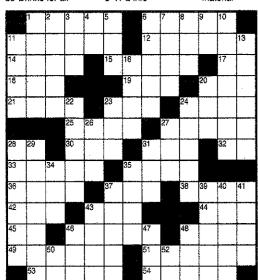
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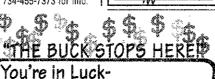
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Continuity Loses Big With `Board Busters'



Mildred L.

WORKWISE People want continuity, one key ingredient for stability, but this need can block constructive change. An

entire literature on change has emerged, stressing that people will almost go to the ends of the earth to assure continuity but avoid change. Fortunately, this is not always true. Sometimes, people form teams to use work skills, then contradict that assumption.

More than a year ago, we moved into an upper-middle class neighborhood outside of a major metropolitan area. This new community showcases wellmaintained oversized yards with geese flying overhead and nocturnal visits from deer and raccoons. Every morning, it empties of school children and workers commuting to jobs of all kinds, from IT to financial services, manufacturing and education. Three months after arriving, a neighbor told us that we were members of a repressive homeowners association, like it or not. Non-payment of dues leads to violations and fines.

CATALYST

Meanwhile, we began to notice unusual traffic and loud music across the street. It was impossible to identify who actually lived in the house there. A mid-afternoon burglary occurred, which required a sheriff deputy's visit for about three or four hours right afterward, including a

forensics team. The theft of two fur coats and a safe led to supposition that the property was an alleged drug house.

Drugs may be everywhere these days, but not on my street. The homeowners association president was too busy assessing and collecting fines to be of help. In response, I formed The Neighborhood Watch over 500 properties, a larger version of one I'd block-captained in Seattle.

Homeowners couldn't separate their association grievances from The Watch. I kept telling residents that this is a crime prevention vehicle, period. It wasn't about membership in a homeowners association.

BREAK

For 18 years, the president of our association had held monthly meetings on second Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. He presided with arrogance, insults and swear words, even when children attended. Turnout was slim -- only eightto 15 residents each month.

A favored few members were exempt from rules. All others were not. The neighborhood was brimming with anger over board malfeasance, condescension and partiality. Member dues evaporated

-- legal fees;

-- an ineffective property management group, punitively meting out violations;

-- expensive aquatic developments directly benefitting only 25 properties and allegedly lining the pockets of one board member; and

-- property upkeep directly funding the president's lawn service; and

-- neighborhood security funds that were passed to a third board member. 'BŌARD BUSTERS'

Change had been in the air, with two members collecting signatures for petitions, which were ignored by the board. Members were so accustomed to working in large organizations that they didn't know how to structure and effect change. We formed a "change board" united in purpose and resolve. Here's what we did:

-- The leader devoted hours reading the by-laws and rules, then developing a strategy for December's election.

-- Another member found a person to

draft a proxy form pro bono. -- A third spearheaded the recruiting

of board candidates. -- A fourth communicated directly

with the one somewhat sympathetic current board member. (He had attempted to stem the corruption, but was outvoted.)

-- A fifth, retired from the IRS and



Homeowners can change their Homeowners Association by getting involved.

EPA, provided invaluable information and perspective from having presided over a condominium owners' association.

-- Our flamboyant go-to-guy kept recruiting people to vote, even during the two-hour election. He gave us our name: "Board Busters."

Unlike this fall's presidential election, this one wasn't close. The community dumped one incumbent receiving compensation. Three new people now fill the three available slots. Some people do want change.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp comments upon) the workplace in national media. Copyright 2004 Passage Media.)

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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ASSISTANT MANAGER Oakland County American House Senior Living Residence. Must have a busi ness/accounting background and enjoy working with senior citizens. Fax resume to 248-203-2929

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5740......Business Opportunities

Help Wanted-General COLLISION REPAIR SHOP MANAGER Experienced turn around individual with credentials for

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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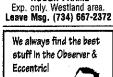
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resume with cover letter to: Community Manager at Berger Realty Group, inc. (248) 905-5511 or e-mail to humresnew2@hotmail.com Equal Opportunity

and understand marketing

and budgeting processes if interested, please fax

Help Wanted-General 5000

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DIRECT CARE STAFF 67.70-\$8.20 wages/benefits. Call and leave message at 313-255-6295

Driver Needed for 5-state area of Michigan. CDL-A and X endorsement a must. Tanker exp. required. Pay negotiable. Excellent benefits, medical, prescription, 401(k) and vaca tion. Please email ljoppich@generaloilco.com

For the best auto classifications check out the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper "It's all about "It's all about RESULTS!"

DRIVER CDL NEEDED

Must be flexible and willing to

assist in other areas where

required. Please fax resume to

734-397-5909

or fax resume to Lynn at

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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ic-opportunities@ velocityexp.com Velocity

www.velocityexp.com EOE DRIVER, Part-Time

Plymouth area automotive supplier is seeking Part-time Driver to deliver and pick up small cargo in local area. The successful candidate will have clean driving record, preferably already earned the required CDL, & be extremely reliable. Salary is commensurate with exp. Please send your resume to or fill out

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DRIVERS needed for dental lab deliveries. Retirees welcome Fax resume: 248-799-7575.

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Seeking CDL Class A with experienced Hazmat drivers with a minimum of 1 year experience for local driving & local work Union wages & excellent benefits. For more infor-

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DRIVERS Class B * Home Daily * The Aldworth Co. has opportunities available in our Livonia, MI facility for Mon. -

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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Call Joel for more details:

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Independent Contractors

Help Wanted-General

POLICY All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the

conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 591-0900.) The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers 0900.) The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers sales representatives have no authority to bind this news-

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Publisher's Notice: All real

rubilisher's words. All tear estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This news-paper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this

newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be /2) Classified and may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing pro-gram in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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Seasonal

Help Wanted-General

Warehouse

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Velocity

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946-5600 or apply



Adult **Carriers** Needed

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Thursday and Sunday. (734) 805-3623 Ask for Renisha



Must have van, truck or SUV. If interested please call **734-591-0500**

Needed Saturday night and

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carriers in Wayne County.

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ROSE TOWNSHIP Holly
Custom 20 room home on approximately 8.2 acres, defines
comfort & luxury. Six bedrooms, 7.3 baths, all on private 20
acres, 60 foot deep spring-fed lake, heated barn for the toys. (B65MIL) 248-620-7200



WEST BLOOMFIELD Shows Like A Model Come home to this 1993-built Colonial with open floor plan. Four bedrooms, 2% baths, family, living, dining room, library, first floor laundry, Master with Jacuzzi & walk-in closet. Full (B86TOR) 248-626-8800



FARMINGTON HILLS Fabulous Custom
Colonial with 5 bedrooms and 3.1 baths, located in Hunter
Pointe. Large rooms, family room with bar & sun room off
breakfast area. Finished walk-out lower level with bedroom & (B28HAR) 248-642-8100



Cape Cod with 4 bedrooms, 3% baths, 4 car attached garage, first floor master with sitting room, walk-in closet & bath with corner garden tub, cathedral calling in foyer 8, great room. Kitchen with granite tops. Time to pick cabinets & grand staircase. (B02ROL) 734-455-5600





Approximately 850 feet of waterfront peninsula, private dining room in this 4 bedroom, 3% bath masterpiece. Finished walk-out, custom detailed throughout. Beauty & tranquility in this setting. Come & reward yourself, Lower Straits treasure. (B05COM) 248-363-1200



WEST BLOOMFIELD Well Kept 4 Bedroom Contemporary with 3\% baths, 2 story foyer, large kitchen with tall cabinets, guest suite, high celling & fireplace in family room. 2-way staircase with bridge overlooking family room. Pro-landscaped, sprinkler system & immediate occupancy. (B73WIN) 248-626-8800 \$436,900



GROSSE ILE In A Choice Neighborhood Three bedroom, 2% bath rambling brick Ranch with 2 car attached garage, basement, formal dining room, library with bay window, vaulted ceiling in great room with fireplace, first floor laundry, oak kitchen with appliances + 4-season sun room. (B36LAS) 734-455-5600 \$449,900





Lakefront living in this contemporary. Five bedrooms, 3½ baths, 2 fireplaces, elegant first floor laundry, master with Jacuzzi tub & separate shower. Finished lower level, full bath, wet bar & kitchenette. 3+ car garage. city water/sewer. Huron valley schools. (B01COM) 248-363-1200 \$899,900



Two story foyer with ceramic tile, brick paver patio, 3 car side garage. Built in 1994. First floor brick shelf in library, upgraded kitchen. All appliances included. Also for lease. (B80WOO) 248-626-8800 \$449,900



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PLYMOUTH Beautiful Country Home
Five bedrooms, 3 full and 1 half bath, 19th century Colonial on
approximately 2.9 acres. Great master bedroom, hardwood
floors, country kitchen & formal dining room. Large pole barn,
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WASHINGTON New Construction
Four bedroom Colonial with 3's baths, first floor laundry, butler's pantry, basement with egress window and a 3 car side entry garage. Gournet island kitchen with built-in appliances. Master bedroom bath with Jacuzzi tub. (B84RID) 248-524-1600



COMMERCE Lake Sherwood Lakefront Gorgeous 2 story Colonial has the most beautiful view of Lake Sherwood. Two furnaces, upstairs laundry. Extra garage, lower level with great room and second kitchen and full bath. Sur group This is a must see home. (B16DRI) 248-363-1200



WEST BLOOMFIELD On The Lake
Super clean 4 bedroom, 3% bath Colonial with Aupere sulte,
impeccably well maintained family home. Formal living room
and dining room, den/office, great room with wet bar, master
has private deck and bath suite. Bloomfield schools. (B85WOO) 248-626-8800



LATHRUP VILLAGE Four bedroom, 2/2 Bath Contemporary brick Colonial with neutral decor, recently painted, plush carpet & ceramic floors in foyer & kitchen kitchen has island & white cabinets, family room with fireplace & doorwall to yard, all on double lot (B00LAT) 248-642-8100 \$395,000



FREEDOM TOWNSHIP Custom Built in 2000 20+ acres offers this wonderful 4 bedroom, 2% bath Colonial with 3 car attached garage, walk-out basement, gambeal barn, stone fireplace in family room, cedar deck and page and them. (B10BET) 734-455-5600 \$439,900





Longe laketroot Colorus van 2 story vanted graas : Kitoban with granita tops & costem caamets. Master marble surround Jacuzzi tuo. Three begrooms, 2. baths, first i floor laundry. Entertain on raised brick pacer patio (B23TAN) 248-363-1200 \$674,900



OAKLAND TOWNSHIP Sensational Core on 10 nores. Six bedrooms 5 baths governer Without open floor blan Large finished wark-out with game room exercise room, bedroom & more. Gentleman's garage holds 16 cars, custom pool with water fall & 3-tier deck. (B01BRE) 248-642-8100 \$1,800,000



PLYMOUTH Tudor estate On 10+ Acres Chance of a lifetime to own = hovel. Tudor on near, if acres of rolling country sige. Speciational great room with amazing views. Splits available. Wonderful ourb appeal. Must see. (B91BRO) 248-349-5600 \$1,050,000



PLYMOUTH Woodlore South floor. Great room 2 story celling as freginged dining room bay window. French doors to library kitchen with obere cabinets, master with bath. 3 car attached garage & basement (B99MAR) 734-455-5600



METAMORA Million Dollar View Types are independent of the translation and according state lindu and actionary state lindu and actionary state industrial state and first floor, dream withher if car garage with felt bath. 3 stunning fireplaces, trinshed walk-out with sauna & fireplace. (B70THO) 248-652-8000 \$1,199,999



WHITE LAKE Sunsets On White Lakefront Updated Ranch, 3 bedrooms, 2's baths. Walk-out lower to over 70 feet with 2 permanent docks & hoat house. Kitchen has moveable island & door wall to deck Dining room open to living room & library. Newer 2% car. wonderland to nature. (B55RiD) 248-363-1200



BIRMINGHAM New Construction On a premier street! High quality with attention to detail, bedrooms, 4.1 baths, butter area, 2 fireplaces and home theatre Jack & Jill bath, fifth bedroom & bath in lower level. Sky lights kitchen with island, formal dining room & master to die for! (B20PLE) 248-642-8100 \$799,900



WEST BLOOMFIELD Meticulously Kept Spectacular - one of the best "premium lots" in Chelsea Park, formal living room and dining room, 2 story family room with 2-way fireplace. A cook's delight kitchen. Grand master suite, princess suite and Jack and Jill bath (B43CHE) 248-349-5600 \$710,000



CANTON Classic Elegance!
Custom, on approximately 1 acre. Foyer with staircase, 2 story great room with fireplace & crown molding, kitchen & master bath with granite tops. Three bedrooms have a bath & waik-in cioset. Full basement with walk-out & 3 car attached garage. (B51ROL) 734-455-5600 \$843,000



*OAKLAND Fantastic New Build Stunning 4 bedroom estate home with media room, 3 full and 2 half baths, Andersen windows, staniless Jenn-Air appliances, cherry cabinets, grante, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, 2 laundry rooms, spacious master & daylight basement. \$749,000 (B56PAR) 248-652-8000



Very large Penthouse with flair. Condominium just experienced extreme makeover. Custom woodwork, flooring, mirrors and painting. Three bedrooms, den, basement storage. Four car finished garage, pool, beach and docking. (B59POR#28/29) 248-363-1200 \$500,000



BEVERLY HILLS Newer Construction Custom 4 bedroom, 4 bath home with all the modern amenities with the feel of a country estate. Kitchen with granite, hardwood floors, master with leited tub, freeplace 8 sittling area. Part-finished basement with bath& exercise room (B60BEV) 248-642-8100



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Come experience this hidden paradise yourself. Immaculate
builder's model, Three bedrooms, 3's baths with walk-out
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\$724,900

(B89MAG) 248-349-5600

BLOOMFIELD HILLS One-Of-A-Kind European stone home built in 2002 with original foundation in 1984. Large kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, Living room with stone interior finish. Hardwood floors and doors with a warm English finish. (B11DEN) 248-524-1600 \$1,199,000



ROCHESTER Large Corner Lot In-ground pool, hot tub, lush landscape, 4 bedrooms, 3+ baths, library, great room, vaulted celling, spacious 2 story foyer, finished walk-out, master suite with Jacuzzi, dream kitchen, 2 fireplaces, 2 wet bars and 3 car garage. (B39STO) 248-652-8000 \$649,900



Location! Location! Deep in conveniently located sub, on oul-de-sac site. Three bedrooms, 2% baths, great room with cathedral ceilings and fireplace. Kitchen with large breakfast area and doorwall to deck. Another large deck off great room. First floor laundry. (B39APA) 248-626-8800 \$247,500



Four bedroom, 3 bath Ranch, approx. 2 acres, Wing Lake privileges, renovated in '98. Neutral interior, living/dining with coved ceilings & fireplace, kitchen, breakfast area with fireplace. Two-tier paver patio & gazebo. Finished basement with fireplace. (B00IND) 248-642-8100 \$729,000



NOVI Elegant Custom Cape Cod
A grand entry greets you with Travertine flooring, custom
stalrcase, cherry cabinets & granite throughout. Stainless
steel appliances, an impressive finished walk-out lower level
with full kitchen. No expense was spared. A definite must see. (B64ROB) 248-349-5600 \$849,900



ROCHESTER HILLS New Construction
Two story with 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, walk-out basement,
wooded lot and upgrades throughout. Three fireplaces,
master bedroom with Jacuzzi tub and walk-in closet. Gournet
kitchen with built-in appliances.



OAKLAND Top-Of-The-Line
Upgrades throughout. Gourmet kitchen, cherry cabinets, granite counter tops, double oven, fireplace in hearth area and first floor master suite with private deck. Great room fireplace, walk-out lower level. Special landscaped lot. (B04WOO) 248-652-8000



ORCHARD LAKE Totally Custom Showcase
Breathtaking luxury home features first floor master with 2
cressing suites & marble bath with fireplace & balcony. In-law
quarters, huge studic, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 powder rooms,
6 fireplaces. Approximately 1.4 acre site with pond. (B47PON) 248-626-8800



BIRMINGHAM Fabutously Restored
Four bedroom, 2½ bath Cape Cod with first floor master, newer
kitchen with stainless appliances & living room with open
staircase. French doors to family room, finished basement with
rec room & laundry. Circular drive & spacious lot. (B81LIN) 248-642-8100 \$648,800



Amazing 4 bedroom, 3½ bath home on premium wooded lot Two story family room, 4-season sun room, extra-deet basement with daylight windows, brick paver patle, kitchen with maple cabinets, formal dining, second floor laundry. (B90SUN) 248-349-5600 \$639,900



(B17GRA) 248-524-1600

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP Custom Designed Tudor with 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths and 3 car side entry gerage. Great room boasts a large media room with 2-way fireplace, wet bar and Palladium windows. Walk-out basement and (B25ADA) 248-524-1600 \$535,000



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first floor master with 2 walk-in closets, large shower/tub. Whole house filtration system & warranty (B90MIL) 248-652-8000 \$589,000



WEST BLOOMFIELD No Earthly Reason ... to accept second best. Own this 4 bedroom, 3 full 8. 2 haif bath contemporary on a wooded cut-de-sac. Three car garage, floor to ceiling windows, cathedral ceilings in living room, 2 story ceiling in foyer, recessed lighting throughout. Center Island in kitchen.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS Unique Property
On approximately 1.43 wooded acres. Home built in '84 with
attached log cabin, built in 1839, perfect for library/office. log cabin, out in 1939, penetration hateryout com, vaulted ceilings, doorwall to deck, wall s with view of woods & master. Must see to apprecia





ROCHESTER HILLS Fabulous
Four bedrooms, 4.1 baths with open floor plan. Two story
great room with gas fireplace, living room with ceiling-to-floor
windows, basement finished with full bath and work-out

room. Three car side entry garage and in-ground pool.



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(Delivered Wednesday) Real Estate Display.....Friday, December 17, 3 pm Auto Display......Monday, December 20, Noon Recruitment Display......Monday December 20, 3 pm Liner.....Monday December 20, 6 pm

Sunday, December 26 Publication

Real Estate Display.....Tuesday, December 21, 5 pm Auto Display......Wednesday, December 22, 5 pm Recruitment Display......Thursday December 23, 10 am Liner.....Thursday December 23, Noon

Thursday, December 30 Publication

(Delivered Wednesday) Real Estate Display.....Thursday, December 23, 3 pm Auto Display......Monday, December 27, Noon Recruitment Display......Monday December 27, 3 pm Liner.....Monday December 27, 6 pm

Sunday, January 2 Publication

Real Estate Display.....Tuesday, December 28, 5 pm Auto Display......Wednesday, December 29, 5 pm Recruitment Display.....Thursday December 30, 10 am Liner......Thursday December 30, Noon

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GENERAL LABORER in a chemical manufacturing facility in Wixom. Must have own transportation. Send resume to Jerry. 248-960-9119

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Enthusiastic, upbeat, hardworking person needed fulltime to join our team. We offer great benefits. Experience a must Westland area. Please Fax 734 326-2625

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Help Wanted-Medical 5060

BILLING CLERK

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Help Wanted-Medical **50**60

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NURSE Covenant House Michi-

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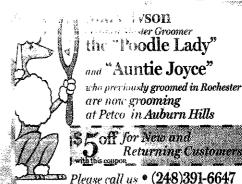
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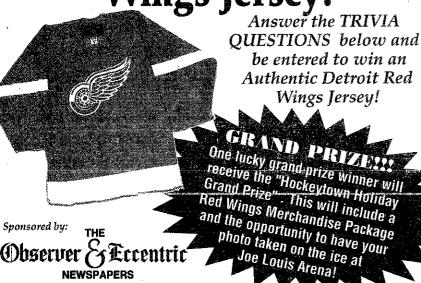
Delilah is a beautiful four-year-old shorthair. cat. Her soft fur is white with brown tiger stripes. She was a stray brought to the shelter to find a good home. Delilah's life on the street caused her some

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Min An Authentic Detroit Red Wings Jersey!



WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD You could be the lucky winner of an Authentic Detroit Red Wings jersey. We will draw a winner each week from the postcards with the correct answers to the trivia questions. Here's how to enter: Send a postcard with the answers. Make sure that your name, a

day time phone number, and your complete address is on the postcard. Send to: **Red Wings Jersey**

C/OTHE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS 32651 SCHOOLCRAFT • LIVONIA, MI 48150 The winners will be published every Thursday & Sunday in your Observer & Eccentric Classifieds Section. Winners will be contacted by a Detroit Red Wings representative. The Hockeytown Holiday Grand Prize Winner will be drawn on Dec. 17th from all of the correct entries.

RED WINGS TRIVIA QUESTIONS What three players have been selected #1 overall by the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL entry draft since its inception in 1963?

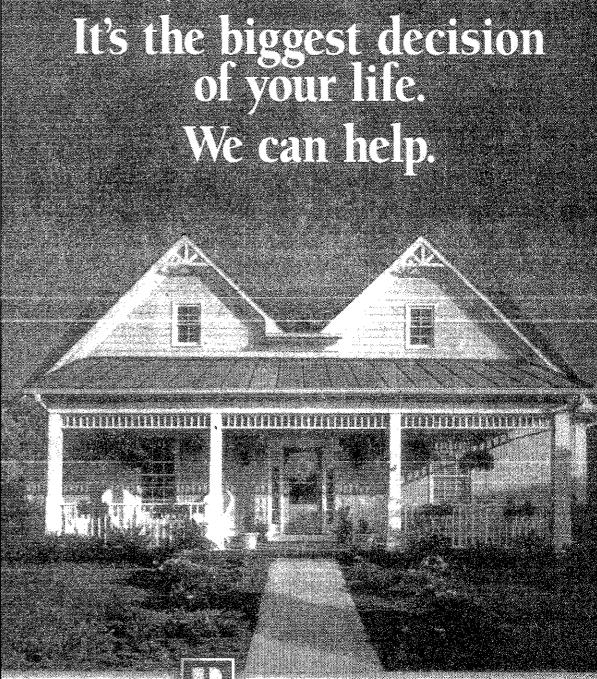
What three goalies won the Vezina trophy as the NHL's best

goaltender while playing for the Detroit Red Wings? Only three players have worn the # 13 for the Detroit Red

Wings. Name those thress players.

This Week's Winner! Wendy Weingarden - Westland

Employees of The Observer & Eccentric and the Detroit Red Wings are not eligible to win.



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IT'S ALL GOOD
Cool SBF, 31, 58", N/S, likes to bowl, fish, skate and travel, seeks SBM, 19-35, N/S. to share honest friendship, romance, quality time together. 12476802 IN IT FOR THE LONG-TERM

SBF, 30, 5'6", loves to get away for the weekend, would like to get to know SBM, 23-41, wipassion for travel and life. 2509782

SEARCHING
Sexy, attractive SBPF, 33, 5'1", 145lbs, brown complexion, curly hair, enjoys movies, dining, ISO her soulmate, a compatible SBM, 45-55, possible marriage. HAVE FUN AND CHILL

SF, 6'4". 250lbs, works in medical field, seeking a SM, who wants to have fun and chill with her. 2517112 LET'S COMMUNICATE
Active, affectionate SBF enjoys dining out. movies, plays, concerts, traveling. Seeking honest, good-humored SBM, 55-70, w/similar interests, for companionship.

AAA YOUR HEART Let's keep the New Year right. Come into my world. SBF, 45, great smile. I'm sure you'll like me. \$2668679

NOT INTO GAMES
Petitle WF, 50s, with herpes, willing to give it another chance, seeks one-on-one relationship with SM. Race, age unimportant.

TWO HEARTS ONE LIFE SBF, tall, medium build, N/S, who enjoys music, traveling, comedy shows, seeks man, 45-55, N/kids, N/S, outgoing, affectionate, stable, for LTR, 15444748

SEEKING KINDRED SPIRIT
SM, 45, blonde, attractive, friendly, kind.
considerate, polite, seeking a SW/DM,
42-62, for friendship, possibly more.
7512867 LIFE IS TOO SHORT

Mature and outgoing SBF, 50 years young, 5', 175lbs, thick not fat, great figure, interested in meeting mature black male who loves to live spontaneously.

ILISTEN WITH MY HEART
Attractive DWF, late 40s, Cancer, N/S, seeks special, no garnes WM, 45+, N/S. for caring, quality committed relationship. Let's create sparks and watch them LOYAL

SWF, 43, Leo, N/S, blonde/blue, professional chef, green thumb, petite enjoys cooking, boating, seeks compatible SWM, 43-50, N/S, for dating and possibie relationship. 2956732 ROMANTIC NIGHTS

movies, dancing, quiet romantic nights, seeking a SM, 30-45, for dating and possible relationship. 2552147 WELCOME TO MY WORLD

WELCOME TO MY WORLD
SF, 42, intelligent, sexy, sensitive, seeking a spontaneous, honest, hard-work-ing, sincere SM, 38-47, for dating and possible relationship. \$7552278
HOMEBODY
SBF, 63, 5'8", 155lbs, retired (but does work part-time), very honest and caring, Scorpio, N/S, seeks BM, 58-65, honest and caring. \$2553674
ATTN: WORKAHOLICS

ATTN: WORKAHOLICS SWF, 39, 57°, 125lbs, ISO professional male, for friendship possible relationship. Not just arm candy, have opinions, feelings, don't want perfection just right

person. 27410965 PRECIOUS ONE SWF, very pretty, a young 39, medium dark/green, works in medical field, seeks attractive SWM, outgoing, honest, caring, sensitive and creative, for best friend, more, \$2230588

LOVABLE AND SWEET
SBF, 30, 5'2", brown/brown, 170lbs, mother, working student, Libra, N/S, seeks independent, smart BM, 35-75, for friendship, possible relationship, LTR.

RIG. BOLD. REALITIFUL Attractive, voluptuous SBF 33, N/S, beau-tiful smile, seeks single man, 21-60, who is adventurous, spontaneous, interested in dating, 12511305

MUST HAVE SIMILAR VALUES SWCF, 51, 4'11", 115lbs, blonde hair, two gröwn children, loves animats, church, children sports. Seeking a good Christlan man, 50-62, for friendship first, possible LTR. 12530353 LOVES TO DANCE

Tail brunette, very attractive, 5'9", long black/green, looking for an available WM, 53-70, 5'10+, who loves to dance also. 25531151 LOOKING FOR AN ANGEL..

n a SBM, 38-50, 6'+, 190+. Must be honest and laid-back. I enjoys movies, going out, walks, nice conversation, dining, more. 2531635 **GET IT TOGETHER**

SBF, 28, 55", N/S, plus-sized, brown/ brown, would love to spend some time with a nice SBM, 30-40, N/S, who has his ilfe together. 2543576 LOVE AND MARRIAGE
Very romantic and shy Russian lady, 38, 510°, slim, Sagittarius, would like to meet an intelligent, romantic man, with a strict morality, who is looking for love, possible mardage #5593118

WANTED: TALL, CLASSY MALE
I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I
enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel,
Seeking a companion and maybe a relationship, Please call, 27382305

LOST IN MICHIGAN SBPF, 29, 575. 1908b., no children, never married, very attractive, easygoing, laid-back, loves travel. Looking for sincere, open-minded, laid-back male who has his stuff together. 22229089

CUTE AND CLASSY SBF, 50+, physically fit, enjoys jogging, concerts, theater, quiet evenlings. Seeking attractive gentleman, over 50, with similar

interests. 2130522 TOO MUCH JOY Chruchgoing SBF, 53, loves to have fun in the kitchen, catches all the latest movies, has good time no matter what. ISO like-minded SBM, 48-56, \$279840

ARE WE A MATCH?

SBF, 45, tail, pretty, enjoys working out, theater, cooking, comedy clubs. Seeking tail SWM, 42-60, attractive, financially secure, similar interests. 17483446 ARE WE A MATCH? LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS SF, 29, likes laughing, hanging out, hav-ing fun. Looking for similar SM, 38-41,

ing fun. Looking for similar Givi, 2001, N/S, for friendship or more. \$2510395

HOPE WE CANTALK SOON! I am a 5'2", brunette, dark eyes, early 60s, searching for a tall, financially secure gentleman who knows how to treat a lady. 27466121 STILL LOOKING

Attractive tall SBF, 48, N/S, business woman. Enjoys fishing, boating, movies, long walks. Seeking 35+ w/same interest, SELF-EMPLOYED.

intelligent, funny SBF, 35, full-figured, Aries, marriage-minded, N/S, likes jazz music, comedy and action movies. Seeking man, 29-45. \$525351 WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE
SBF, 27, Capricorn, smoker, 5', stable, financially secure, seeking a SM, 25-45, who is stable and knows what he wants in

2531401 MERRY CHRISTMAS BABY WEHRY CRHISTMAS SABY
Very attractive, petite BF, 5/3*, 119lbs,
youthful, open-mined, outgoing, loves to
have fun, seeking a SWM, 36-39, who
is very open-minded and outgoing.

3544337

TAKE A CHANCE

Make me laugh. WF 52, N/S, tired of going through life alone, enjoys rock music (especially Enc Clapton) and the blues iSO male, 45-59. 27547623 ARE YOU POMANTIC?,
SBF, 43, N/S, N/D, likes travel, sports,
running, deneing, swimming, cooking,
Looking for outgoing, goal-oriented BM,
36-50. \$\overline{\text{T5464448}}

LET'S MEET Tender, slender SWF, 50, works in health care, comfortable in a gown or jeans, enjoys gardening, plays, concerts, arts fairs, seeking romantic, fun SM, 45-60. SEEKS PROFESSIONAL MALE

SWPF, 57" long brown hair, looking for an educated man, 35-55, who likes poll-tics, reading and going to movies. **737**529129

CUTE GIRL NEXT DOOR

Me: 26, 4'9", 155lbs. brown-complected, employed. You: 5'9"-6'4", 190lbs-240lbs, single, drama free, handsome. Friendship first, maybe long-term later. \$271252 ARE WE A MATCH? SWF, 26, enjoys the outdoors, rollerblading, biking, long walks and romantic din-ners. Looking for SWM, 25-30, for LTR.

HONESTY REQUIRED Beautiful, full-figured SBF, 35, is tooking for tall, dark, handsome SBPM who is honest and down-to-earth, to spend time with. 22401088 YOU NEED ME

Very attractive, young, full-figured, mixed BF, 30, 5'6", searching for down-to-earth, tall, responsible, mentally/physically/financlaily secure male. I need you as much as you need me! \$2519124 SEXY REDHEAD/GREAT LEGS

DWF, 54, 142lbs, 5'6', enjoys blues, animals, gardening, homeowner, no kids. Seeking SM, 5"10"+, N/S, social drinker for LTR. 2548938 TALK TO ME SF, 43, likes movies, dining, shopping, the zoo, time with my kids. Seeking honest, good-looking, sincere man, 38-46.

FINANCIALLY SECURE SF, 34, N/S, health conscious, active, with diverse interests, looking for a woman, 25-40, who has integrity, honesty, security, and femininity. Race open, \$2537865

YOU GOT A FRIEND SPF. 54°, N/S. N/D. HPTW. enjoys going out and having a good time, not into bars, seeking the right SBF, 36-43, for friend-ship first. 25531171 VERY ATTRACTIVE REDHEAD Beautiful, fun female, 50, 5'6", fit body, short hair, looking for a laid-back SM, 49-

, who likes dining, cancing, having fun! NO NONSENSE Nice-tooking, active, no-nonsense gal, seeks good-looking, active, no-nonsense guy, 35-49, white o' Hispanic. DWPF, young 43, athletic. Companionship and fun desired. 27449655

CHRISTIAN BACKGROUND SBCF, 30, no children, seeks goal-oriented SBCM, 25-37, no children, who is respectful, intelligent, intellectual, and respects women! 12/3/19950

JUST THE FACTS
SWF, 27, full-figured, N/S, enjoys movies, dinner, dancing. Seeking man, 24-35, N/S, race unimportant, for friendship, possible romance. 27250724

sible romance. \$\tilde{T}^2\$0724

A LOT TO OFFER

Outgoing SBF, 24, 56", 350lbs, professional employed, leves the fun and excitement of festivals, enjoys new movies and concerts, seeks handsome, honest SBM. \$\tilde{T}^2\$266633

FRIENDS FIRST
SBF, 28, Aquarius, N/S, is looking for a friend, SBM, 28-38, N/S, Must have a sense of humor, must be hard-working, trustworthy, and goal-oriented. \$759073
BEAUTIFUL EYES AND SMILE
Sportscripted BE 30, May begans Sports-oriented BF, 39, two teenage daughters, physically challenged, loves jazz, sports, gospel, plonics, amusement parks. Seeking SF, 29-45, 27223080

LOOKING FOR GOOD FRIENDS SBF, 38, is looking for SW/H/AM who is educated, fun, outgoing, adventurous, spontaneous, Laughter and conversation are good things. Must be a gentleman. \$222589 OPEN AND HONEST

SF, 35, looking for a woman, 25-45, for affection and attention. Call, let's add some excitement to life! 27424565

QUIET, QUALIFIED SBF, 47, N/S, attractive, shy, w/great sense of humor, enjoys nature, skiing, plays, movies, music, tries to savor the loyous moment. Seeking BM, 42-55. THE LITTLE THINGS MATTER

THE LITTLE FIRMOS MATTER
SBF 41, 5'4", very outgoing, loving, horest, trustworthy, hard-working, enjoys reading, writing, walks in the part, movies, concerts, seeking hard-working, trustworthy, God-fearing SM, 38-55. **22**471499 LET'S HANG OUT
SF. 28, 5'1", 135lbs, CNA, enjoys
movies, travel, hanging out, seeking
compatible SM, 25-45, who shares sim-

ilar interests. 22475292 SEARCH NO MORE

Genuine, attractive, feminine, independent SBF, S°C", 140lbs, who enjoys jazz, romantic dinners, quiet evenings, plays, nights in, seeking honest, independent, sincere, feminine SF, 30-42, 72473831 BEAUTIFUL MIND WANTED
Beautiful, full-figured SBF 35, enjoys
comedy and romanos, bowling, walks in
the park. Seeking tail, dark, handsome
SBM, 33-50, \$\frac{72481293}{2481293}\$

SECRETARY OF FUN SWF 36, Leo, N/S, blonde/green, mother of 2, seeks serious, hard-working SWM, 35 to 35, N/S, who is not into bars.

HELLO, HOW ARE YOU?
Loving, down-to-earth SBCF, 33, 4'11", 180lbs, mother, IVS, IVD, enjoys bowling, shopping, movies, Itve entertainment. Seeking SBCM, 32-35, IVS, for friendship, possible romance. 25229735 **GET TO KNOW ME!**

SF, 38, N/S, mother of two, tooking for working man, 28-55, N/S, for friendship first. 12431382

ATTRACTIVE SWEET BF
49. H/W proportionate, medium build, enjoys cruises, concerts, dining our, movies, travelling. Seeking honest, passionate SM, 45-80, with similar interests, for dating, possibly more. 22134441

ngleyaes and its agents hamiless from all costs, expenses (including reasonable attorney tors), liabilities and damages resulting from or causo me number, last name or address in his/her voice greeting. Not all boxes contain a voice greeting. For customer service, call 1-617-450-8773

TAKING IT IN SWF, 52, 5'2", 190lbs, youthful-looking, shoulder-length helir, brown/brown, love motorcycles, James Taylor, dining, seeking SWM, 48-89, \$2530084

PETITE AND SEXY PETITE AND SEXY
SBF, 50, Scorplo, N/S, petite, 5'1", 105lbs, energetic, enjoys threes, movies, theater, craft shows, seeks similar SBM, 50-61, N/S, who is fill energetic, similar interests.

SEARCHING FOR A REAL LOVE
Full-figured African-American woman,
attractive, 44, no children, ISO AfricanAmerican male, 32-38, to spend quiet
evenings. I'm carefree, love laughter, good
times, concerts, plays, sporting events,
traveling, and quality, line. 22-90-167

ARE YOU THE ONE?
SBF, 41, 4'5", Wishes to meet a king-sized SBM, 41+, for friendship and com-panionship. \$2955520

MR. PIGHT

Are you a tall, big, handsome man, that could be my Mr. Right, for a SWF, 5'8", attractive, loving and fun, let's share life together. 254(3)359 SWEET SINGLE FEMALE...

iooking for sweet SM, SF, 21, dark brown/brown 5/2 150/bs, tattoos/piero-ings, ISO confiniment—minded, loving, kind guy interpsted in friendship, happi-ness and a loving, long-term relation-ship, \$\pi 452322 LET'S ENJOY LIFE

No dram, no games, 45, SBPF, interests, concerts, plays, movies, dining and more. Enjoys having fun, seeking S/DM, for LTR. \$224200

MAKE ME LAUGH
SBF. 45, smoker, warts to find triendship, possibly more wigentiemen, 40-60, who appreciates music, travel, spending time outdoors. 27460269

YOU WILL LIKE ME!

Attractive SWF, 66, 65°, blonde, artist, fun-loving, seeks well-groomed SWM, 60+, loves cuddling, dining out, and sharing life. 27272663 SENSE OF HUMOR A MUST SF. 43, smoker, student, looking for SM, 25-35, WS, Who is trustworthy, a good lis-tener, and will make me happy. \$2484338

BEAUTY AND BRAINS Hard-working SWE, 50, smoker, enjoys laughter, movies, music, conversation, and more. Saeking healthy, trustworthy, intelligent SWM, 45-60, for friendship, maybe more: \$2528511

SIMPLE REQUEST
Are you honest, frustworthy, down-to-earth? SBF, 40, NS, seeks SBM, 27-57, N/S, who knows how to take life one day at a time. 27508.061. QUIET BEAUTY SBF, 46, sny but loves to laugh, enjoys concerts, movies, seeking good, honest SBM, 43-50, N/S, for ETR, 27498245

SWCF, honest, pleasant, long hair, 42, no children. Likes nature walks, travel, cooking, children, selling tilke a lady. Seeking honest, genutine, marriage-minded S/DWCM, 2578655 LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER

Pretty, slender Ukrainian lady, 54, Catholic, 10 years in the U.S. Seeking caring relationship with warm-hearted, independent man who enjoys family, theater, travel, \$2512135 ARE WE COMPATIBLE? S8F, 66, 5'4", **159lbs, blonde ha**m, estilled dursing absistant, N/S, seem 553 or not

25514347 BEEN THERE? DONE THAT? Take heart. DWF, young-acting 53, 5'9". blonde/hazel, NS, works in a warehouse. Seeking that special romantic WM, 49-60, who enjoys animals, camping, traveling, and music. 33517372

for triendship, dating, perhaps more

EPITOME OF BEAUTY
SBF, 19, 5'8' [148]bg, N/S, loves journalist, literature, writing, reading, movies.
Looking for SM, 19-34, for possible relationable and tables. tionship. 13518785 SPF, 43, travels on business a lot Looking for laid-back, happy, financially secure man, 50-60, who heads someone in his life, 2526682

life. 25526682

STRIKING...
blue-eyed blande! Slim, sensuous, romantic, fun, cating seeking attractive, fit,
fun-loving male; 47-57. Friendship, LTR.!
enjoy movies, walks, music, hugs, laughter, quiet times. Let's get to know each
other \$39.82332 LOVELY, CULTURED, TRIM

Professional, with many Interests and fine qualities, who loves to dance. Seeks tall, attractive, nicely-built, educated gentleman, to share a loving, romantic LTR, 63-73. visualize this

DARK EBONY SBF, 42, 5'8", full-figured, seeks intelligent man. 48-60, 5'8"-6'2", medium build or heavyset, for possible relation-ship \$232563

AM I LOOKING FOR YOU? Attractive, kind-hearted SBF, 44, 5'8", full-figured, enjoys dining out, movies, playing cards, family and more. Seeking family-oriented, intelligent, humorous SB/HM, 40-60, for friendship and companionship 3238241. panionship. 75238281

NEW TO WAYNE CO. AREA SBPF, 40ish, 5'6", nurse, with children, marriage-minded, smoker, loves drama movies, dancing, and crossword puzzles. Seeking WM, 45-60, smoker, who enjoys music and sports. 2245545 SHALL WE?

DWF, 40, 5'4", HW proportionate, light brown heir, N/8, loves golfing, suspense movies, and travel. Seeking active, outgoing WM, 40-49, N/S, for friendship. FRIENDSHIP FIRST

God-fearing, loving, intelligent SBF, 43, enjoys church, the outdoors, laughter, dining out, gospel music and more. Seeking god-hearing, honest, caring SBM, 40-45, for friendship first. 23:221725 WHERE IS MR. RIGHT? SF, 46, likes dancing, bowling, romantic evenings, swimming. Seeking SM, 40-55, with good sense of humor, \$257065

DBF, 50, looks much younger, enjoys music, long walks, quiet times. Seeking WA/HM, 35-50, for friendship, possible iong-term relationship. 225385

YOUR WILDEST DREAMS
SBF, 48, smoker loves jazz, dhing out, romantic evenings, and movies. Seeking feminine BF, 35-50, under 5'4", honesty a SLIM AND PETITE

Easygoing, active DWF, retired, ISO fun male, 60+, who likes bridge, tennis, reading, hiking, animais, kids, popcorn, willing to don a tuxedo now and then. \$2271793 RESCUE ME!
SBF, 41, 5'5", average build, enjoys church, family, shopping, much more. Looking for SBM, 43-47, professionally employed, N/S, who knows how to treat a woman. 12408635

SEEKING THE RAINBOW Open-minded, energetic, spontaneous SBF, 48, 5'3", seeks the star at the end of SBr, 48, 53°, seeks the star at the end or the rainbow. My star: someone communicative, kind-hearted, who enjoys romance, exploring life. 12998477

PLEASINGLY PLUMP FEMALE 42-vear-old African-American female

ks tall, handsome man who is mature N/S, and enjoys being in the company of a beautiful woman. 27798192 WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? could be it! Attractive SWF, 50, 5' 105lbs, willing to try just about anything with the right person! Seeking SBM, 32-50, for special relationship. \$7418068

ARE YOU THE ONE.
DBF. 53, H/W proportionate, outgoing, loves the arts, plays, dancing, movies, outdoors, scenic drives. ISO SM D/Dw/similar interests, smoker, social drinker ok. No games! 27417236

FUN-LOVING LADY
SBF, 43. Virgo, smoker, loves chocolate
seeks, tun soene, sincere, BM, 34-56 **25**438712 EBONY SEEKS IVORY DBF, 42, 5'3". 140lbs. full-figured, seeks to date SWM, 40-50, in the Mount Clemens

area. 157455323

Catholic DWH, 59, looks much younger, N/S, very tall, looking for gentleman, 56-63, w/upbeat personality, to enjoy family activities, camping, travel, much more. SEMI-RETIRED

VERY OUTGOING

SF, 62, 5'9", slim, fit, likes jazz, concerts, symphonies, theater, travel and outdoors activities. Seeking intelligent, honest, caring, humorous gentleman, 55-70, with similar interests. \$2467917 LOVING AND CARING independent, active, loving, caring, down-to-earth SF, 46, N/S, vegetarian, enjoys movies, fine dining, travel. Looking for handsome SW/AM, 45-49, H/W propor-

tionate, N/S, professional job. 15421896 CAN U MAKE ME LAUGH? Spontaneous SWF, 61, 5'4", average build, happy, independent, humorous, enjoys boating, cards, music, dining, walks, travel, golf. Seeking good-humored SM, w/similar interests, for companionLOOKING FOR MY TEDDY BEAR Attractive WWF, 64, red/blue, 5', 150lbs, looking for easygoing, welf-groomed gen-terman, 55-70, who enjoys meeting new WARRIOR PRINCESS!

WARHIUM PHINCESS!
WPF, 49, seeks SBPM, 38-52. Let's snuggle and make this winter a total melitdown! I love laughter, humor, reading, and life! 12480978 CALL ME...

if you are a business man, 60-70, SWM, N/S, N/D, homeowner, interests in homelife, nature, pets, afternative medi-cine, sports. I'm a SWF, 73, w/the above. CALL MEI

CALL ME! SF, 21, 5'4", 140lbs, long dark/hazel, N/S, no children, enjoys dining, movies, working out, bowling, Seeking SWM, 21-40, N/S. \$7488573 LIFE IS WONDERFUL
SSF, 40, mother of two, enjoys movies, plays, walks in the park, quiet times at home. Seeking BM, 45-55, N/S, D/D-free, who loves kids. \$2599246

SHALL WE DANCE? SAF, 56, 4"11", 105lbs, desires well-groomed, older gentleman, 60-75, who loves to dance and travel. Grosse Point

area preferred. 12498134 ROMANTIC LADY Beautiful, voluptuous DBF, 42, 5'6", likes traveling, outdoors. Seeking man, 45+, race unimportant, to enjoy life together, for friendship maybe more. 22464984

LIFE BEGINS AT 60 61-year-old WF, 5'1/2", 135lbs, N/S, N/D, brown/blue, nurse, enjoys cooking, Civil War-Revolutionary War history, travel, seeking gentleman, 56-70, loyal, honest, N/S, effectionate, actions before the control of the N/S, affectionate, enjoys being pampered. 22409879

LONESOME Senior WF, retired, 5'4", active, honest healthy. Need the attention of a WM, 65-75, enjoys everything, easy to please. So hurry up and call mel 23449585 SOMEONE SPECIAL Classy, attractive SBF, 50, 5'3", 120lbs

ISO SWPM, 50+, for special friendship. I love boating, music, quiet times, movies at home, romance, outdoors, travel

men seeking women

EVENINGS AT HOME Respectful SM, 39, 5'11", slim bulld, N/S, delivery man, likes to watch movies eat dinner, go dancing, seeks SBF, 23-35, N/S, for LTR. 25527179

MAN OF QUALITY
SM, 35, adventurous, open-minded, courageous, outgoing and furny, seeking similar qualities in a woman 25-45, who is open-minded, straight-forward, 2528018 WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER, and fall, all you have to do is call SBM 33, seeking a nice beautiful SF, 25-45, who

enjoys going out, having fun throughour the year. \$250818 HONESTY IS A MUST SBM, 27, 5'11", 195lbs, looking for SW/AF for LTR. Must be honest and sincere. If Interested, call me. 2552067

NO GAMES

ex independent, seeking a compatible SE who is real, and does not play games, 2552720 MAYBE IT'S YOU

SWM, 52, Aries, N/S, seeks friendship first with SWF, 35-48. Call now. I would like to hear from you. 27546509 FUTURE STAR SEEKS LOVE
SM, 24, 5'11", black, Italian, Native
American, ambitious barber with an eye
on the future, seeking a SF, 18-35, who is

LOOKING FOR A DREAM SM, Black/Puerto Rican/Native American, 40, 5'7', 170lbs, N/S, no kids, serious, enjoys movies, cooking, walks. Seeking full-figured SF, \$2854016 TALL, DARK, HANDSOME

SWM, 54, 6', average build, Aries, N/S, enjoys crossword puzzles and camping. Seeking WF, 45-55, N/S, for friendship, possible romance. \$\mathbf{x}\$537282 HOPE YOU'RE THE ONE

HOPE YOU'RE THE ONE
DM, 41, 5'10', brown/blue, 190lbs, enjoys
bowling, shooting pool, darts, the arcade,
sporting events, rollerblacing, cycling,
sledding, bonfire, movies, much more.
Seeking Light-hearted, fun, young-atheart lady to share special times.
25532180

EASYGOING GUY WM, 5'11", 185ibs, likes weekend getaways, dining out, going to movies, walks, horseback riding and more. Looking for a woman, 25-45, who enjoys the same. 15:52097

SUPERMAN SEEKS SUPERMODEL eah, right. SWM, 44, Aries, N/S, not hot ut warm and friendly, seeks undervalued WF. 33-55, for companionship, and to keep the fires burning. \$520307

ROMANTIC TRUCK DRIVER
Nice-looking BM, 6'2', 205lbs, 50s, no dependents, seeks stender or medium SF,

38-48, for concerts, weekend trips, romance, dining out, playing chess, etc. LTR an option. \$2990.83 HERE YOU'LL FIND.

HERE YOU'LL, FIND...
an easygoing, agreeable, cute SWM, 40, eager to please and willing to try new things, seeks a fairty attractive, friendly SWF, for dating or more. \$221072.

ENJOY GOOD COMPANY
Ambitious SHM, 43, 518°, smoker, works in the steel industry, seeks woman, 35-41, who loves to hold hands and walk on the beach, for LTR, \$544929

A CUIALTY GUY

A QUALITY GUY
DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure.
Seeks honest S/DWF, sense of humor,

enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, movies, for friendship, possible LTP. **17**269646 LIFE'S A CABARET
Classy, romantic, intelligent SWM, 50, well-traveled, with good taste, seeks a special, caring, friendly lady, 36-55. Let's

share life, romance, and laughter **☎**480718 THAT'S AMORE

SWM, 45, 5'7", 180lbs, medium build, dark brown hair, Scorpio, N/S, seeks woman, 30-80, 5'5" and under, Italian a+ SEEKS OUTGOING SISTER SBM, 34, works in sales, loves bowling, going to shows, seeking a nice SBF, 26-34, no dependents, who is established, outgoing, \$7533322

KIDS OK KIDS OK
SBM, 31, 5'9", mustache and beard, slim bulld, Pisces, marriage-minded, security guard, smoker, seeks woman, early 30s. \$\frac{\text{T538147}}{\text{MY HEART WILL GO ON}}

Marriage-minded SWM, 28, N/S, works at a Christian bookstore, finds the music of Celling Dign to be beautiful and touch-

of Celine Dion to be beautiful and touch-ing, seeks SWF, 21-33, N/S, for LTR. **2**547146 OPEN TO ANYTHING
Outgoing SWM, 39, 61", Leo, N/S, truck
driver, has lots of time to share with a
nice SWF, 18-45. Possible LTR.

☎547220 ALL MY HEART Self-employed SBM, 33, Cancer, smoker into reading, music, going out to the clubs seeks single lady, 28-40, who is nice interesting, and attractive. 3548244

ROMANTIC
SWM, 28, brownhazel, medium build, likes Nascer, playing pool, camping and more. Looking for honest, carring WF, 21-40, to build a real relationship. \$254689 SEARCHING FOR YOU SBM, 5'11". 2001bs, medium build, great

out. Would like to meet a fit female, 3045-with similar interests. \$3531157 WAITING Nice-looking BM, 34, one chid. looking for female, 26-35. Give me a call \$2533025 ROCHESTER GENTLEMAN

DWM. 59. handsome, fun-loving and active, but heavyset with cane, retired engineer, financially secure, enjoys the smaller thing in life; local theater, cocking and roadtrips. Seeking S/DWF, 50-60, for LTR. 2533085 TAKE ME OUT TONIGHT Lonely SBM, 51, 6'2", 195lbs, Capricorn, smoker, enjoys family activities, seeks SWF, 35-47, who loves children and dancing 5547574

OPENTO ALMOST ANYTHING Optimistic, outgoing SWM, 46, enjoys most activities, yet open to new ideas and adventures, seeks spirited, spontaneous SWF, age open. 25547524

STRAIGHT UP, LOW-KEY

Toursign atts SWM 40e outletteland Easygoing, cute SWM, 40s, not into-loud noise and big crowds, enjoys art, wine tastings, charity, seeks similar-minded lady for friendship/more. \$2548455

YOU KNOWS WHAT'S GOOD? ending time with this bright, enthusias-optimistic, yet realistic SWM, who is king for a nice gal 40s or 50s.

VARIED INTERESTS

Employed SBM, 27, 6', dark brown eyes, N/S, looking for nice-tooking SF, 25-33, medium/average build, who's got something going on for herself! 2537546

SOMEONE TO TALK TO

SM 27, 6'1' caremic complexion media. SM, 27, 6'1", caramet complexion, medium build, seeks down-to-earth SF, 23-35,

with sense of humor and personality. **25**537989 KEEPING IT REAL SM, 31, smoker, enjoys basketball. Looking for a SF, 18-35, to get to know. No

SM, 25, 6'. 195lbs, looking for an employed lady, 19+, to spend some time with 20542492 with \$542492
GETTO KNOW ME!
SBM, 33, 5'8' 160lbs, light brown eyes, light complexion, looking for a female, 22-43, for friendship/more. \$542879

GIVE ME A CALL!

CHECKMATE
SBM, 37, 5'9', 180bs, attractive, employed as researcher, independent, attractive, enjoys reading, movies, dining, romance, chess, seeking a SF, 25-40, with similar qualities. 2543182

FAMILY FIRST DWM, 35, N/S, father of 1, looking for SWF, 33-42, who is done with partying, teels ready to settle down. \$\infty\$544048 want to MEET A...
nice guy? BM, 21, looking for a nice female to go out and have fun with.

FOOTBALL FAN SWM. blond/blue, enjoys time with triends, movies, bowling, watching football, seeking SF, 20-30. \$2549141 THE ART OF CONVERSATION

NEAH, 61*, 250bs, variety of interests, enjoys music, sports, the outdoors, movies, cuddling on the couch, intelligent conversation, seeking an intelligent SBF, 25-52, for dating. \$\mathbf{T}\$50283 DWM, 56, 5'10', handsome and secure, seeks honest, caring S/DWF, with a sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candelight dinners, dancing, concerts, boating, movies, for friendship, possible LTR. #5507073

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SM, 38, 5'11", 170'bs, new in town, enjoys movies, and simple times. ISO SF wikind heart and healthy sense of humor, for sharing smiles, casual dates, talks, much more. 27532489 WORTH A SHOT

ing for an outgoing, happy, light-hearted SF, full-figured A+, to share casual dates. talks and then who knows? \$2543013 LET'S TALK SM, 27, works construction, 5'11", 185lbs.

Outgoing, honest SM, 26, 6', 230lbs, look

brown/hazel, enjoys fitness, sports, time with friends. ISO fit, athletic, energetic, sociable SF, for friendship and more. 12549402 SPECIAL ONE Handsome SBM, 39, enjoys walking, movies, dinners, quiet evenings at home. Seeking attractive SBF, 28-44, for possible LTR, 2184231

NEW SINGLE AND SEARCHING SBM, 42, varied interests, wants to meet a woman who likes to go out and enjoy themselves: parks, picnics and more. **2546383**

WHY NOT CALL? SWM, 23, blond/blue, 193lbs, medium build, seeks fun-loving SF who enjoys movies, dining cut, cuddling, laughter and romance, to share friendship and LTR. 9548905

LOOKING FOR THE ONE Attractive, educated SWCM, 58, 5'9", 165ibs, blonde/blue, never married, veter-

an, N/S, good-humored, down-to-earth, seeks triendship and LTR. \$548933 ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? SBM, 52, enjoys dining out, movies, music, romance, laughter, the outdoors,

traveling, honesty, spontaneity and more. Seeking sensitive, fun-loving, understand-ing SF, 47-55, for possible LTF. \$203124 SEEKS VERY PRETTY FEMALE DBM, over 50, 5'11", 175lbs. Well-educ ed executive seeks very pretty, faithful female, 32-39, who would like a good, caring, thoughtful man in her life. Weight m be proportionate to height. 137540913

OPENTO ALMOST ANYTHING Optimistic, outgoing SWM, 46, enjoys most activities, but open to new ideas and adventures. Seeking spirited, sponta-neous SWF, age unimportant. 23485048 MUST LIKE CHILDREN
WM, 5'6", 150lbs, very outgoing, enjoys
spend a lot of time with my daughter.

Looking for very attractive female, 18-24, who loves camping, the outdoors and more. 22532099 SEEKING SURVIVOR PARTNER SWM. 44. black/brown, fit, romantic, hon-

TIME FOR A CHANGE? SWPM, 55°, brown-blue, fit, enjoys biking, jogging, being outdoors, music, movies, reading, concerts, good conversation, being with friends and family. Seeking emotionally available SWPF, 28-44, who is passionate about life. 30°C 1331

SM, 55, seeking a pleasant, gorgeous, fit SW/AF, 30-40, who enjoys bowling, dining, movies, long walks, swimming.

GOOD CLEAN FUN

41-year-old SM, D/D-free, N/D, enjoys
movies, dining, seeking a SF, 30-50,
N/Drugs, who enjoys fun and spontanelty, for
dating and possible relationship. 25533746 SEEKING MISS RIGHT

SM, 27, 61", 170ibs, athletic build, cook, enjoys reading, movies, theater. Looking for SF, 18-33, who loves outdoors. MARRIAGE-MATERIAL?

HELP! SWIVI, 42, reformed multi-tasker, slowing down for walks, talks, green tea, sunsets, plus... Rescue me from possible relapsel Do you have room in your life for a new

SEEKING COMPANION SBPM, 45, looking for adventurous SF, 35-45, to get to know and see where things lead. \$2540310

18-45, for dating. 13543213 WEST SIDE MAN...

Caring, sharing, honest, trustworthy SBM, 35, Geminl, NS, seeks a Goddess, age and race open. \$545943 INTERESTING, VERY INTERES Well-maintained SWM, 56, who enjoys

LET'S TALK SM, 50, father, likes biking, movies, dining out. Seeking fun, easygoing honest SF to share happiness and a friendship first relationship. \$\mathbf{T}\$542455

FUN FRIENDSHIP... maybe more depending chemistry. Good-looking, degreed DWPM. Troy area, trim, fit. 150lbs. 57", youthful, 40+, playful, re-ative, respectful, appreciative, humor, integrity, seeks right woman, 5'2"- 5'6", good shape, age open. 25962360

BETHERE FOR ME Sexy SM, 20, 6'1", 165lbs, clean-cut, N/S, looking for a SF, 21-45, to chill with.

MYSTICAL MAN SWM, 39, trusting, warm-hearted, enjoys life's adventures, exploring and taking new chances. Seeking mysterious, magnificent SWF companion. \$234512

HI! LOOK ME OVER...

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Nice SWM, 56, with wisdom, wit and
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Let's see what develops. 22478746

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MIND WIDE OPEN
SWM, 42, Pisces, N/S, 5'6", 175lbs, homeowner, good job, seeks woman, 18-25, no children, any ethnicity, religion.

SEEKING MISS RIGHT
SBM, 42, seeks special SF, 29-36, 120155lbs, great sense of hurnor, IVS, IVD, who is outgoing, professional, Christian. No children. 75539869 SEEKING A NEW FRIEND

Manuage-minded SBM, 24, college stu-dent, loves music, writing poetry, Looking for SF, 22-28, for possible LTR, **27543101**

friend? 27540288 SEEKING PM
SM, 41, HIV+ but very healthy, active
and busy, wants to meet a SM, 25-52,
who is fun to be around. No drama or
baggage. \$2541228

SEEKING... sweet and caring man, 49, tooking for a female, 35-55, to spend some time with and get to know. 12541879 EYES FORYOU

SM, 22, 64", light brown complexion, pretty brown eyes, father, good personality, good sense of humor, seeking SBWF,

west side MAN... seeks a local woman. Very sexy and attractive, down-to-earth, very funny, out-going SBM, 23, brown eyes, Gemini, N/S, seeks woman, 18-30. 2545154 HANDSOME, HUMBLE

weeping in touch with current events, heart-to-heart talks and silly conversa-tions. Let's meet over coffee and see what develops, 22259844

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 26, 2004

Chevy's new small car, the Aveo, is a big value for under \$10K

Advertising Feature





Fracassa

Avanti NewsFeatures

If you take a look at the Chevrolet Aveo, the first thing you think is that it's too small for anyone over 4 feet tall to fit inside -- either the front or back seats. And cargo space in the rear -- shoot, it's got to be totally non-existent. Looks like there's about a foot of space, maybe less, from the outside. Well, looks are deceiving.

I've finding that out more and more with every small subcompact that I've driven lately. What looks ultra small is very, very surprising on the inside and in the cargo area. How can they put that much room in a car that small, for Pete's sake?

I know, I know, the 'ol move the tires out farther and stretch as much as you can out of that sheet metal.

It's been done with the Chevrolet Aveo, and done well, too. This entry-level vehicle is a breath of fresh air and full of value for the money you'll pay.

Sounds like I've been touting small cars and their wonderful features lately. Well, with gas prices the way they are lately -- although they are dropping just a tad -- sounds like a good way to spend your hard-earned bucks. You'll get anywhere between 26 mpg in the city to 36 mpg on the highway, depending on the transmission you choose. Not bad.

I still don't like small cars because of the safety you'll sacrifice -- I'm talking about the chance of getting creamed by a huge SUV or a larger, full-size vehicle, but it's a risk you've got to take sometimes, I guess.

There are two Aveos to choose from, a four-door sedan and a five-door. These subcompacts will seat five adults and are available in three different trim levels, depending on your pocketbook: Special Value, Base and LS.

Powered by a 1.6-liter dual overhead cam four-cylinder engine affording you 103 horsepower, the Aveo is peppy enough for a small vehicle like this. It's available with a four-speed automatic that features a hold control -- allowing you to stay in the appropriate gear on slippery roads or hills.

I drove the five-speed manual. It was difficult to shift, took its time getting up to snuff and the feature that you have to lift up a level on the shift knob to get it into reverse was



Chevrolet Aveo. Vehicle class: Subcompact. Power: 1.6-liter dual overhead cam 4-cylinder. Mileage: 26 mpg city/36 mph highway. Where built: Bupyong, Korea. Base price: \$9,995.

more than a pain in the reverse. Annoying, to say the least. Maddening to say the most.

The Aveo was styled and created in Giorgetto Giugiaro's well-known Italdesign studio in Turin, Italy. The styling of the Aveo is more than pleasing to the eye, lending itself to invisible lines, rounded corners that flow into just about infinity and a high roofline that gives it the appearance that it's a little larger than it really is.

The front treatment, with its wrap-around headlamps, turn signal lamps, front air dam that sports the familiar bow tie and rear air intake makes a bold statement, looking like it has command of the road. Fenders on the side are flared for added sportiness.

The interior of the Aveo isn't tight, and can accommodate four -- not five -- adults comfortably. I'm talking about taking a few people out for a night on the town, with full regalia including coats and purses and umbrellas. It would be tight

You have to know, however, that the Aveo has the roomiest interior of any vehicle in its class, which is a plus. There's also a higher H-point (head-to-toe) ratio than others in its class as well.

There are features on the Aveo that you won't find in most subcompact vehicles in this price range -- all of which allow more comfort than you would expect. There's a standard tilt steering wheel, seats with recline, seat height and headrest height adjustment and a 60/40 split folding rear bench seat with built-in headrests that also feature grocery bag hooks.

The interior instrumentation is easy to read and understand and is very basic. You'll find a tach, speedometer,

odometer, trip odometer, fuel gauge and coolant temperature gauge. There's a center storage tray, ashtray, 12-volt outlet and clock in the center console.

Some of the creature comforts you'll find in the Aveo include Am/FM stereo, tinted glass, intermittent wipers, rear defogger, remote fuel coor and trunk release, day/night rearview mirror, vanity mirrors up front, and dual front cupholders that don't hold large cups.

I have a bone to pick on the trunk release. Okay, there's a trunk release on the interior of the vehicle, located just left of the driver's seat. There's also a remote keyless entry that allows you to lock and unlock the doors. But you've got to use the key to open the trunk from the outside of the vehicle. There isn't even a latch if it's unlocked. You're forced to put the key in the keyhole to open the trunk. Mighty inconvenient, I'd say.

I didn't have any issues with the ride and handling of the Aveo. It whipped around corners and took bumpy roads and highway imperfections without so much as a whimper. I was never uncomfortable in the Aveo -- but I never took it on a longer trip than 45 minutes or so. I don't see a problem with a long trip, but I never took it on one, so I can't comment.

I loved the styling, I loved the interior room and I loved the fact that this subcompact is a great entry-level vehicle that's perfect for the college-bound kid or even a high school sophomore getting his/her first car. Great on mileage, great on economy. What more do you want?

Write Avanti NewsFeatures Editor Anne Fracassa at avanti1054@aol.com

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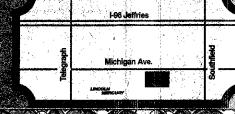








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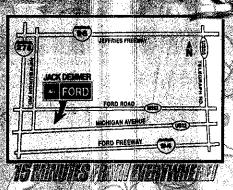
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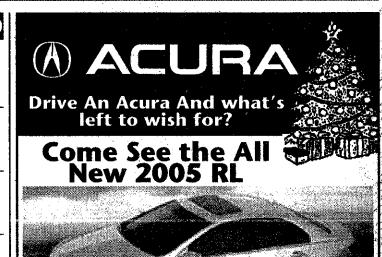
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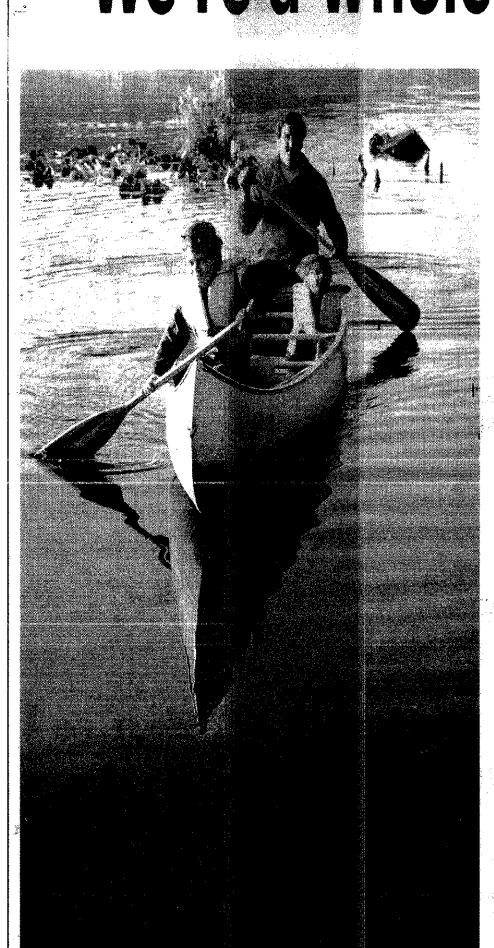
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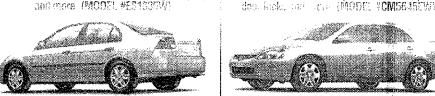
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