

Merry Christmas

Observer

SUNDAY
December 25, 2005

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Cox looks beyond Fieger to re-election in '06

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Attorney General Mike Cox is trying to rebound politically after a tumultuous two months stemming from his office's criminal investigation into Geoffrey Fieger.

Cox, a Livonia Republican who plans to run for re-election in 2006, is in the midst of a media firestorm from the situation that moved him to admit he had an extramarital affair. While he'd

rather talk about his efforts to collect \$20 million for children from their dead-beat parents and his price battles with Michigan's utility companies, Cox said he has no regrets about his handling of the Fieger situation because his actions protected his office's integrity.

"The bottom line is, if I didn't come forward and our office ended up not charging Geoffrey Fieger, it would have been out six, seven months ago what he ... tried to do," Cox said. "Then, peo-

ple would say the office buckled under and did something underhanded, or some how, I put the integrity of the office over my own personal pride or embarrassment.

"It's very important that this office maintain its integrity."

According to Cox, Fieger planned to disclose the infidelity in an attempt to thwart the attorney general's investigation into charges Fieger illegally funneled \$457,000 into an unsuccessful bid to defeat a Michigan

Supreme Court candidate in 2004. Fieger was not charged in connection with the blackmail allegation.

The campaign finance investigation continues. In a bid to distance himself from the Fieger probe, Cox appointed an independent investigator, Patrick Shannon, a former prosecutor from Sault Ste. Marie to take over the case.

Fieger, a flamboyant, national-



Attorney General Mike Cox and his wife, Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox, share a moment at a coffee shop near their home in Livonia.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PLEASE SEE COX, A5



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Terry and Janet Blumberg talk about the loss of their son, Trevor, who is the only Canton soldier killed in action since the end of the Vietnam War.



Trevor Blumberg of Canton was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2003.

Stay the course

Parents of slain soldier say America must finish job in Iraq

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 14, 2003, a roadside bomb in Iraq ripped apart the Humvee that U.S. Army Sgt. Trevor Blumberg was traveling in with three other soldiers. As a result of the explosion, the 22-year-old Blumberg, who had only arrived in the country three days

earlier with the rest of his battalion, became the first Canton soldier killed in action since the Vietnam War.

That roadside bomb also ripped from Terry and Janet Blumberg their only son. In the more than two years since that fateful day, the longtime Canton residents have tried to cope with the loss. They are tremendously proud of

the sacrifice their son made for his country, but worry it might be in vain if America doesn't complete its mission in Iraq - to create a flourishing democracy in the heart of the Middle East.

Terry, who is a Vietnam veteran, said the news of his son's death was difficult to accept, but some-

PLEASE SEE BLUMBERG, A4

Some charities report holiday shortfalls

BY MATT JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER

A slow state economy and the December weather-related clouds have hampered Christmas-time philanthropy in the suburbs.

Reports from groups such as the Salvation Army and the Goodfellows show some campaigns are meeting fund-raising goals while others are taking in less than organizers had hoped.

"Judging from what we did last year at this time, it looks like we're going to be down quite a bit," said Dick Tupper, president of the Farmington Area Goodfellows.

Tupper's group, which provides needy families with food baskets, toys (through Toys for Tots) and necessities like clothing, raised about \$67,000 last year, but is on course to be about 30 percent below that this year, Tupper said.

"We get the feedback that because of what's been going on in the world the last eight or 10 months, we really should expect our collections to be down," Tupper added. But he was still surprised at the shortfall, he said.

Yet Marie Morrow, president of the Plymouth Community United Way, said the group should meet its fund-raising target of \$1.3 million this year.

Morrow said she sees growing needs in the community, but also more generosity. The United Way campaign began in late August and lasts through the end of the year. "Obviously there've been challenges out there with the economy and natural disasters," she said. "People have really kind of dug deeper in those times."

At the Plymouth Salvation Army, Red Kettle campaign coordinator Kelly Boelter recently said donations were trending short of a \$155,000 goal.

Lower returns were also seen at the Canton Goodfellows, where president Nancy Spencer said newspaper sales brought in \$4,300, which is between \$500 and \$700 short of what's typical.

A mail solicitation, she said Thursday, has brought in

PLEASE SEE CHARITIES, A2

Livonia senior gives holiday bash

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Patty Ash donned a red hat and suit, complete with a snowy Santa beard, Thursday when she brought the spirit of Christmas to Livonia's Civic Park Senior Center.

Ash, a lifelong Livonia resident, is visually impaired. But a lack of

eyesight doesn't stop her from sewing festive Christmas costumes, creating a holiday skit, and building a sleigh complete with reindeer - all to entertain friends and staff at the senior center.

"I'm going to motivate the group," said Ash, 70.

For years she hosted Christmas parties for children - with up to

300 kids in attendance. Now, she's taken that idea to the senior center. After all, "Christmas is fun," she said.

Joan Gebhardt first met Ash this summer when she was calling bingo at the Senior Center. Gebhardt calls her simply "amaz-

PLEASE SEE ASH, A7



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patty Ash, a visually impaired Livonia senior, saved her Bingo winnings this year to throw a holiday party at the Civic Park Senior Center. Behind her stand snowman Mary Jamison, reindeer Marie Sliwinski, Beverly Gust and Christmas tree Wanda Smith. Volunteer Nancy Klien (right) helped hand out the gifts Ash purchased for everyone.

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CHARITIES

FROM PAGE A1
about \$5,500 so far.
"It's a few thousand short," Spencer said of the mail drive, adding, "It's still pretty good." Savings supplemented the group's No Child Without a Christmas program this year, she said. Boelter said the red kettle campaign was affected by her group's earlier hurricane relief work. The Plymouth Salvation Army, she said, raised more than \$60,000 in a three-week span and sent it to the southern U.S. for hurricane relief.

HELP WANTED

Groups also report that fund-raising volunteers - bell-ringers for the red kettle drive, for example - are sometimes scarce.
"I am having difficulty getting and keeping bell-ringers this year," said Boelter. "It was extremely difficult."

The Plymouth Salvation Army had 23 kettle locations in its area (including Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township), but Boelter said a large percentage of sites went unmanned - meaning the kettles were unavailable to potential donors.

For example, out of a 30-day campaign, Boelter said recently, the kettle at the post office in Belleville was covered for just four hours. She called that "devastating."

"Nobody wants to stand out in the cold," Spencer said. The Canton Goodfellows, she said, had only eight people hawking its fund-raising papers this year, down from 22 last year.
"The eight people who did sell papers did so remarkably well," she said.

BRIGHT SPOTS

Livonia Goodfellows president Bill Heaton said Thursday that fund raising was nearing 90 percent of the approximately \$100,000 the group has typically raised in each of the last few years. "I think things have gone very well, better than anticipated this year," Heaton said.

Heaton said he expects to reach the \$100,000 mark. Canned good donations were off a bit, he said, but the Goodfellows had an adequate number of volunteers from across the area. Heaton said Livonia Goodfellows assisted about 235 families this

To give ...

Here are the addresses of some Observer-area charities that conduct holiday-time fund drives:

■ Canton Goodfellows, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188

■ Redford Goodfellows, P.O. Box 40681 Redford, MI 48239

■ Farmington Area Goodfellows, 30903-B West 10 Mile, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

■ Plymouth Community United Way, P.O. Box 3653, Plymouth, MI 48170

■ Wayne Westland Corps, The Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, Westland, MI 48186

■ Plymouth Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170

■ Livonia Goodfellows Inc., P.O. Box 51982, Livonia, MI 48151

year, with some 625 children among them. It relied heavily on a mailed plea, getting only about \$10,000 from its paper sale, Heaton said.

At the Salvation Army's Wayne-Westland Corps, Capt. Matt O'Neil was pleased with the Red Kettle drive's results. The goal was \$115,000, and with donations at about \$82,000 or \$83,000 as of Monday, O'Neil is optimistic, though he said it will be "pretty tight."

"Our drive's going better than I imagined," he said. "I thought it would be a lot less."

In Redford, Goodfellows president John Buck said the group will be able to pay its bills. Its paper sale brought in about \$13,000, roughly \$1,000 less than last year, but the group also gets mailed donations.

The need in Redford rose significantly, with more than 200 families getting aid this year, compared to 185 last year.

For Spencer of the Canton Goodfellows, despite coming up short in fund raising, it was gratifying that some 500 needy children in the group's service area were "adopted" by donors who provided them with Christmas gifts. It was the first time in the group's history that all eligible children had been adopted, she said. "As far as I'm concerned that's a miracle," she said.

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Snow problem leads to disorderly charge

A 29-year-old woman was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge during a dispute over snow removal on Woodworth Street north of Seven Mile in Redford on Dec. 15.

Neighbors were accusing each other of throwing snow on each other's driveway, a police report said.

Police were called when a man cleared his driveway with a snowblower that sent the snow onto a driveway across the street, police said.

The suspect, 49, admitted doing so, but said the neighbor had thrown salt on his lawn, killing the grass, something the complainant denied. The man agreed to remove the snow from the complainant's driveway, though he became argumentative and was warned to calm down, police said.

A woman from his house, however, persisted in yelling about the complainant, saying he always throws snow on their driveway, police said.

Several people were watching the incident, and the woman was arrested after yelling at police and being warned at least three times to calm down, police said.

Track leads to arrest

A 45-year-old man was arrested on two warrants related to drug offenses as police investigated a break-in at a house on Deborah Street in Redford Thursday evening.

The house's side door had been forced open, and a pry bar was found on a bed inside, a police report said.

Books of checks were reported stolen.

An officer noticed footprints in the snow in the back yard, and a tracking dog, Czar, took police to a side door of a neighboring house.

That's where police found the man with the outstanding warrants. He refused to let police search his bedroom, and a search warrant was sought.

Grinchy thief

Wrapped Christmas presents, plus digital video discs and videotapes, were reported stolen from a house on Wormer Street north of Five Mile in Redford after a burglary on Tuesday.

The complainant told police

CRIME WATCH

he came home to find a door/wall open. He couldn't remember if it had been secured, police said.

The man's bedroom had been ransacked.

Restaurant theft

An official for the Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant in Westland reported that someone broke into the business between 2 a.m. and 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The restaurant is located on Wayne Road north of Ford. The break-in was discovered when an assistant manager and a representative for Red Bull - a company that sells energy drinks - came to the restaurant to open it Tuesday morning.

They found that a window of an exit door had been broken and that someone had gone into a restaurant safe to take an undisclosed amount of money, according to a police report.

The investigation was continuing.

The uninvited

A man who lives on Orange Street in the Westland Meadows mobile home park in Westland reported a home invasion that he said occurred between 4 p.m. Monday and 10:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The mobile home park is located near Merriman and Van Born roads on the city's south-east side.

The resident said he hadn't been home in two days and that the incident occurred as he was trying to move out of the mobile home park, according to a police report.

He reported some damage inside his house but said it didn't appear that anything had been stolen. He told police that it appeared his home was simply used for a party.

One witness told police that she saw three men she didn't recognize enter the house.

Sob story

Canton police weren't buying a Livonia man's sob story when they arrested him for shoplifting at the station. Major's store on Dec. 10.

According to a police report,

the man was shopping in the store at 9:15 p.m. He had two young boys with him. A loss prevention officer watched as the man stuffed packages of sports cards into his jacket.

He and the boys picked up a shovel and some de-icing pellets and paid for them, but store personnel stopped him near the exit to ask him about the cards.

When police arrived to question him, officers asked where the boys' mother was so they could call her to come pick up the children before he was taken to the police station.

He told police that the boys' mother had died eight months earlier, and that money was tight. "I just wanted to give the boys a good Christmas," he told the officers, the report said.

But when the twin 4-year-old boys were questioned separately, they told police that their mother had taken them to school the previous day.

Officers took all three to the police station. When questioned again about the whereabouts of the boys' mother, he insisted, "I swear on my kids' lives she's dead."

The man was able to make bail, and a friend was called to take him and the children home.

When the friend arrived, police asked about the mother, and the friend said not only is she alive, but she's not married to the man who had been arrested. He is a live-in boyfriend and is not the father of the children, the friend said.

Police were able to contact the mother, who picked up the children.

Officers also called Child Protective Services. The man was released after being charged with shoplifting and posting a \$300 bond.

Vandalism

Two residents of apartments in the 31000 block of Pardo in Garden City reported two tires punctured on each of their vehicles, resulting in \$250 damage apiece, on Tuesday. Both vehicles were parked on the street.

Also on Tuesday, a resident in the 30000 block of John Hawk reported one tire on a vehicle had been punctured while it was parked in the driveway. The damage was set at \$150.

Fraud

A resident in the 500 block of Helen in Garden City told police Tuesday that she'd received a collection notice for \$200 overdue on a DTE account she hadn't opened.

The account was listed at an address at a Wayne apartment building, where the woman said her brother's former girlfriend had lived.

Counterfeit bill

An employee at the Shell gas station at 120 Middlebelt in Garden City told police Tuesday that he was counting money from the cash register when he found a counterfeit \$20. The bill was turned over to police.

Retail fraud

A Garden City man was arrested Tuesday for shoplifting a ham and a frozen apple pie valued at \$11 from Kroger, 5866 Middlebelt, in Garden City. An employee said the man was detained after he was spotted leaving with the items hidden under his clothing.

On Wednesday, an employee at CVS Pharmacy, 29901 Ford Road, reported that beer and two packages of diapers valued at \$50 were stolen by a man and woman. The employee said he followed the couple outside to their vehicle and saw the items on the back seat. He said he talked to the man but the suspect drove off.

On Wednesday, a Detroit man was arrested for driving with three license suspensions and having an outstanding warrant, and cited him for having no proof of insurance.

An officer reported noticing the man sitting in a running vehicle near the entrance to an apartment building in the 30000 block of Krauter while checking the area in response to recent vandalism complaints.

On Thursday, a Detroit woman was arrested for driving with five license suspensions and possession of suspected marijuana. She was also held on two warrants. She had been stopped on driving with high beams on.

by Observer staff

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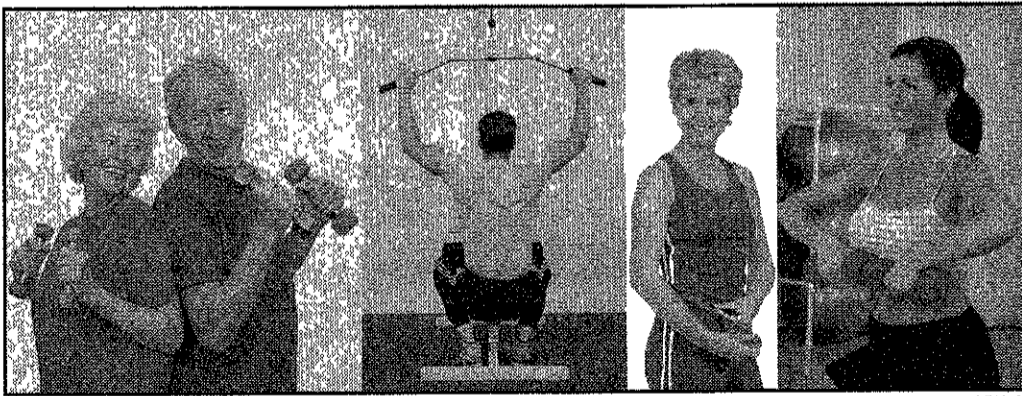
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Living it up

Three neighbors celebrate their 100th birthdays

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

When these ladies were born, the average life expectancy was 47 years. The average wage was 22 cents per hour. Sugar and flour cost 4 cents per pound and a dozen eggs cost 14 cents.

That was 100 years ago. Louise Frid, Kay Langan and Hazel Farrell, all neighbors at the Grand Court senior citizen residence in Farmington Hills, reached the milestone this year. Louise turned 100 on July 23; Hazel celebrated 100 years on Nov. 19; and Kay had her 100th birthday on Dec. 17.

The neighbors gathered in the cozy lobby of Grand Court to receive a special recognition from state Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi, D-Farmington Hills, recently and they told their secrets to longevity.

"Working hard, keeping busy all the time and being glad the Lord lets you live every day," said Hazel, who has lived in Farmington Hills for 35 years.

Born in Canton, Ohio, she was one of seven children. Her family moved to Michigan when she was 8 years old and she grew up on Detroit's west side. She married Gerard E. "Ted" Farrell and they raised seven children.

Today, she fills her days with friends and family. She stays active at Grand Court.

"I go and do everything they have here," she said. "I have a purse I call my bingo purse."

Louise also gets around the Grand Court community. Even at 100, she still walks the hallways every morning. Staying healthy is her secret.

"I can't believe it myself" she said. "Day after day, not a pain. I still enjoy life and I enjoy the people around me."

Louise was born in Arizona and moved to Michigan when she was a child. Her parents traveled to the Midwest by horse and wagon. She grew up on a farm in Caro. She had three children.

Kay, who lived half of her life in Southfield, had a remarkable birthday present delivered to her in mid-December.

Sitting on a table in the lobby of Grand Court was a giant arrangement of 100 roses — 99 were brilliant red and one was a white rose, in memory of her husband, Tom.

Kay was born in Canada and came to Michigan in 1929. Her husband didn't like factory work, so the couple opened a gas station at the corner of 11 Mile and Northwestern Highway. The gas station was demolished when the highway was widened. The couple used the money they received from the buyout to

open Nor-West Lanes, which is still in the family. Kay's grandchildren run the bowling alley, located at 14 Mile and Northwestern.

Kay is thankful for her many blessings at 100 years of age.

"It's wonderful to live," she smiled. "I have a lot to be thankful for. I'm thankful for my health and that the Lord has left

me here."

Healthy living and taking one day at a time is Kay's secret to living an active life, even when you're a century old. She's optimistic and sees the beauty in everyone she meets.

"I've met some beautiful people here," she said.

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'I can't believe it myself. Day after day, not a pain. I still enjoy life and I enjoy the people around me.'

Louise Frid
100 years old



Hazel Farrell, Kay Langan, and Louise Frid are all 100 years old. They are neighbors at the Grand Court senior living community in Farmington Hills.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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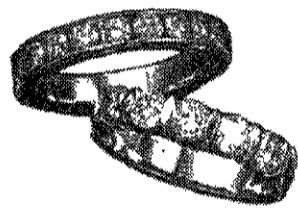
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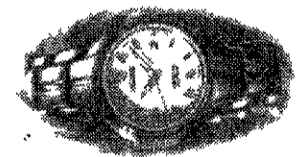
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Garden City Middle School's B.A.R.K. (Bull Dog Athletics Reaching Kids) is sponsoring a night at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Saturday, Jan. 7, when the Pistons take the floor against the Utah Jazz at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets sell for \$35 per person. Each ticket holder will receive a Detroit Pistons backpack and one hour of post-game court time on The Palace floor.

Tickets are by calling Judy Nichols at (734) 513-6760. Payment must be made in the form of cash or check made payable to Garden City Public Schools with a note of Piston Night in the memo section of the check.

Proceeds from the Pistons game benefits the intramural sports program at the middle school.

BLUMBERG

FROM PAGE A1

thing he prepared himself for since the day his son told him he had joined the Army back in 2001.

"The day he put on a uniform, I was prepared that this might happen," he said. "But it was still the hardest day of my life. And it was even harder on my wife."

For the Blumbergs, the news of Trevor's death was the beginning of a whirlwind couple weeks, during which time they not only had to come to grips with his death, but also had to make funeral arrangements and the like. Fortunately, the Blumbergs say the Army went all out to make sure they had everything they needed to get through a very difficult time.

Unfortunately, they were also bombarded by the media. They quickly learned that dying soldiers make good news stories. They say it became somewhat of a frenzy outside their home on Longfellow Street. At one point it became so bad, they say a local TV news reporter literally accosted Trevor's elderly grandmother as she tried to walk up to the house. Finally a couple Canton police officers blocked off the street to outside traffic, until interest in Trevor's death began to wane.

During the episode, the

Blumbergs say they developed a general mistrust of the media, something that continues to this day. In fact, Terry believes the media is much to blame for the American public's growing disillusionment with the war in Iraq.

"We have constant contact with the soldiers who are on the ground. Those guys are doing some great stuff over there, but you would never even know it with the way the war is being reported. The soldiers we talk to say the reporters never even leave the safety of the Green Zone, and have no idea of what's really happening," he said.

Terry is no stranger to the controversy that can surround a war. He served in Vietnam during the tumultuous years of 1967-68, and went through the Tet Offensive, an event many believe was the turning point of the war - when the American public began to question why we were there.

Despite the fact that recent polls suggest the majority of the American public believes it was a mistake going into Iraq, Terry says he doesn't see many similarities with the Vietnam era. Both he and Janet, who are both 60, said they have believed in this war from the beginning. The fact that it took their son makes them even more resolute. They just hope the country feels the same way. "It all depends on our inter-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Amanda Marshall, Trevor Blumberg's only sibling, holds her 3-month-old son, Logan, who is the first grandchild of Terry and Janet Blumberg (in background).

'The soldiers we talk to say the reporters never even leave the safety of the Green Zone, and have no idea of what's really happening.'

Terry Blumberg
father of slain soldier Trevor Blumberg

tinal fortitude and the people in Washington. If they give up, then it's over," said Terry, who is a home inspector.

The Blumbergs have lived in the Embassy Squares subdivision since 1988, when Trevor

was just 5. He became a fixture in the neighborhood, graduating from Plymouth Salem in 1999. His sister and only sibling, Amanda Marshall, said Trevor didn't have a ton of friends, but to those he did have he was extremely loyal. That's why she wasn't surprised when he first told her he was going to join the Army, something she knew before their parents.

"You could just tell that college wasn't for him. He was intelligent enough, but he wanted something more for his life," she said.

The Blumbergs say they have been honored the way the Canton community has supported them, from local veterans groups to township officials, but especially their neighbors, who really helped them get through the toughest times after Trevor's death.

Members of Trevor's platoon, who affectionately called him "Blum," have also helped relieve some of the Blumbergs' pain. Terry says they hear from the

others have died in Iraq or elsewhere in America's fight against terrorism. More than 2,100 soldiers have died in Iraq since the war began in March of 2003.

"Every time you hear of a soldier dying, you just feel terrible. You don't know how it feels, unless you have lost yourself. So my heart goes out to them every time we lose another one," she said.

If nothing else, those losses should be reason enough for America to finish what it started in Iraq, she said.

"The right thing to do is to support our president and see this through. I just don't want to cut the chase without completing our mission," she said.

The Blumbergs say that Trevor's death has left a tremendous hole in their lives, but they have done their best to move on, all the while feeling extremely proud that he was their son.

"You have to go on with your life. If you let it, it will eat you up inside. You've got to go on or

he never become a part of it to Marshall's 3-month-old son, Logan, who is the Blumbergs' first grandchild.

"I lost a son and gained 130," Terry said.

Janet Blumberg, who is the principal at Henry Ruff Elementary School in Garden City, said Trevor's death has given her more perspective of what other families are going through whose sons or daugh-

ters have been buried in Michigan Memorial Cemetery in Flatrock. There is a brick dedicated to his memory at the Veteran's Memorial in Canton's Heritage Park. The memorial was built in 1993 and also contains brick pavers honoring 21 Civil War casualties, three from World War II and four from the Vietnam War.

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COX

FROM PAGE A1

ly recognized attorney based in Southfield, lambasted Cox for this investigation. Fieger said he couldn't believe that Cox was blaming him for his extra-marital affair and called for Cox's resignation.

Cox said Fieger's name-calling merely diverts the public's attention from the allegations.

"Never before has anyone spent \$457,000 anonymously through using a dummy name, a dummy address and a dummy group," Cox said. "That's of a caliber that's never been seen before in Michigan."

The new year, Ballenger added, will provide a series of hurdles for Cox. His office has to continue the Fieger investigation in a fashion the public finds credible, which would maintain his party's loyalty and strengthen his re-election chances. If the Fieger investigation turns into a circus, Ballenger said, then things could spiral downhill for Cox.

FIRST TERM FEATS

As he tries to distance himself from the Fieger probe, Cox said he is trying to turn the public focus on the accomplishments of his first three

years in office. He reports the office has collected \$20.4 million in child support payments thus far to benefit 2,106 children, according to federal reports. In less than three years, federal reports indicate the attorney general collected nearly \$8.4 million in legal settlements for Michigan consumers, which is more than the \$8.3 million collected during Jennifer Granholm's term as attorney general (1999-2002).

His office has pushed utility companies to lower their original price proposals, which need state approval. Cox said his efforts provided Michigan residents a combined total savings of \$1.5 billion. With 515

employees in his department, Cox said he has enticed some utility companies to spread out natural gas payments over 17 months to help customers on fixed incomes who may struggle to cover this winter's sharp increase in energy costs.

"I like being able to solve problems and I get to do more in this job than I did when I was an assistant (Wayne County) prosecutor," Cox said. He's in the midst of initiating several new programs. He designed a program to educate senior citizens to protect themselves from identification theft.

He plans to intensify background checks for nursing home workers to better serve facility residents.

Cox, a 1980 graduate of Catholic Central, is seeking legislation that would provide whistleblower protection for health care workers who detect fraud while on duty, which he said will save the state money and provide the witness a reward while protecting his or her job. Also, Cox plans to follow suit with other state attorney generals and develop a Web site that requires all pharmacies to post their average prescription drug prices so consumers can compare.

"I just don't want the job to have the title," Cox said. "I want to do a couple things and we're doing them."



Mike Cox says his consumer protection efforts have been underrated.

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POLITICAL FALLOUT

While Cox aims to maintain fiduciary integrity, his political career could be dogged by a prolonged public battle between the attorney general's office and Fieger, said political analyst Bill Ballenger, editor of the Lansing-based publication *Inside Michigan Politics*.

"The situation certainly doesn't help him," Ballenger said.

"If we were just talking about an affair, I don't think that alone would be terminal. If Fieger keeps going on and on, and the publicity about this keeps coming, that could make it worse for Mike Cox."

Ballenger said Cox has received a political boost from Michigan Republicans who have been unified in their support of the attorney general since Cox admitted his infidelity Nov. 9 during a press conference with his wife of 11 years, Laura.

Before that time, Cox was expected to have little trouble winning re-election next year. Cox, 44, was considered a front runner for the Republican nomination for governor in 2010.

"Things were going well for him," Ballenger said. "He didn't have any problems with his own party and it was going to be tough for Democrats to find a good candidate to challenge him next year."

THE AG SPEAKS

by Bill Ballenger

Mike Cox's comments on various issues:

His endorsement of the Rev. Keith Butler (leader of a Southfield-based church) among three Republican candidates for U.S. Senate in 2006:

"He has a better chance to beat (incumbent) Debbie Stabenow among the three because he's better on the issues. His campaign is better organized, he has a better vision and he's an inspiration figure."

His love for politics:

"As a lawyer, the political arena is like the ultimate court room. It's a fascinating battle to make the better argument and come up with the better ideas."

President George W. Bush's program to secretly wire-tap American citizens calling people in foreign countries:

"I'm uncomfortable with warrantless wiretapping of American citizens, but if they are involved conversations with people overseas who are possible terrorists, then that's within the president's powers as commander-in-chief."

Anticipating this week's scheduled leave for his Marine daughter, Lindsey (a 2001 Redford Thurston grad), who completed a 13-month assignment in Iraq earlier this year:

"It's been like a roller coaster ride. She's a strong individual, but still I would constantly worry. We were fortunate to get e-mails or calls from her every few days or so."

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ASH

FROM PAGE A1

ing.”
Ash been known to play two or three cards at a time – and win. She memorizes the cards or uses Braille cards to participate. And when she wins, she saves that bingo money for this time of year, when she can purchase gifts and host a holiday party at the center. This year, her winnings totaled \$271 and it went to a bevy of presents she handed out to everyone who came to the luncheon. Ash is already saving for next year's event. She's stashed about \$55 so far.

Gebhardt said the gifts were designated for women, men or staff members and each had a poem typed out and attached to the wrapping. “Everything rhymes,” said Gebhardt. “She's just unbelievable. So talented.” Karl Peters, activity director for the center, said seniors look forward to the party every year. “It's a holiday tradition,” said Peters. “She puts everyone in the spirit.”

This year's event kicked off with a short skit including Ash's friends dressed as a Christmas tree, a snowman and two reindeer. Donning her Santa attire, Ash led the whole group in a rousing rendition of *Jingle Bells* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. Her home-made sleigh even had a working door. Senior Center Volunteer Nancy Klein announced: “She went to Home Depot again.”

Klein said she's known Ash for about two years and described her as “a very giving person, tenderhearted.”

“She brings joy throughout the year,” said Klein. “It's not just a seasonal situation. Just to see her everyday is inspiring.”

Ron Hendry works in the library at the senior center.

He said Ash adds humor and creativity wherever she goes. “She's a joy,” he said. “She is so loved by so many.”

Livonia residents Virginia Main and Doris Moyer agreed. They said they appreciated the party, and Ash. “She's amazing. Very generous,” Moyer said.

Main added: “She blesses us



Reindeer Beverly Gustafson (from left), snowman Mary Jamison, another reindeer Marie Sliwinski and Christmas tree Wanda Smith act out their parts in a Christmas play created by Santa, Livonia's Patty Ash.



Patty Ash (left) helps Mary Jamison complete her snowman costume for a play Ash created to entertain Livonia seniors.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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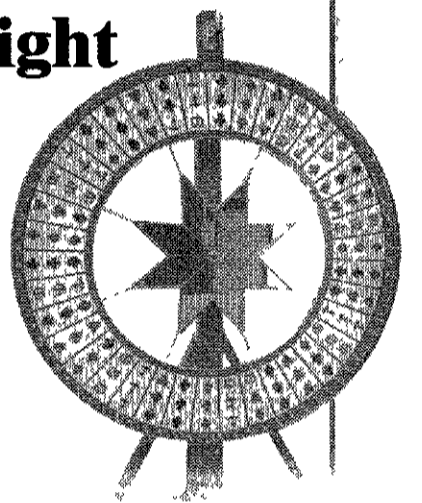
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Holidays can be lonely for those fighting addiction

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

From her first days in college at Central Michigan University, when she was 18, 19 years old, Tina loved her vodka.

At first, she simply loved going to the parties, where the vodka and the atmosphere combined to give her a high she wasn't getting anywhere else. Then, she became the life of the party, always willing to go, always eager for a good time.

Eventually, the party became her life, a need that had to be filled, a sort of thirst only the partying, and particularly the vodka (and sometimes rum) could quench.

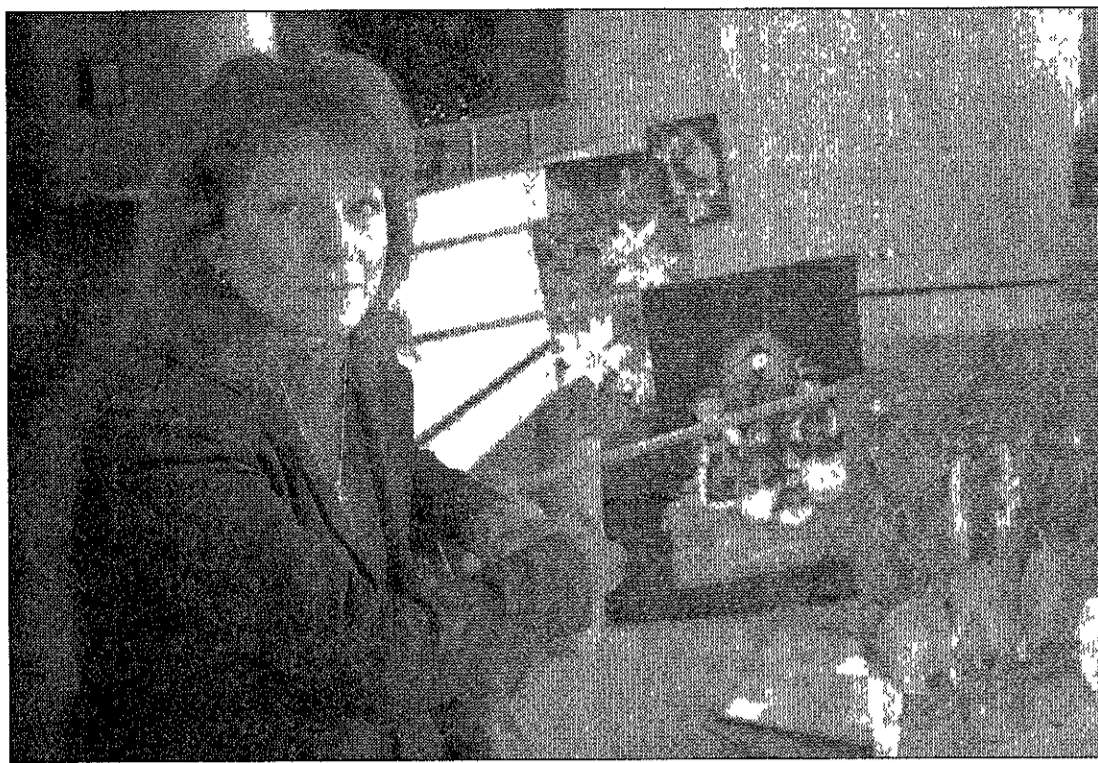
"I loved the feeling it gave me, the party atmosphere made me feel relaxed. It made me feel like I didn't have to worry about things," said Tina, now a 34-year-old Livonia resident. "There's a euphoria to it. Once I started, I wanted it more and more."

The problem was the degree to which the drinking had taken over her life. She didn't know it then, but she knows it now, after more than five years of sobriety. She figured, incorrectly, she knows now, since she'd never gotten into trouble — never been arrested, never been hurt — she didn't have a drinking problem.

She "bottomed out," she said, in March 2000, when she woke up one morning unable to recall how she'd gotten home, or how the dents got in the hood of her car or how the windshield got smashed.

Turns out, she'd hit an orange construction barrel, driving home during a blackout caused by her drinking. It turned out to be the watershed event of her life.

"I didn't think there was anything wrong with my drinking," Tina said. "I never got in trouble, never went



Lillian Easterly is care ministries pastor at Northridge Church.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

unmanageable my life was. Driving in a blackout ... I could have killed someone. I know people who have."

"When you're drinking, you don't make good judgment calls," she said. "I didn't want to have to be making up lies for things I did when I was drinking. I didn't want to be embarrassed and humiliated by what I was doing. My life was unmanageable."

Not any more. The morning after that event, more than five years ago now, Tina got some help, first from a friend she'd just met at her new church, then from a 12-step support group. She did 90 meetings in 90 days, called her sponsor every day and, most importantly, got involved in church.

As the holidays — with the party atmosphere that was such a huge part of Tina's life — approach, she spends her time now leading a support group of her own, The Women of Serenity, part of

Plymouth Township. Getting support from groups like Tina's is a critical element to making it through party times such as the Christmas and New Year's holidays, according to Lillian Easterly, the Care Ministries pastor at NorthRidge.

It can be a dangerous time for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts.

"It's an extremely difficult time," said Easterly, herself a recovering alcoholic with 20 years of sobriety. "They're in recovery, trying desperately to stay sober, and they have to be around people who are still 'using.'"

That's how it was the first five years for Easterly, who found that time to be "very lonely," because, like most addicts, her friends, co-workers and others in her circle were part of her alcoholic world.

Easterly said the key to sobriety is finding a new world, at least at first.

been in that lifestyle," she said. "When you break out of that, you have to start over. It's a whole new life, and that makes it lonely."

Tina had those people in her life: The friend who told her what she'd done the night before, the ones who helped her craft stories to cover her drinking.

"When you're drinking, you have people who play their

roles," Tina said. "They enable you. When I stopped, I had friends at church (instead)."

A LONELY TIME

Experts agree on one thing: A support system is vital, especially during a heavy party time like these holidays.

Experts agree the holiday season is a challenge for people recovering from substance abuse. According to Linda Cunin, director of Oakwood Healthcare System's Employee Assistance program, it's easy for addicts — even recovering ones — to let up during the holidays.

"Absolutely, because a lot of people associate celebrating with alcohol," said Cunin, a licensed master social worker. Those in recovery can get caught up in the holidays, she said, and not see their therapist or go to meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or Women for Sobriety. "You don't want to delude yourself into thinking 'Oh, I can stop by with my old drinking buddies.'"

Easterly presides over a series of support groups at NorthRidge that encompass some 350 people in its various elements. That includes two women's groups, including the one Tina leads, and three men's groups that deal

with drug and alcohol abuse.

With a party atmosphere like New Year's Eve around the corner, Easterly said NorthRidge will "provide a sober environment" to help people get through it, including meetings throughout the holidays.

Tina, with more than five years of sobriety, knows she's one of the lucky ones. She said one in 10 alcoholics seek help; only about 10 percent of those actually stick with it long enough to get it.

"There are a lot of people who go in and out and in and out (of support groups) because they don't do the steps," Tina said. "A lot of it is you're not used to having to deal with your feelings."

When you're in the throes of your addiction and you're drinking, it covers up the feelings. When you start working the steps, you find out a lot about yourself. A lot of people can't cope with that. "I had a huge, huge support system. I worked the program, had a sponsor, called the sponsor every day, went to the meetings," Tina said. "People don't stay sober because they think they can do it on their own. You can't do that."

Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this story.

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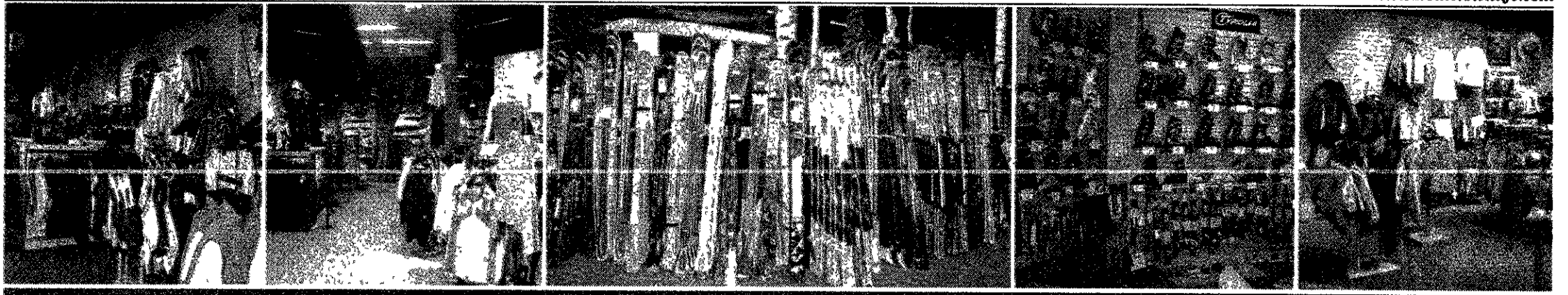
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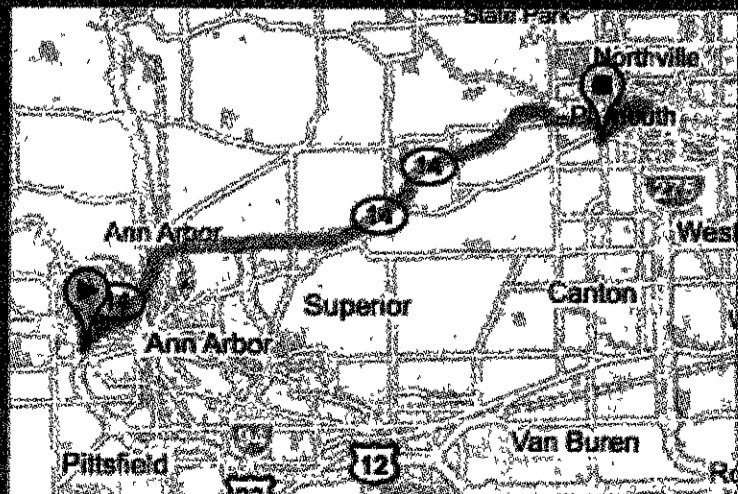
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Judge's ruling takes a stand for science and Constitution

On Tuesday, a Republican judge, appointed by President George W. Bush, took a stand for science, honesty and the Constitution by ruling that "intelligent design" could not be taught in biology classes in Dover, Pa.

Federal Judge John E. Jones III issued a detailed, fact-filled 139-page decision that included a strongly worded rebuke of the former Dover school board and those who championed their attempt to undermine science instruction in the Dover schools.

Jones said the school board members lied about their religious motives and made a decision of "breath-taking inanity" that "dragged their community into this legal maelstrom with its resulting utter waste of monetary and personal resources."

The Dover board, which was not re-elected by the voters of Dover after its bad decision, ordered that a statement be read at the start of the evolution portion of the biology curriculum saying in part, "Because Darwin's Theory is a theory, it continues to be tested as new evidence is discovered. The Theory is not a fact. Gaps in the Theory exist for which there is no evidence." The statement went on to propose intelligent design was an equally legitimate scientific alternative and even endorsed a book on the subject. It concluded with a statement that implied evolution was only being taught to meet state standards.

Former Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson, now president and chief counsel for the Thomas More Law Center in Ann Arbor, was the lead defense lawyer. He seemed particularly agitated by the depth, seriousness and vigor of Jones' decision. He took issue with the judgment involving "a one minute statement being read to students."

Clearly, the intent of that statement was to denigrate science research, distort the scientific meaning of the word theory and direct students to a religious-based idea in a public school program. So parents took the board to court.

Jones had some tough words for Thompson and his associates, who might wish to portray him as anti-religion or an "activist" jurist.

"Those who disagree with our holding will likely mark it as a product of an activist judge. If so, they will have erred as this manifestly not an activist court," Jones wrote. "Rather, this case came to us as the result of the activism of an ill-informed faction on a school board, aided by a national public interest law firm eager to find a constitutional test case on intelligent design, who in combination drove the board to adopt an imprudent and ultimately unconstitutional policy."

To be clear, scientific theory as understood by scientists is, from the American Heritage Dictionary definition "a set of statements or principles devised to explain a group of facts or phenomena, especially one that has been repeatedly tested or is widely accepted and can be used to make predictions about natural phenomena."

Theories arise from tested hypotheses and are always open to challenge and new understanding based on testable observations.

Intelligent design and creationism have no such scientific foundation and are rooted in a belief in a "creator," understood by its proponents as the "creator" of the Judeo-Christian heritage. This is not something open to scientific inquiry, but a matter of faith.

In 2001, state Rep. Robert Gosselin (R-Troy) offered his own bill to inflict this quasi-science on Michigan students, following similar actions in Kansas. His proposal would have read into the state standards: "In the science standards, all references to 'evolution' and 'how species change through time' shall be modified to indicate that this is an unproven theory by adding the phrase 'and scientists will

explain the competing theories of evolution and natural selection based on random mutation and the theory that life is the result of the purposeful, intelligent design of a Creator."

Gosselin has also proposed posting the Ten Commandments, which in addition to good advice about not killing, stealing, coveting or cheating, also promote the worship of God and keeping sacred the sabbath. These are good things and, as recently interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court, fine to display in a limited, historical, cultural context, but not as a statement of the state's views.

The ruling by Jones is not "anti-religion." It is pro-science. It is a statement that a public school biology classroom is not the place for advocating a particular religious point of view.

In a column in Wednesday's New York Times, Bruce Feiler argues that the decision might be helpful in returning the Bible to where it belongs, not in science classes, but in "elective, nonsectarian high school Bible classes." Feiler, who spoke at the Livonia Prayer Breakfast last year and is the author of several perceptive and entertaining books on the Bible, argues that the Bible is a great work of literature and religious philosophy and holds a significant place in our shared cultural history.

The Supreme Court has always upheld this approach to teaching about the Bible and about the importance of religion in our country's history.

As Feiler says, "the Bible is too important to the history of Western civilization — and too vital to its future — to be ceded to one side in the debate over values."

And it's time that a small minority within the Christian community stops trying to find devious ways to impose its religion on others through government sanction.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.hometownlife.com, by phone at (734) 953-2149, or by fax at (734) 591-

Fun, safe: Friends don't let friends drive drunk

The response came as a surprise. I'd called Nechole McClendon, executive director at Wayne County's Mothers Against Drunk Driving, about the annual New Year's Eve program. For 20 years, the MADD chapters in the metro area have joined forces to offer free New Year's rides home to revelers who've had too much. I thought this year's story would be much like last year's.

Project LifeRide is continuing this year, McClendon told me, but in a reduced form. Coupons for \$2 off rides home are being passed out to bars and nightclubs, unlike the volunteer-manned bank of past years which coordinated free rides home.

She said it wasn't the economy to blame but rather that revelers had become too dependent: "The public had become dependent on MADD providing the service. We wanted to make sure the public respected our volunteers. We just want people to be responsible."

Law enforcement folks I talked to were circumspect in reaction, but I can't imagine they're happy about their New Year's workload becoming that much heavier. I decided to call Dale Yagiela, executive director of Growth Works Inc., which among other things works with young people who are chemically dependent.

"I doubt that many people took them up on their offer to start with," said Yagiela, who's seen a number of other efforts to make people, including those who work in bars and restaurants, aware of their responsibilities. "I think all these things are really important. There's a tremendous amount of effort that's put into this."

He's found that those who cause drunken driving crashes aren't necessarily in tune with such things as getting rides home.

They may be alcoholics and often don't hold valid driver's licenses.

Yagiela has found young people now abuse more prescription drugs, especially opiates, as revealed by ongoing University of Michigan research. "That to me is a bigger concern," said Yagiela, who noted continued marijuana use and

among teens. It's been more than 30 years since I got my driver's license — and certainly my generation had its share of substance abuse problems — but I hope New Year's revelers of all ages get the message this year. The MADD rides were a big help and it's a shame to see them go; hopefully, they'll be back in time for next year's New Year's Eve celebration.

Preventing even one drunken driving tragedy is worth it: The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning is coordinating the "You Drink & Drive. You Lose." crackdown, Dec. 19 to Jan. 1, to combat drunken driving and prevent traffic deaths. Twenty-eight counties across the state are receiving federal traffic safety funding for overtime drunken driving patrols, and hundreds of other agencies are pledging to make enforcement a priority.

In Livingston, Macomb, St. Clair and Wayne counties, 22 law enforcement agencies will receive grant funds to patrol on Dec. 19-23 and Dec. 29-Jan. 1.

During the 2004 Christmas weekend there were four traffic fatalities, one of which involved alcohol, according to the Michigan Department of State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center. Six people died in traffic crashes over the New Year's weekend, and four of the deaths were alcohol-related.

There's a lot you can do if you're hosting a party. Serve plenty of food to reduce the likelihood of guests becoming intoxicated. Offer plenty of nonalcoholic drinks too, and be sure no guest leaves your party intoxicated and intending to drive. You can put them up for the night if necessary.

If you're out at a bar or restaurant Dec. 31, a designated driver's the way to go. When you do head home, pay extra attention while on the road to guarantee that everyone gets home safely. That's particularly the case if the weather's bad, a distinct possibility with our Michigan winters.

Few would advocate a return to Prohibition, which brought problems of its own, but drunken driving is an easier call. Have a good time this New Year's but don't let your celebrating turn into tragedy, for you, your family or anyone else.

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111.



Hugh Gallagher



Julie Brown

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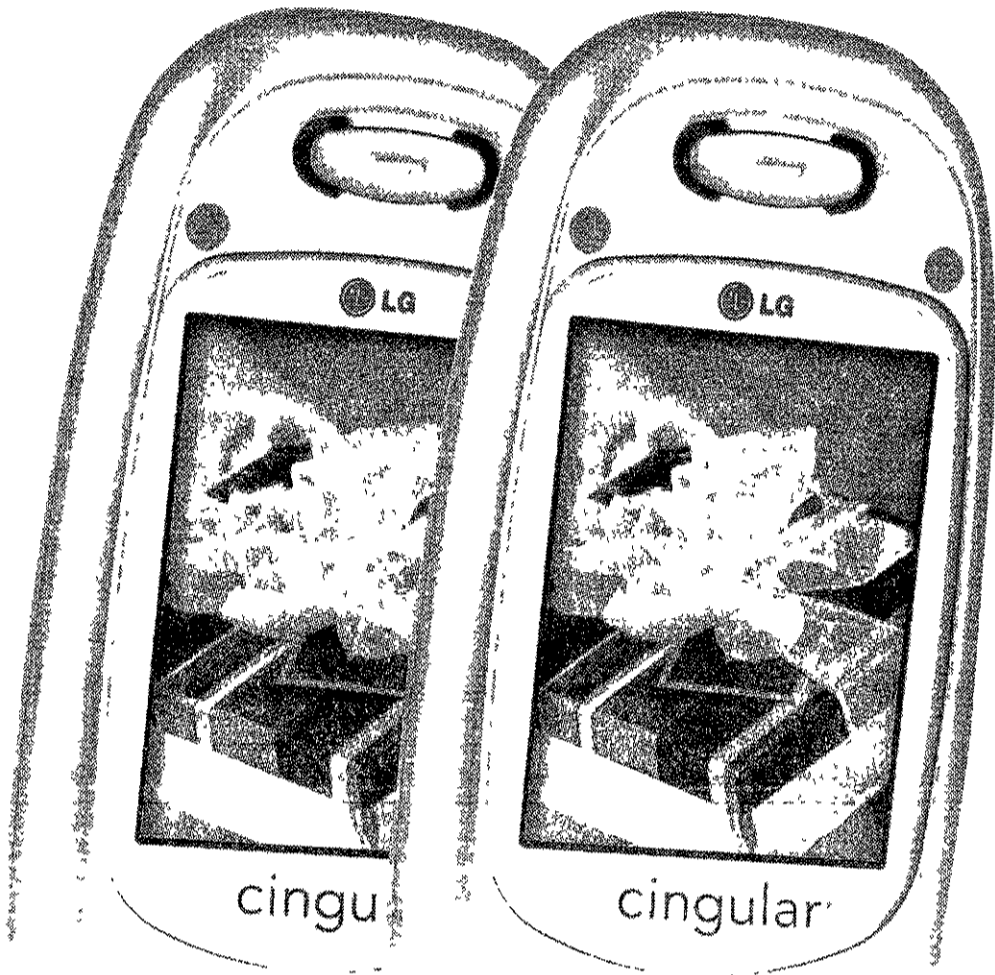
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Susan Tish

Count your blessings

News Flash: Today is Big with Blessings! Now there's a headline I'd like to see in the paper. Instead each day it seems the news from Detroit and the metropolitan area becomes bleaker. We've been hearing for months about the weak financial situation in the city of Detroit.

For even longer we've been concerned about the high unemployment rate in Michigan at 6.7 percent. Now with the announced bankruptcy of Delphi there is a growing concern for the future of the Detroit-based auto industry - an industry that seems to touch the lives of almost everyone in the metropolitan area. But each one of us can do something about it. While hoping for an economic turnaround ... we can start by turning around our thinking.

When the news of the Delphi bankruptcy hit, I found myself engrossed in the situation. I read every article in the paper about it; I watched every report on the television. It was like driving by a bad car accident ... it was really hard to turn myself away from the gruesome sight.

But from past experience I've learned that this keeps you in the position of being part of the problem instead of being part of the solution. To turn my thinking away from any negative situation, I start by turning my thoughts to God ... or in other words, to good and acknowledging something the things that are going right, rather than asserting that everything is going wrong!

"But what if there isn't any good news to focus on? What if my life is a mess of uncertainty or despair? Where do I begin? We begin, I'd like to think, not by being grateful no matter how bad the day began or ended there has to be at least one thing that went right and we can be grateful for that. A wise theologian and religious leader, Mary Baker Eddy, once wrote, "Are we grateful for the good already received? Then we shall avail ourselves of the blessings we have and thus be fitted to receive more."

We need to be able to recognize good in order to experience it. We can be grateful for health, for the love of a family member, for a sunny day or the smile of a kind cashier at the grocery store. And as our gratitude enlarges, so do the blessings.

Some would call being grateful for good a form of prayer, or an acknowledgment that there is an eternal source of good that stretches beyond the day-to-day experiences in our lives. I would call that source of good, God. "To those leaning on the sustaining infinite (God), today is big with blessings!"

Another quote from Mary Baker Eddy, these words were written from experience.

She was a woman who at different points of her life struggled with unemployment, financial ruin, homelessness and chronic illness. She struggled with feelings of hopelessness.

She turned to the Bible and she found inspiration in the stories of others who had experienced grave circumstances but through continually turning to God, found a way out of these trials again and again and again. As she learned more, her life began to turn around.

One of the greatest thinkers of our time, Albert Einstein, also turned his thoughts to God, or to what he felt was Divine Intelligence for guidance in explaining life and its challenges. He wrote, "I try to be still and know God's thoughts. The rest is just details."

Susan Tish lives in Plymouth.

Observer LIFE

2-1-1 service a health boon.
HEALTH B8

Schools should build minds.
ALICE MCCARTHY B2

Winter Carnival full of fun.
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Section B

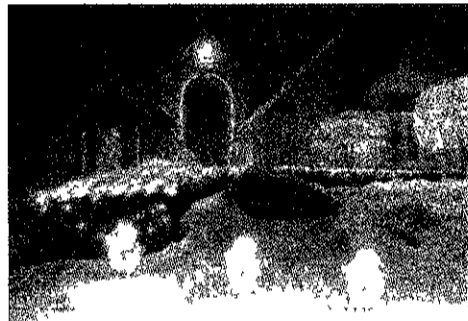
Sunday, December 25, 2011

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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Nagy of Livonia stands outside his house on Ellen Drive where it has become a yearly tradition for the houses on his street to decorate for the holidays.



One of the homes decorated for the holidays along Ellen Drive in Livonia.

The lights usually go up the day after Thanksgiving and come down shortly after New Year's. But for that brief time, the lights are much brighter on Ellen Drive.



A happy holiday display on Ellen Drive.

Holiday lightshow

Ellen Drive residents bask in glow of the Christmas season

The lights on Broadway and the glitter of Vegas have nothing on the glow from Livonia's Ellen Drive. Every year the neighbors on the street off Six Mile try to outdo each other with colorful holiday light displays.

"Many times I've gone to the bank or something and they'll see Ellen Drive on the check and say, 'You're not on the Christmas street are you?'" said John Nagy.

Nagy and his wife Mary were among the first families in the new subdivision in 1988.

Nagy kids his neighbor Tony Naurato that he and his wife Gina started the whole thing.

"It seems that every year it goes on and on and everybody gets involved," Naurato said. "Everybody takes pride in it and everybody tries to do better every year."

At first it was just colorful lights, but as the years have gone by new wrinkles have been added - an illuminated basketball pole with a glowing orange light ball, Santa on a teeter-totter with an elf and riding a bicycle, trees ablaze with red and green.

"We get a lot of reaction," said Tony. "We used to have a choo-choo train come around and school buses come around."

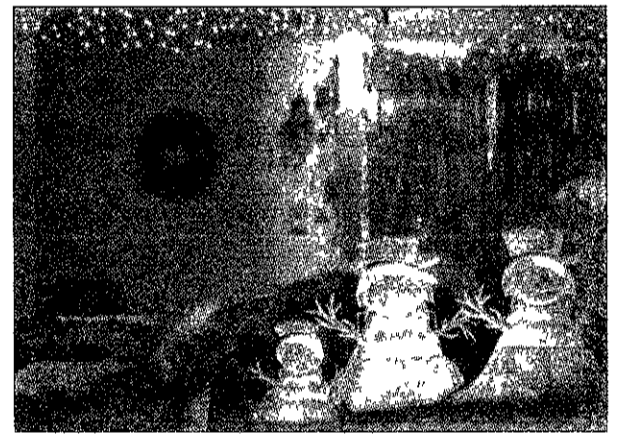
Nagy said church vans and carpools drive through the "Christmas Street."

Nagy estimates that from late November to early January his electric bill runs about \$100 to \$120 more than usual.

The lights usually go up the day after Thanksgiving and come down shortly after New Year's.

But for that brief time, the lights are much brighter on Ellen Drive.

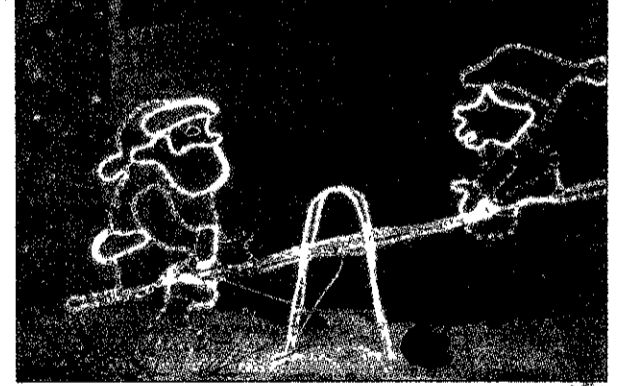
By Hugh Gallagher



John Nagy and his wife Mary stand outside their home on Ellen Drive.



Reds and whites blend in this light display on Ellen Drive.



Santa and an Elf have spend some time on a teeter totter in one of the displays along Ellen Drive in Livonia.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salvation Army youth band members Lindsay McDougall (front left to right) and Melanie McDougall of Garden City, Brad Bamford of Livonia, (behind left to right) Andy McDougall of Livonia, Brett Bamford II of Livonia, Ben Merritt of Livonia, Brian Dobney of Farmington Hills, and Michael Hulett of Dearborn Heights are preparing to march in the parade before the Rose Bowl on Jan. 2.

Local musicians to march in Tournament of Roses Parade

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Melanie McDougall likes football but admits she doesn't even know who's playing in the Rose Bowl this year. The Garden City High School senior's reason for marching in the Tournament of Roses Parade beforehand is to spread the word about God. The alto horn player and her twin sister, Lindsay, were born into The Salvation Army church. They're proud of the fact that their music has meaning.

The McDougalls along with about a dozen area Salvationists in the Eastern Michigan Divisional Youth Band leave for California the day after Christmas to not only march in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on Jan. 2 but to perform church concerts before returning to Michigan on Jan. 4. Of course they've scheduled a little

fun time at Disneyland between rehearsals and marching in the Holiday Bowl Parade in San Diego on Dec. 29.

LOCAL PRESENCE

Fifty Salvation Army divisions around the country are sending two band members each to march alongside this year's guest band - The Salvation Army Dearborn Heights Citadel under the leadership of Greg Payton. The McDougalls and several of the local students learned their first notes at the church where they are members. The Eastern Michigan Divisional Youth Band is composed of 53 young musicians from southeastern Michigan including Royal Oak, Flint and Port Huron.

"The music is to help people know about God," said Melanie McDougall, who began studying music at The

PLEASE SEE MUSICIANS, B2

MUSICIANS

FROM PAGE A1

Salvation Army about 10 years ago with Lindsay, a cornet player. "Most of the music is written by Salvationists and centered around God."

Andy McDougall of Livonia is as excited as his cousins to be going to the Rose Bowl. The 15-year-old Stevenson High School student has been playing with The Salvation Army band since third grade.

"Hopefully the music will make them want to go to church and learn about God," said Andy McDougall, a cornet player. If nothing else, Ben Merritt hopes appearances by the band help educate the public.

"I'm excited to get to go to a place to represent The Salvation Army cause. Most people just think it's a thrift store, but it's a church and we're preaching the gospel," said Merritt, a Churchill High School student who's played cornet for eight years. His parents, Steve and Chris, are pastors at the church.

Brian Dobney is looking forward to marching the 5 1/2 miles in addition to spreading God's word. The 16-year-old Farmington High School student usually only strides long distances with his baritone horn at the annual band camp hosted by The Salvation Army in Leonard. He's working out three days a week after school to stay in shape not only to march in the Rose Bowl but to play junior varsity football.

"It's going to be nice to march and I've never been to California," said Dobney, whose 18-year-old brother Andrew, a student at Oakland Community College, will also be going. Brian also plays with his school band. "I'm looking forward to Disneyland. I've been to Disney World before, but not Disneyland."

Brett Bamford II marched in the Roses' parade before, and he's anxious to do it again. The temperature is certain to be a lot warmer than the minus 3 degrees with the wind chill at Detroit's Frank Irvine Day Parade that last November. The 29-year-old

old Livonia resident expects he won't have any problem staying warm in 60 degrees.

A music student at Eastern Michigan University, the Franklin High School graduate teaches trombone at Evola Music in Canton and The Salvation Army in Detroit.

'GREAT EXPERIENCE'

"It was a great experience. You get to meet people from all over the nation. The Salvation Army has four territories, Eastern, Western, Central (Michigan), and Southern, and they also send people from Canada and the Caribbean," said Bamford, whose 13-year-old brother Brad is going for the first time. The Riley Middle School student plays trombone like his brother. "The hardest part is memorizing two pieces of music for the TV. We play everything from classical to swing, pops."

Several of the selections the Eastern Michigan Youth Band is planning to play are from their new CD, Elevation. Sales from the disc go toward defraying the cost of the trip. The CD is \$15 and available by calling Ben Howard at (248) 443-5500, Ext. 235.

"I'm excited for the kids who might never have the chance to go," said Ben Howard, the divisional music director who's coordinating the trip through Salvation Army offices in Southfield. "It's a whole series of firsts for them."

Michael Hulett isn't sure about the content of the devotional he'll be giving during the trip, but it's sure to be a first. The Dearborn Heights resident usually relates the band's playing to a verse from the Bible.

"I'm excited to be in a new environment but still do ministry," said Hulett, a 21-year-old trombonist and student at Eastern Michigan University. Hulett has traveled to Ukraine and South Georgia in the former Soviet Union to do mission work for The Salvation Army, but he's never been to California. Hulett's sister Sharayah, 18, is also making the trip.

Education needs to build minds not test scores

There is no better day than Dec. 25 to urge you to contemplate the characteristics you would like your children to possess as adults.



Teens in 2005

Alice McCarthy

When I recently gave my surgeon son a set of gold cufflinks from my grandfather, Louis A. Ross, my son said, "Wouldn't my great-grandfather be thrilled to know how many people have cherished these cufflinks so that now I have them and my son will have them too - that is four generations?"

Yes, we hand down beautiful possessions, but more importantly the knowledge we have acquired and teachings from our character and our values.

And we depend greatly on the institutions in society to help us develop the children

we will be proud to know as adults. One of our institutions is our schools, and as an educator I think often about how well or how poorly the school system accomplished my particular goals for my children - and if I did my fair share in supporting that system. It's an important contemplation because I know you will agree that no institution in a democratic society represents its citizens well without their support.

Howard Gardner, one of my educational heroes, is the "father" of explaining how we learn. He is the Hobbs professor of education and cognition at Harvard University's graduate school of education. He believes that the current goal for this country to top international comparisons in science and math is a "fool's errand." In doing so, he indicates, we are "ignoring the deeper and more important purposes of education."

Writing in Education Week (Sept. 14, 2005), Gardner explains that the decisive reason to avoid the herd mentality (meaning all countries rushing to be at the top of the academic

structure) is that improving performance on a particular test is a terrible goal for an educational system." He says that, "A transient numerical result, due to a number of reasons, becomes the raison d'etre for the whole educational process."

Gardner believes, as do I, that what we need to consider are the kinds of minds we want to cultivate in our educational system. He suggests five kinds of minds for you to consider:

■ "A disciplined mind that can think well and appropriately in the major disciplines.

■ "A synthesized mind that can sift through a large amount of information, decide what is important, and put it together in ways that make sense for oneself and for others.

■ "A creative mind that can raise new questions, come up with novel solutions, think outside the box.

■ "A respectful mind that honors the differences among individuals and groups, and tries to understand them and work productively with them.

■ "An ethical mind that thinks beyond selfish interests,

about the kind of worker one aspires to be, and the kind of citizen that one should be."

Maybe bringing the points listed above to your beleaguered school board might be a good idea. Merry Christmas!

If you missed previous columns, you can access them at www.hometownlife.com/Livonia/News.asp. Type "Alice R. McCarthy" under "Keyword Search" for a list of her most recent columns. Columns, written weekly, remain only a short time on this site. All of her columns for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers are on www.bridge-comm.com.

Alice R. McCarthy, Ph.D., the mother of five professionals, is a national consultant in the areas of parent involvement in schools, curriculum writing in health, and health publications. She is the author of a widely used text and parenting book, Healthy Teens: Facing the Challenges of Young Lives. Write to her in care of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or at bridgecomm@aol.com.

Christmas question has an easy answer

Feliz Navidad! That's how one friend signs his Christmas card each year, sidestepping the question of whether to go with the more generic Happy Holidays. Aside from being a reminder of how little Spanish I remember from school, the annual missive always makes me think of the Jose Feliciano song, one of my favorites although it gets played a lot.



Julie Brown

The mail brought a surprise the other day, a card from a childhood girlfriend now in San Diego. She's Jewish but sent a card with a Christian theme, includ-

ing a quote from the Gospel of Luke. I'd read about efforts to put more of a focus on Christian aspects of Dec. 25 this year, and this got me to thinking.

A couple of weeks ago, we were bell ringing for the Salvation Army at Kmart in Westland. I followed my practice of past years, expressing thanks for donations and adding "Merry Christmas." No one seemed to mind. (I figured the Salvation Army's a Christian organization so the greeting was OK.)

My California friend grew up here in southeastern Michigan and I remember well going with her to Hebrew school. I also remember how much harder those students worked at their religious studies than we Protestants did. I guess the Catholics were somewhere in the middle, although my husband's years in parochial school (Precious Blood) clearly taught him a lot.

My girlfriend came with me

to church, too, and learned from that just as I did from my time at Shaarey Zedek in Southfield.

I'm not convinced we really need to call our national tree a Christmas one rather than holiday; if the larger concepts of peace on earth and goodwill to all can be conveyed, then what's in a name?

Religious tolerance should certainly extend to Christians, but I question the need to add Christmas to all appellations where holiday applied in the past. If I weren't Christian, I'd probably feel a bit left out this time of year so "Happy Holidays" seems to cover all bases just fine.

That said, "Merry Christmas" doesn't have to be taken to refer to Christ's birth at the listener doesn't believe Jesus was the Messiah. With a war in Iraq, a turbulent economy and other woes surely we have more pressing matters to focus on than the question of what to call Christmas.

We'll head to church again this weekend where a Merry Christmas greeting is a pretty safe bet. Among family, too, the greeting works well although some hold stronger beliefs than others.

I hope your holiday - whatever called and whenever celebrated - will be a joyful one. That's what I like best about this time of year. Even watching It's a Wonderful Life wasn't old hat this year, as the classic movie's a great reminder of the importance we all play in each other's lives.

Getting together with family and friends is a wonderful part of the season as well and this week really puts it in focus. Particularly for the ones we don't see all that often it means a lot to spend time together. Happy New Year!

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at jcbrown@hometownlife.com.

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CHAIN WIDE INVENTORY CLEARANCE SALE
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SALE AT ALL 3 LOCATIONS
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Mon. - Fri. 9-7 • Sat. 9-5:00 • Sale Ends 1-7-06
GRANITE TOPS • PEDESTAL SINKS • VESSELS

Help the Goodfellows
Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit
Dept. 77132, PO Box 77000, Detroit, MI 48277-0132
Dear Goodfellows:
Yes, I would like to make a donation of \$ _____ to help ensure that "No child goes without a Christmas."
Enclosed is my check, made payable to the Goodfellow Fund of Detroit or
I authorize you to debit my bank card for the above donation to the Goodfellow Fund of Detroit.
Signature: _____
PLEASE PRINT
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Visa MasterCard
Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: _____ MONTH _____ YEAR
Space provided by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

All Christmas Merchandise
30 to 75% OFF
Save an additional 10% with this ad Sale begins 12-26-05 9AM

Georgia's Gift Gallery
575 Forest Ave. • Downtown Plymouth • 800-562-3655
OPEN 7 DAYS • Free Gift Wrapping. *Does not apply to other offers, sales, special orders • Exp. 12-31-05

Happy Holidays!
30% OFF your total purchase with this ad
Georgia's Gift Gallery
Collectible Dolls, Plates, Figurines & Jewelry
575 Forest Ave. • Downtown Plymouth • 800-562-3655
OPEN 7 DAYS • Free Gift Wrapping. *Does not apply to other offers, sales, special orders or Dept. 56 • Exp. 12-31-05

Bring in this ad & receive a FREE In-Stock charm for each \$18.99 charm purchased!
Featuring one of the largest selections of Italian Charms in Michigan
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575 Forest Ave. • Downtown Plymouth • 800-562-3655
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SHOP WESTBORN MARKET

WESTBORN FRESH

JUMBO COOKED

Peeled & Deveined
Shrimp

\$8.99 lb

Chemical & Preservative Free

LUSCIOUS

King Crab Legs

\$9.99 lb

MAINE

Cold Water Lobster Tails

\$6.99 each

Paramount Mini Pitas **99¢** each

Westborn Pickles **2/\$5.00**

Grandma Cooper's Turkey Breast **\$5.99 lb**
honey and oven roasted

HOMESTYLE

Spinach Dip

\$3.99 lb

WISCONSIN

Red Wax Cheddar

\$5.99 lb chunk

HOFFMAN'S

Hard Salami

\$3.99 lb

Sabra Hummus **\$3.49 lb**
SAVE 50¢

Oasis Pita Chips **\$2.49 pks.**

Delallo 2 lb Pasta **2/\$3.00** pks.

CALIFORNIA

Sweet Seedless Navel Oranges

\$3.99

8 lb. bag

DOLE

Italian Salad

2/\$4.00 pks.

FRESH

Organic Spring Mix

\$3.99 lb

Bareman's Egg Nog **2/\$4.00** quarts

Freixenet Cordon Negro BRUT OR EXTRA DRY

\$9.99 750 ml

Cristalino Cava BRUT OR EXTRA DRY

\$8.99 750 ml

BUDWEISER

Bud & Bud Light

\$7.99 12 pack bottles

BLACKSTONE

California Wines

2/\$15.00 or \$7.99 each

SAVOR
the holidays!

FOR ALL YOUR HOLIDAY NEEDS

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- Beef Tenderloin
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Offer valid through 12.28.05



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Dearborn
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313.974.6100

Livonia
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734.524.1000

WEDDINGS

Johnson-Helisek

Lauren Jeannine Helisek and Kenneth Johnson were married June 17, 2005, in a garden wedding at Glen Oaks Country Club. Officiating was the Rev. Dr. William Ritter. A reception was held at the country club.

Lauren is the daughter of Alan and Cynthia Helisek of Farmington Hills. She is a graduate of Farmington High School and the University of Michigan. She is a teacher with South Redford Schools.

Kenneth is the son of Ken Johnson of Livonia, and Lynn and James Cherundolo of Livonia. He is a graduate of Farmington High School. He is employed with Apex Roofing.

The new Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Johnson spent their



honeymoon in Europe and Greece. They are making their new home in Redford.

Lonier-Kerr

Amy E. Kerr, daughter of Bill and Janet Kerr of Livonia, was married to Matthew L. Lonier on May 7, 2005, outside Yosemite Valley Chapel in Yosemite National Park in Northern California. Amy's lifelong friend, Amanda Ratke, and her husband, Daniel Ratke, served as matron of honor and best man at the ceremony. A reception took place at the Ahwahnee Hotel following the ceremony. They also held a reception in Plymouth, Mich. at the Atlantis Restaurant on June 11 to celebrate with family and friends who couldn't make it to the ceremony.

Amy is a 1997 graduate of Churchill High School and a 2001 graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Wayne State University and will graduate in



2007.

Matthew is currently attending dental school at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Amy and Matthew met of University of Michigan in 1998 and have been together since then. They plan to move out west after graduation.



Kobielus-Hagopian

Donna Leslie Hagopian and Thomas Joseph Kobielus of Alexandria, Va. were married Oct. 8, 2005, at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Alexandria, Va. The Rev. Robert Ruskamp and Rev. Father Vertanes Kalayjian co-celebrated the wedding.

Donna is the daughter of Zephur and the late Steven Hagopian of Cranston, R.I. She is a graduate of Philadelphia University and Rhode Island College. She is employed as a teacher with the Fairfax County

Public Schools in Fairfax, Va.

Thomas is the son of the late Jean and Wilbur Kobielus of Livonia, Mich. He is a graduate of Michigan State University and is employed as a financial analyst with the U.S. Department of the Treasury-Financial Management Service in Washington, D.C.

The couple met while volunteering at a street art fair in the Del Ray section of Alexandria, Va. They were helping children build scarecrows. She thought that he was in charge of the event and he liked her smile.



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Pistons fans will find tee-shirts, collectibles, ornaments and more inside this new holiday shop at the Village of Rochester Hills.

Pistons Locker Room scores with fans

Alice Holcomb of Rochester Hills couldn't believe her eyes. "I just went to Parisian and looked over here and went 'No way!'"

A bigger-than-life poster of Detroit Piston Rasheed Wallace beckoned to her from a nearby store window at the Village of Rochester Hills. And although it was just an image, it gave Holcomb a reason to celebrate. The Palace of Auburn Hills had opened a store of official merchandise for Detroit's hottest sports team practically in Holcomb's back yard.

"When I saw the sign I just went 'yeaaa!'" she said. "I am thrilled they are here. I can just come down to the Village and I don't have to go out to the Palace."

The new Detroit Pistons

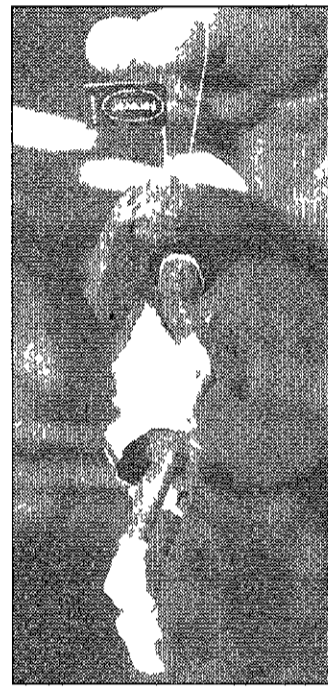
store carries merchandise for other professional and college teams, in addition to Detroit basketball shirts, jerseys and collectibles. The Village store, all 2,500 square feet, sells only Detroit Pistons items.

"For the most part everything that's here is at the Palace or Great Lakes Crossing," Morris said.

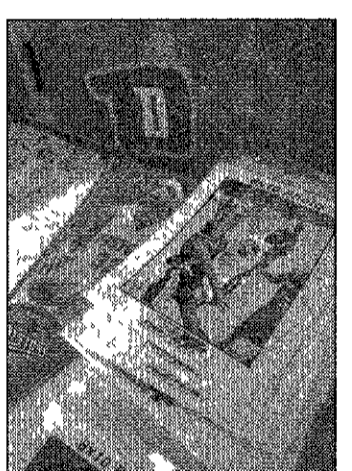
The women's clothing line has doubled in sales every year, prompting the retail store to reprint a series of popular men's T-shirts in pink this year. They sport photos of the Pistons starters and cost \$27.

Cuddly-soft pink, yellow and light blue fleece hoodies with a Pistons logo cost \$58. Twill hoodies in the same pastel colors are \$62.

"Ladies is a huge category here. We had hardly any-



Put all-star Detroit Piston Ben Wallace on your Christmas tree.



Stuffing a Christmas stocking for your favorite Detroit Pistons fan? You can't go wrong with player photos.

Palace box office, and its concession stands, stores and restaurants.

And for the Pistons fan who has nearly everything?

"I have to have a piece of the team for my husband," Holcomb said, holding a block of floor from the 1989-90 season that has been affixed to a plaque. "It's a piece of the floor from the championship. Do you think Michael will like this?"

Saleswoman Kelly Phinney knows Holcomb as a loyal customer and gleefully noted, "You have so much (Pistons) stuff it's not even funny."

How many team shirts does Holcomb own?

"Ask her," she said, with a laugh, deferring to Phinney.

"It's nice to walk into a store where everyone is so helpful. I like that part," Holcomb said.

The Locker Room store is open 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. Call (248) 609-2346.

got the pullovers in fashion colors, not necessarily the team colors, but fashion colors for the ladies."

He said the store planned to debut a jersey for women this month.

The new red second road jersey is already in stock and sells for \$137 (authentic), \$69 (swingman, with sewn lettering) and \$43, (replica), as do the royal blue road jerseys and white "at home" championship versions.

LOCAL FANS, SHOPPERS

"We just think it's going to work out pretty well," Morris said, pointing out that local shoppers frequent the Village, while Great Lakes Crossing, "more of a tourist destination," draws from a larger geographic area.

The Great Lakes Crossing

Babies can scream for the team dressed in a Pistons shirt with snap-away pants. "They're going like crazy."

The store also sells boxed gift sets and packs with three body suits each for infants.

Also in stock: Game room clocks, backpack purses, rolling backpacks, team page-a-day and 12-month calendars, player Christmas tree ornaments, duffel bags, journals, pennants, pens, wrist bands.

"A good deal of what's purchased is for Christmas gifts. And if you don't know the size, we have the gift card, which is also a great way to satisfy someone's Pistons craving."

The card is good at all Locker Room stores, the

ENGAGEMENT

Mullen-Krause

Tom and Mercedes Mullen of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Ann, to Kevin Robert Krause of Northville.

Stephanie is a 2000 graduate of Mercy High School and a 2004 graduate of Western Michigan University. She is employed with TNT Edm.

Her fiancé, Kevin, is the son of Edwin and Jean Krause of Plymouth. He is a 2000 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University. He is employed with GM Onstar Division.

Kevin and Stephanie are planning a September 2006 wedding at St. John's Conference Center in Plymouth Township.



ANNIVERSARY



Broad

David and Kathleen (nee McShane) Broad of Canton celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Nov. 24, 2005, Thanksgiving Day. They were married Nov. 24, 1965, at Our Lady Gate of Heaven Catholic Church in Detroit. They have lived in Canton for the past 16 years. The couple celebrated the occasion with a trip to Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands.

David and Kathleen have three children, Michelle (Bill) Proffitt, David (Kim) Broad and Karen (Chris) Wiza; five grandchildren, Anthony, Sara, Kaila, Madison and Dylan; and one great-grandchild, Mackenzie.



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ❖ fax: 734-953-2232
e-mail: OEObits@oe.homecomm.net

ELLA MAE, BYRD

Age 78, of Greenville, formerly of Plymouth, was promoted to glory on Monday, Dec. 19, 2005. Loving wife of Gerald D. Byrd; mother of Gloria Byrd, Gerald (Laura) Byrd, Judith (James) Adams, Lila (Michael) Crupper, and Shirley (William) Steele; and grandmother of Michael, Jerry, Shannon, and Jeffrey. Memorial services at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Dec 28th, at Salvation Army Citadel, 26700 W. Warren, Dearborn Heights (48127), with a luncheon to follow.
www.christiansen-fh.com

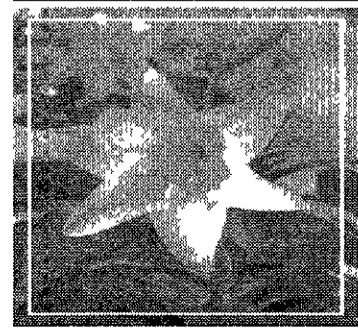
JOHN B. CALDWELL, Jr.

Age 62, December 11, 2005, of complications of cancer. Mr. Caldwell, formerly of Birmingham, was a magazine publisher, President/CEO of Caldwell Communications Advisors, Boston, MA. Long, distinguished career in magazine publishing. Born in Detroit, MI, August 27, 1943. John grew up in Birmingham and graduated from Wylie E. Groves School. Son of John B. Caldwell, Sr., and Claire (Bishop) Caldwell, both deceased. Survived by daughter Ashley Caldwell of Wendell, MA, son Nicholas Caldwell of Marblehead, MA, and three grandchildren. Also survived by three sisters, Judith Ashley and Joan Caldwell of Vero Beach, FL, and Janice Wehmann of Chapel Hill, NC. Memorial service January 7, 2006, 2pm, Church of St. Andrew, 135 Lafayette St., Marblehead, MA. Donations in Mr. Caldwell's memory to North Shore Medical Center Cancer Center, 17 Centennial Dr., Peabody, MA 01960.

Let others know...

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Observer & Eccentric
Call 1-800-579-7355



PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

Filter Every Thursday!

A recipe for joyous holiday

What do you want to dish up for the holidays? If you are like me, you want a feast of fun and memorable moments with your family and friends to cherish for years to come.



Parenting Corner

Marilyn Suttle

ing, decorating, and dealing with everyone's conflicting needs. Tempers flair. Misunderstandings undermine good will. It's no surprise why

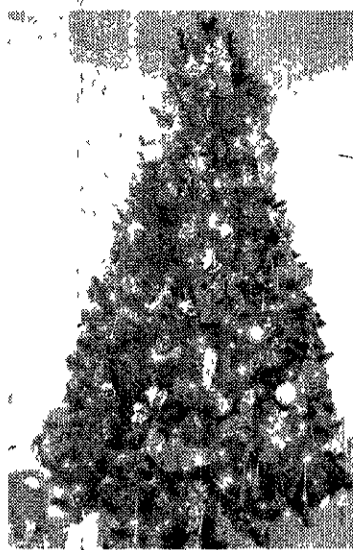
so many families feel a backwash of resentment and frustration towards the people they love the most during the holidays.

Follow this recipe to enjoy a happier holiday season this year.

- Ingredients:
- One package of patience with family members.
 - One cup, half full (not half empty) of gratitude.
 - One level headed choice to stay within your holiday spending budget.
 - A pinch more time taking care of yourself.
 - One bushel of respectful communication
 - One juicy moment for reflecting on the meaning of the season
 - One large focus on making happiness your top priority
 - A dash of humor

Assorted Nuts (optional)

1. Chop chores into bite sized, easily digested pieces, and distribute to family members, being careful not to mash their enthusiasm.
2. Sift out and discard comparing yourself or your family to others.
3. Trim away negative judgments.
4. Generously sprinkle words of encouragement. Continue until hearts melt.
5. Gently whisk away clutter. Do not beat yourself up by expecting everything to be perfect.
6. Simmer your nerves. If your temperature runs hot, share your honest feelings in a way others can hear you. Take time out to cool down if needed.
7. Combine family and friends together. Mix in smiles.



8. Skim off your need to control.
9. Blend in old and new family traditions.
10. Decorate to taste.

Marilyn Suttle gives tips for creating happier relationships at home and at work with esteem building communication and life/balance strategies. Subscribe to her free monthly e-newsletter by visiting her Web site: WWW.SuttleOnline.NET

Church Boxing Night focuses on homelessness

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Senior highs at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton will again have their Boxing Night this year the day after Christmas. From 8 p.m. Dec. 26 to 8 a.m. the following morning, the teens will sleep outside the church in boxes to gain understanding of homelessness.

"It does do a great job of raising awareness and concern for the community," said the Rev. Bryan Smith, pastor. Participants gather clothing for the needy, filling a 24-foot truck. Clothing goes to Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit, and Smith has been told that the items collected last the better part of the year. You can bring donated clothing

to Geneva (on the west side of Sheldon north of Ford Road) on Dec. 26. Winter outerwear for men, women and children is needed, along with boots, socks, new underwear and even blankets.

The Geneva Boxing Night's been held for about 11 years on the day after Christmas, when those in such countries as the United Kingdom traditionally pack up their older clothing for the needy.

Smith has found the local effort has helped to raise awareness in the church community as well.

"There really are people who have no place to go." He is reminded of Jesus who also had no place to go to lay his head and was born in a stable.

"Our goal is to reflect our faith into outreach to people," Smith said.

Hazel Farrell celebrates her 100th birthday

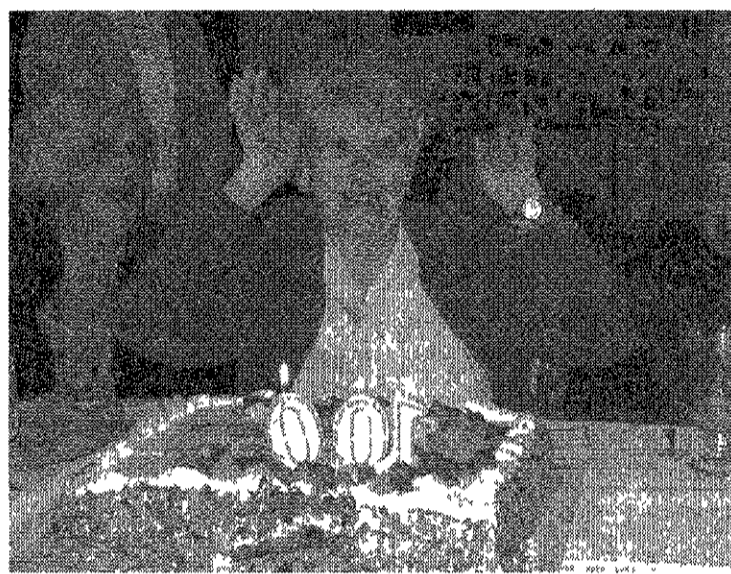
Hazel A. Farrell became the area's newest centenarian on Nov. 19, 2005.

Her 100th birthday was celebrated with a special dinner party at Maples of Novi; attended by five generations of Farrells and Farrell cousins, and her physician and his wife - Drs. Muna...

Hazel was born in Canton, Ohio to Frank and Minnie Steintrager. She was one of seven children. She moved to Michigan when she was eight years old and her dad got a job in the Ford Rouge Plant. She graduated from Western High School in Detroit and became a legal secretary with Lucking, Van Aucken, Lucking, in the Buhl Building, Detroit.

When she was 22, she married Gerard E. "Ted" Farrell; they settled down in Detroit and raised seven children (Bill, Patty, David, Mary, Barbara, Judy, Michael). When her husband retired in Feb. 1971, they purchased a home in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Hazel and Gerard retired in Florida, as they died shortly prior to their move.

The always resilient Hazel



Hazel A. Farrell celebrated her 100th birthday last month.

sold the home in Florida and moved to Drakeshire Apartments in Farmington Hills, becoming very active at Our Lady of Sorrows church, and with the Senior Group at Mercy Center.

Hazel's younger days were spent baking, canning, and playing cards. There wasn't a card game Hazel didn't excel at - she was quite the "shark." She

made all the daughters' clothing, including coats, mittens, scarves, etc.

Ask anyone about her famous cinnamon/nut buns. She served as Brownie and Girl Scout leader at Epiphany School in Detroit. The family moved to Farmington Hills in 1965.

Hazel loves to see people every year in the yard, teaching the kids how to skate.

She spends her days, now, at



Hazel A. Farrell on her wedding day in August 1928.

Grand Court Assisted Living in Farmington Hills. She walks to all her meals, to Bingo and to Crafts. Ask Hazel how her days are going, and her answer is always the same: "My days are always good; God has me here for a purpose, and I'm very happy to be alive."

Blue Care of Michigan, Inc., an affiliate of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, announces open enrollment for its HMO nongroup product:

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Please contact Blue Care Network's Customer Service department at 1-800-662-6667 for additional information.

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ALL DIGITAL SOUND 344-FILM
No Passes Free drink & 25¢ corn refills
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A GIFT OF MOVIES Available from \$10
GIFT CARDS

Last shows of Christmas Eve will start no later than 5pm. First shows on Christmas Day will start after 5pm.

TITLES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

★ STARTS SUNDAY ★

● RUMOR HAS IT (PG-13)
MON-TH 3:30, 4:15, 6:00, 6:45, 8:30, 9:15
MON-TH 11:15, 1:00, 1:30, 3:30, 4:15, 6:00, 6:45, 8:30, 9:15

● THE PRODUCERS (PG-13)
SUN 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
MON-TH 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

● CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG)
FRI/MON-TH 11:30, 12:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00
FRI, LS 12:00
SAT 11:30, 12:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00
SUN 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00

● YOUNG, MINE AND OURS (PG)
FRI 11:30, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, FRI, LS 11:00
SAT 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20
SUN 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
MON-TH 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:25

● PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG)
FRI 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
SAT 11:00, 1:40, 4:20
SUN 3:10, 5:10

● JUST FRIENDS (G)
SAT 12:30, 2:30, 4:30
SUN 4:50, 7:05, 9:20
MON-TH 9:25

● CHICKEN LITTLE (G)
FRI/SAT 11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10
SUN 3:10, 5:10

● JARHEAD (R) ENDS FRI 6:55, 9:30
SAW 2 (R) FRI 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50, FRI, LS 11:50

ENDS SAT 11:50, 1:50, 3:50

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CITY OF LIVONIA
33000 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Livonia, Michigan as owner, until 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 4, 2006 at the City Clerk's Office at the Livonia City hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, at which time said proposals will be opened and publicly read.

PLAYGROUND WOODCHIP SURFACING MATERIAL, APPROXIMATELY 1,100 CUBIC YARDS, MORE OR LESS

TOPSOIL, APPROXIMATELY 2,000 CUBIC YARDS, MORE OR LESS

SUPPLY, DELIVER AND APPLY APPROXIMATELY 35,000 GALLONS OF LIQUID CALCIUM CHLORIDE

Proposals must be submitted on forms furnished by the Director of Finance of the City of Livonia. Instructions to Bidders and Specifications for items required may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Finance, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan. All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the material bid upon, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

The City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all proposals in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein.

Jack Engebretson

Publish December 25, 2005 OE0899918

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CITY OF LIVONIA
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LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154

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WATER MAIN REPAIR CLAMPS IN VARIOUS SIZES AND QUANTITIES

COPPER WATER TUBING IN 1", 1-1/2" AND 2" TYPE "K" STYLES

WATER SERVICE METAL PARTS AND FITTINGS IN VARIOUS SIZES AND QUANTITIES

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Jack Engebretson

Publish December 25, 2005 OE0899911

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LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154

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Readymix Concrete in 6-Sack Mixes (approximately 400 cubic yards) and in 7-S Sack and 9-Sack Mixes (approximately 200 cubic yards of each size)

Proposals must be submitted on forms furnished by the Director of Finance of the City of Livonia. Instructions to Bidders and Specifications for items required may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Finance, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan. All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the material bid upon, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

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Jack Engebretson

Publish: December 25, 2005 OE0899848

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSAL
CITY OF LIVONIA
33000 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154

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AGGREGATES, ROAD GRAVEL, SLAG AND STONE IN VARIOUS QUANTITIES

Proposals must be submitted on forms furnished by the Director of Finance of the City of Livonia. Instructions to Bidders and Specifications for items required may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Finance, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan. All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the material bid upon, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

The City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all proposals in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein.

Jack Engebretson

Publish: December 25, 2005 OE0899915

PINE TREE LIGHTING

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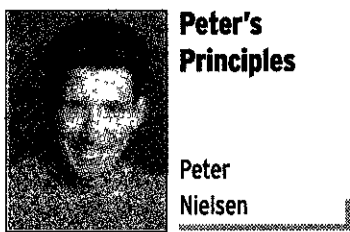
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Chill out, stay young

Valerie from Canton e-mails for tips on natural ways to avoid the aging process.

Valerie, remember these words - stay away from stress at all costs! Just take a look at the presidents. Most seem to age about 20 years during their terms in office! Stress damages the cells and can cause them to die early. They can only re-produce so many times and when they start to die off, that's when the real problems can start. A new study paints a clear picture of stress and aging. It examines a group of stressed out test subjects and their non-stressed counterparts. It found that stressed out men and women had body cells the equivalent of 10 times older than their calmer counterparts. It's probably because cell damaging free radicals are reduced during the stress process.

John from Romeo e-mails asking if his love for red meat might cause potential health pitfalls.

The latest research shows that a high intake of red and processed meat drastically raises the risk of prostate cancer. Diets high in fish and poultry actually seem to cut the risk! The study looks at a spectrum of test subjects over a nine year period. It hammers home the importance of starting out with a well-balanced diet early in life. The study also emphasizes the benefits of exercise and plenty of fruits and vegetables for living a long and healthy life.

I do not recommend eliminating red meat entirely from your diet because a steak or burger, every now and then should be fine. What the study does seem to show is that too much red meat can be a one-way ticket to an increased cancer risk.

Have a question? E-mail Peter at peter@hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric HEALTH

2-1-1

Number to call for non-emergency help

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Kim Davids barely had time to take a break from answering the phone in the 2-1-1 Call Center at United Way for Southeastern Michigan on Tuesday morning. By 10:30 a.m. the information and referral specialist had provided a mother with several resources to find clothing for her children and another caller help to bury a relative who'd died from sickle cell anemia.

Davids expected an increase in the number of people calling for help on Dec. 5 when 2-1-1 went into effect, but not 1,000 people. In 2004, United Way received about 250 calls a day. The service is available 24 hours a day from English, Spanish and Arabic speaking staff. 2-1-1 is not a crisis line, however. Davids quickly informs callers with life threatening situations to dial 9-1-1.

The 2-1-1 Call Center supplies information and referrals for assistance with utilities, housing, food, clothing, elderly services, prescription drug coverage, and health care.

More than 5,000 programs on the database offer a wide range of help to those living in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Davids receives several health calls a day from people in search of medical care for physical and mental illnesses.

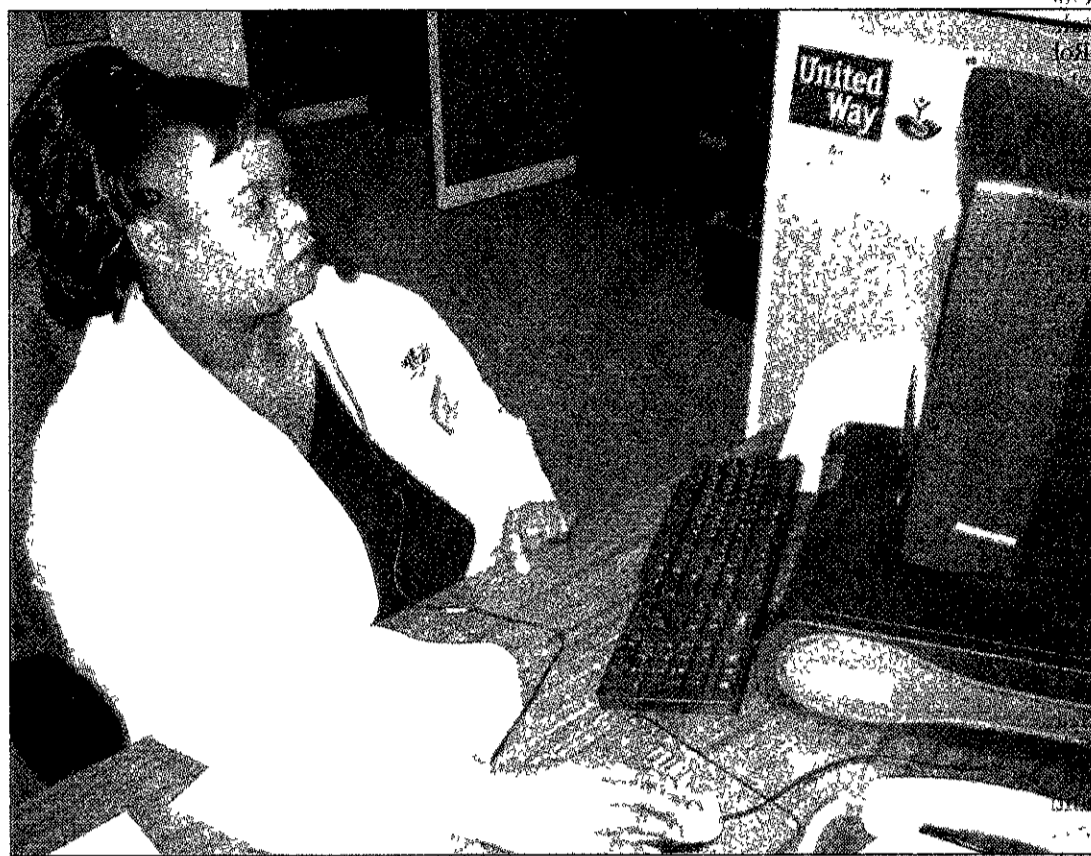
calls from all three counties, from all ages 22 to 75," said Davids who grew up in Southfield. "Where there's a need there's usually an agency."

Davids uses the same United Way Help Book as when she was employed as a social worker for Henry Ford Health System's hospice program. It helps her locate more than 500 agencies that provide various services. For information about the book, call (313) 226-9442.

"If they want help this is a wonderful place to start because we are going to find them a resource," said Davids.

One of Cynthia Miller's most memorable calls came from a homeless young mother seeking shelter. Miller was a recipient of a United Way program, so she knows how it feels to be on both ends of the phone. In January 2003 her son Phillip sustained a brain injury in a car accident. After six months in the hospital he was able to come home, but once he did it was difficult to leave. Miller had retired early from her job to become his caregiver and financially could not afford to build a ramp onto her home so Phillip could easily get to doctors' appointments. United Way's Ray West Memorial Ramp Project stepped in to restore their freedom.

"She was 23 and asking if there was a place for a young mother with child support. She was telling me she'd like



United Way 2-1-1 information and referral specialist Carol Smith helps callers by connecting them to more than 5,000 services in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties.

I've called there," said Miller. "Eventually we found a place. We provide referrals for prescription drug assistance for all ages and even assist people with problems with their pets."

El Cabrel Lee likes to think of the call center as more than just a community information referral service, but "a social barometer to spot community needs." The director of the Southeastern Michigan Call Center watched the help line evolve while he was vice president of 2-1-1/Heart of Florida United Way in Orlando and director of the nation's first call center in Atlanta, Ga.

U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico.

"One lady called for her son who was in need of medical assistance," said Lee. "There were several community clinics within one mile of them. We saved them a trip to the emergency room. Others call to ask, 'Where I can volunteer and donate these items?' We're looking for volunteers to follow up on calls to see if callers have received the services we've referred them to."

So far Oakland County callers have been dialing 2-1-1 for help to pay utilities and find housing, clothing, prescription assistance, dental care, and more. Lee said the

looking for food pantries, weatherization and home repair referrals, and legal aid in addition to utility and rent assistance.

"We want to help save time and cost for people down the road, to provide greater awareness and education so people know about the My Child Program, a Michigan sponsored program to provide low-cost medical coverage for underinsured families," said Lee. "My goal is for people to utilize 2-1-1 as a single point of entry throughout the tri-county region and increase the number of individuals to vol-

PLEASE SEE NUMBER, B9

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Beyond their financial assistance, the Plymouth Community United Way helps secure grant funds, clothing, food and dental care for the people we support. The board and staff of the PCUW consistently go over and above to help those in need.

Denise King
Executive Director, Community Opportunity Center

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7 P.M. - 1 A.M.
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How to make your holidays safe

During the holiday season more Americans are traveling than at any other time of year. Whatever your destination or means of transportation, Sinai-Grace Hospital and the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians want to remind you to keep safety in mind.

"To have a safe, healthy and enjoyable trip, plan ahead and take precautions," said Dr. Robert Malinowski, vice chief of emergency medicine at Sinai-Grace Hospital and past president of MCEP. "One important way you can prepare to respond to many common medical emergencies is to assemble a Traveler's First Aid Kit."

According to Malinowski, a Traveler's First Aid Kit should include personal medical history forms for each traveler which consist of current medical conditions, allergies and medications. If you wear glasses or contact lenses, take along an extra pair and carry your prescription with you. If you take medications, remember to pack enough for the duration of your trip.

The following items should also be included in your Traveler's First Aid Kit: acetaminophen, ibuprofen and aspirin tablets, antihistamines, anti-nausea/motion sickness medication, antibiotic ointment, hydrogen peroxide, bandages of assorted sizes, elastic wraps, gauze, adhesive tape, sharp scissors with rounded tips, antiseptic wipes, disposable, instant-activating cold packs, first aid manual, change for the pay phone.

In addition, Malinowski advises you to locate the near-

est hospitals to your destination before you leave home and check with your health plan about coverage of illnesses or accidents while traveling.

For those traveling by motor vehicle, Malinowski recommends the following travel tips. Before you go inspect or have your car inspected. Check brakes, tires, antifreeze, wiper fluid, gasoline, lights, battery and wipers. Pack several warm blankets, ample drinking water, flares and two flashlights with fresh batteries. Get plenty of rest before you leave.

While on the road leave early and give yourself plenty of time to arrive at your destination. Don't speed. Make sure everyone wears seat belts at all times. Children should ride in the back seat. Children younger than age 6 or fewer than 60-pounds should ride in an approved car safety seat appropriate for their height and weight. Avoid taking over-the-counter medications that could make you drowsy while you drive.

Never drink and drive. "I would also encourage travelers to take a first aid class and learn CPR," said Malinowski. "And always remember to seek medical attention when you need it." Surprisingly, some of the most common risks are fire and falls. Here are some safety tips that may help make this holiday safer for you and your family.

Keep all your home walks and pathways - inside and outside the house - clear of potential hazards such as ice, toys or discarded gift wrap to reduce or prevent tripping and falls.

If you will be having house

guests or have rearranged furniture to accommodate holiday decorations, use night lights to avoid tripping.

Don't overload wall sockets or extension cords. Don't leave indoor electric decorations on while away from home. Keep your Christmas tree well watered to prevent dryness and reduce flammability. Keep a fire extinguisher readily available.

Keep safety in mind when selecting age-appropriate toys and gifts for your children.

Keep all Christmas tree lights and ornaments out of reach of small children and pets.

Never leave small children or pets unattended in a room with holiday decorations such as lit candles or Christmas trees.

Finally, eat healthy, get enough sleep and enjoy yourself!

Dr. Robert Malinowski is a board certified emergency physician and a member of the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians (MCEP). Currently, he is the vice chief of emergency medicine at Sinai-Grace Hospital and a past president of the MCEP.

The Michigan College of Emergency Physicians is a state medical specialty society representing more than 1,200 emergency physicians.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Half an hour to health

A fun and informative look at how the human body works and the five aspects of health. Lecture includes a discussion on the most beneficial foods and the most harmful for your health. Learn how to sleep correctly and how to eat and drink to reach your optimal levels of health 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 8524 Canton Center Road, Canton. Guest lecturer is Dr. Michael Brackney, D.C. No charge, but seating is limited. To reserve a space, call (734) 455-4444.

G.E.M.S.

Group Exercise for Multiple Sclerosis meets 6-7 p.m. Dec. 30 and every Friday evening at the Livonia YMCA on Stark Road. It is a water exercise class for MS patients and their families. Support group meeting from 7:15-8:15 p.m. For information, call Karolyn Davis, (734) 459-9715, or Mike Hickey, (734) 522-0036.

Benefit gala

Start off the New Year in style while helping a good cause. Join Angela Hospice and Laurel Manor as they team up for a Roaring Twenties New Year's Eve Gala. Enjoy Life will be the theme of the event beginning at 7 p.m. Guests will celebrate with fine dining, a premium open bar, dancing to the nine-piece ensemble Rare Blend, performances by The Cats and the Fiddler and pianist Dan Dombrowski. Tickets are \$125 per person with a tax-deductible amount of \$55 per ticket. Coordinate a table of 10 and the person who places the reservation will receive a \$100 American Express gift card. Call (734) 953-6018, or visit www.angelahospice.org.

NUMBER

FROM PAGE B8

unteer or donate."

Supporters can donate to several local organizations including the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council, which needs everything from floor lamps to a computer desk to provide educational, recreational and support services for seniors ages 55 and up.

In Livonia the Crisis Pregnancy Center offers free support and adoption information and is in need of diapers sizes 1-6, formula and car seats. The Community Opportunity Center assists with residential services for adults with developmental disabilities in Plymouth, Redford, Livonia, Westland and Garden City and needs canned goods, bathroom towels and wash cloths, toothbrushes and toiletries. Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford assists with residential services for children with special needs and could use bath sheets, gift certificates for grocery stores, flashlights, duffel bags and sleeping bags.

Michael Brennan learned early to help others. His parents were always volunteering. Today as United Way president and CEO he encourages people to do the same. He calls 2-1-1 the first social innovation of the century.

"Before Dec. 5, on average local residents were having to make four to seven phone calls to figure out where they could go for help," said Brennan who grew up in Farmington. "On Dec. 5, it went to where residents can hit 2-1-1 and find the best match for their need. United Way 2-1-1 is about access, aligning services with needs in the community."

"Part of the story that's sometimes dismissed is someone calling 2-1-1 to volunteer one day or hour a month and would like to work with children in this geography. We can identify organizations looking for those skills and talents. 2-1-1 has played an important role for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to match individuals up. Even when 9-1-1 went down, 2-1-1 stayed operational in Atlanta. After 9/11 the state of Connecticut had 2-1-1 if you needed help. It began telling the story about the importance of having a universal service."

The United Way center assists callers in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties who call 2-1-1. Outside the area people can receive help by dialing (800) 552-1183. To learn more, visit www.uwsem.org.

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KEEPING BONES STRONG

If you winter in Michigan, you need strong bones. The slippery, sloshing weather of the season brings the hazards of a fall and fracture to all of us. No matter what care you take outdoors, or how you avoid going out in nasty weather, you are at risk to lose your balance on a hidden patch of ice.

If you are over age 65 whether you are a man or a woman, you should know the status of your bones. The usual way is through a bone density test. Armed with the information that evaluation provides, you and your doctor can develop a program that will maintain your bones at the best state possible.

If your bone density figures are good, you should be encouraged to continue to eat and exercise as you are doing now. If your bone density results indicates you are osteopenic or worse, have osteoporosis, you should prepare to modify your ways.

If your bones are osteopenic, a diet with more calcium and added vitamin D should suffice to build and maintain the bone structure you need in Michigan. If you are osteoporotic, you need added medication.

You should take a bisphosphonate, a compound that prevents bone loss. There are forms of bisphosphonate that you need take but once a week, and recently a new tablet is available that you take but once a month. Since the bisphosphonates can cause an inflamed esophagus or stomach, the least number of these tablets you need the better.

Basic to any of the above medications, is exercise. Exercise both strengthens bones and keeps your coordination intact, two qualities of health you need when winter is at its worst.

www.drjweissyourmd.com

Who do you think you're talking to?

Mark Savitskie is an optimist, a glass-half-full kind of guy. In times like these, that comes in very handy.

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pink page

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PINK Picks the 'Best of 2005' next Sunday



Children's Books Light Up the Holidays

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Start a holiday tradition by stashing some children's books with your holiday decorations. Next year when you take them out of storage, you'll have bedtime stories fit for the season. Here are the latest in children's book titles:

JOSIE'S GIFT
(Broadman & Holman, ages 4-8, \$16.99)
by Kathleen Long Bostrom and illustrated by Frank Ordaz

The story takes place during the Depression, when many families, including Josie's, couldn't afford fancy new blue sweaters. But that didn't stop Josie from asking for it.

ONE SPLENDID TREE
(Kids Can Press, ages 4-8, \$17.95)

Hattie and Junior are forced to celebrate their first Christmas in the big city where Momma took a job in a factory while Daddy is away fighting in World War II.

A DOLL FOR NAVIDADES
(Scholastic, ages 4-8, \$16.99) by Esmeralda Santiago and illustrated by Enrique O. Sanchez.
Little Esmeralda eagerly

awaits the arrival of the Three Magi and the gifts they'll bring, although she enjoys the songs of the "parrandas" (essentially carolers) in the meantime and she gobbles up the nuts her mother and father give her on Christmas morning.

Religious:

AN ANGEL CAME TO NAZARETH
(Chronicle, ages 4-8, \$15.95)
by Maggie Kneen.

An angel sees four travelers on a journey to Bethlehem. The same angel also spies four animals having breakfast in the hay. The angels gives each animal the choice of who they'd like to carry. Each has a good reason for its pick, but the donkey chooses last and wisest.

CHRISTMAS MOUSELING
(Merrill Lynch, \$16.99) by Werner Thusswaldner and illustrated by Robert Ingpen.
A baby mouse is born on a cold December night, and he and his mother have nowhere to go. Many kind animals offer them their nests, but none can withstand the whipping wind. Eventually the mother and child make it to a small wooden hut. They are greeted by another mother — this one a human

who says, "What a wonderful night to be born."

Hanukkah:

MY FIRST MENORAH
(Little Simon, ages 3-7, \$7.99)
by Salina Yoon.

For each glittery candle on the menorah is a page describing a Hanukkah tradition or ritual, including a definition of "shammash" and the words to the dreidel song. Young readers are instructed to "turn the page to light the next candle."

BISCUIT'S HANUKKAH
(HarperCollins, ages 2-6, \$4.99)
by Alyssa Satin Capucilli and illustrated by Pat Schories.
Biscuit and his human caretaker make a new menorah for their friends. One could say Biscuit certainly gets wrapped up in decorating the rainbow-colored candleholder.

DEAR SANTA: THE LETTERS OF JAMES B. DOBBINS
(HarperCollins, ages 4-8, \$15.99)
by Bill Harley, illustrated R.W. Ailey.

James starts his first letter of the year to Santa Claus with a wish list that includes new

hockey skates, an aquarium with a piranha and earplugs to block his sister's talking. Definitely no clothes! But by his 10th letter, he's explaining his way out of breaking the computer, phone and garage door opener. It's hard to be good all the time, he tells Santa.

Celebrity! pink picks

By Mrs. Santa Claus

Mrs. Claus blames paparazzi at the North Pole for creating the impression she wears her Christmas outfit all year 'round. "I only break out that red dress with white fur trim once a year, but everyone must think I live in it," she says. Most days, Mrs. Claus prefers warm but stylish cold-weather gear for her rugged lifestyle in the Arctic. When she wants to dress up and get a taste of culture, she and Santa fly a couple reindeer to Reykjavik, the hip capital of Iceland. Mrs. Claus took time out of her busy holiday schedule to give PINK her top picks for Christmas Day and the start of Hanukkah.

Wear It!
66 North Iceland Kjoler Coat

DON'T Wear It!
Fur

Layer it!
J Crew cashmere

Kick It!
Snowshoes and ice skates

Tote It!
Ugg Ultra Mini Bowler

Jewel It!
Diamonds — as mature women, we've earned them

Read It!
Are Men Necessary? by Maureen Dowd

See It!
The Family Stone

Hear It!
Santa Baby by Diana Krall

Eat It!
Dinner with your family

Brave It!
Cold weather with a positive attitude and the right clothes

Dream It!
Christmas Eve with my hubby

Mannerisms

Tips for Many Happy Returns

A new survey shows that 49 percent of gift givers included receipts with their presents this year, as opposed to 47.6 percent in 2004. The trend is in keeping with modern etiquette. Gift receipts eliminate awkwardness and allow people to return things with ease, for a full refund. Here are some tips for many happy returns:

■ If you know when you open a gift that it's going right back to the store, leave the original packaging intact and tags on.
■ Make returns as soon as possible ... but avoid shopping the day after Christmas, when return lines will be long and tempers short.
■ If the gift came from an e-tailer, find out what their return policy is. Many online stores will pay return shipping if you ask. Others may have a physical store where you can make a return.
■ Don't exchange gifts for cash. Instead, select something else that will remind you of your loved one each time you use it.
Source: PINK and The National Retail Federation's "Returns" Survey

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Q Why is there such a wide range of advertised prices for LASIK?

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Do not trust centers that advertise fees that end with 99 * with multiple disclaimers designed to lure people in only to be then upgraded with layers of additional fees for higher corrections, astigmatism, touch up insurance and in some cases even for the follow ups! Some centers use older obsolete laser technology or have a mobile laser brought in to cut costs. These are the same centers that delegate your care to other than the surgeon, in many cases you meet the surgeon on the day of your procedure, a little nervous?

Dr. Daniel Haddad believes that when a patient trusts their eyes in his hands they deserve his time and attention from the initial consult to the final follow up visit, while utilizing the latest technology available at fair and reasonable fees.

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National spotlight shines on Crusaders

CREAM OF THE CROP

Observer sports staffers deemed the Top Story of 2005 to be Madonna University's incredible women's volleyball season, which featured an undefeated regular season and trip to the national Final Four. The Crusaders (who finished 48-2) also boast the 2005 AVCA/NAIA National Volleyball Coach of the Year in Jerry Abraham and four players named to the AVCA/NAIA All-American squad. But there were several other top area sports stories in 2005: ■ Redford Catholic Central's hockey team won a state Division I championship for the sixth time in seven years. ■ Canton's football team made it all the way to the state D1 finals at Ford Field before losing a heartbreaker to Rockford. Just a cut below the top three were many other teams winning division championships and going on to earn victories in the postseason.

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The sting of coming so close to a national championship is subsiding. But those close to Madonna University's volleyball program will never forget the exhilarating ride the 2005 season brought.

"It's been special, special in a lot of ways," said Crusaders' head coach Jerry Abraham, who last week earned a major national award — the AVCA/NAIA Volleyball Coach of the Year. "We had a cohesive group that worked as hard at the beginning of the season as it did at the end."

"... It was a 'possessed' type of team with one goal in mind and they did everything in their power to achieve that goal."

With four players named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association/National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All-America team, and with a 47-0 run that took the Crusaders all the way to the conference and regional championships, Madonna nearly did just that.

Finally losing a meaningless game at the end of pool play at the national tournament in San Diego, Calif., the Crusaders bounced back to win a hard-fought quarterfinal match against Texas Wesleyan. But the next morning, the dream ended with a crushing loss in the semis to eventual national champion California Baptist, resulting in MU finishing with a 48-2 overall mark.

"It was extremely disappointing, it's so tough to lose when you get that close," said MU senior setter Ashley Frost. "It hurts, but I'm proud of what we did. I'm now starting to move on (emotionally from the defeat), but we were seven points away from making the national finals."

Abraham said the semifinal played out as if it were the national championship tilt.

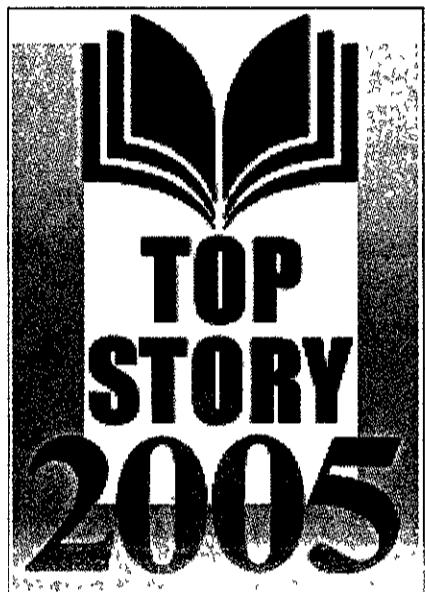


MU head coach Jerry Abraham celebrates a quarterfinal win at the recent national tournament in San Diego.



MU SPORTS INFORMATION

Madonna University seniors Laura Lesko (left) and Natalja Tinina celebrated a lot of team and individual success this season.



PLEASE SEE CRUSADERS, C3

Canton's full-court 'D' too much for Athens

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Driving through holiday traffic Thursday night was a walk in the park compared to dribbling through Canton's full-court press.

The Chiefs' baseline-to-baseball pressure forced Troy Athens into 21 turnovers and led Canton to a 46-41 victory over the host Red Hawks.

The pre-holiday victory improved Canton's record to 3-2; Athens slipped to 1-3.

"We were coming off a long bus ride out there, so I wanted to get the kids into the game physically right away," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "So we put the press on them from the opening tip and it worked well. Our defense was solid all night. We made them work for their points."

Senior guard Andre Bridges sparked the Chiefs' offense, pouring in a season-high 17 points. Other

key offensive contributors were Ryan Waidmann (eight points), Neil Sharma (seven), Rob Eppler (seven), Steve Paye (five) and Ryan Langdon (three).

While Langdon's offensive output was modest, his defensive contributions were huge. The junior guard frustrated the Red Hawks' back-court players with seven steals.

"Ryan is just so quick," Paye said. "It seemed like he was everywhere tonight."

Glen Alfieri paced the Athens' offensive attack with 11 points. Joshua Kendricks poured in eight and Rich Ortmann threw in seven.

The game was knotted at 9-9 after one quarter. The Chiefs forged a narrow 20-18 halftime advantage before the Red Hawks made it 29-29 with eight minutes to play.

Bridges was instrumental in the Chiefs' 17-point fourth quarter, tallying seven.

"The keys to the win were our defensive effort

and our free-throw shooting," Paye said, referring to the Chiefs' 13-of-18 effort from the charity stripe. "We also rebounded better tonight than we were earlier in the year."

Now that the regular season is one-quarter of the way complete, how does Paye assess his team's performance?

"I'm a little disappointed that we're not 4-1, but overall, I think the kids are coming together well," Paye said. "We're getting our rotation down and we're playing good solid defense."

"When we come back after the break, we have Redford Union and then we play Salem to open the conference schedule. I think we're ready."

The Chiefs will host the Panthers on Tuesday, Jan. 10, before squaring off with the Rocks at home on Friday, Jan. 13. Both games are slated to tip off at 7 p.m.

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Westland boxing club swings for spotlight

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Dynamic Boxing Club of Westland could be making some noise at the 2006 Detroit-area Golden Gloves Tournament scheduled for April at the Gibraltar Trade Center in Taylor.

In a show Dec. 17 at the Davison VFW Hall, 17-year-old Justin McElrath of Dynamic ran his record to 6-0 with a unanimous decision in a 168-pound bout over previously unbeaten Alious Griffin of Saginaw, and

GOLDEN GLOVES

open division fighter who had won 20 in a row.

McElrath, a senior at Detroit Martin Luther King High, has three knockouts.

In the 178-pound class, Dynamic's Dwayne Williams, 22, lost a split decision in a close bout against Daniel Miller of Crown Boxing Club of Lansing.

Both Williams and McElrath will represent Dynamic at the USA Boxing Senior Open Division state tourney, Jan. 14-15, at the Leelanau Sands Showroom.

"We expect some big things at this year's Golden Gloves," Dynamic trainer Paul Soucy said.

Dynamic will also send five representatives to the Silver Gloves Tournament, Jan. 7-8, at Saginaw UAW Local 699 Hall.

Among those scheduled include Westland's Dan Smith (220 pounds), Jessie Willis (176) and Jake Jacob (130), along with Dearborn's Abe Fakh (125) and Michael Wheatley (124).

CC enjoys return to Redford, throttles Panthers

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The Shamrocks made good on their return to Redford Township.

With a number of friends and family members in the stands Wednesday night at Redford Union, senior forward Aras Butkunas and his teammates on Novi Catholic Central's varsity boys basketball team routed the host Panthers 54-33 in a non-league contest.

Butkunas, a Livonia resident, scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds for Catholic Central (3-1), which moved from longtime home-base Redford this summer.

"It was a little bit of a motivating factor," said Butkunas about playing in the team's old back yard. "We just always want to come out hard and play our game. But we didn't want to embarrass ourselves in the place some of us spent our first three years."

Butkunas said a bigger motivator, however, was avenging a late 2004 loss to RU on a buzzer-beater by Anthony Smelley at Redford Catholic Central.

"It's always a big game when we play Redford Union," Butkunas said. "They got us in a close game last year, so it gave us some extra motivation to

come back and get them."

CC head coach Rick Coratti concurred about wanting to turn the tables. But he noted that it was important for the Shamrocks to "come out with a lot of intensity because we know the way (RU head coach) Brett (Steele) coaches."

"They're so patient offensively, ... they just grind it out on you, so you have to be careful."

EARLY HOLE FOR RU

The way the game went, Steele might not be too anxious for the Shamrocks to come back anytime soon.

Back-to-back triples by senior guard and Farmington Hills native Rob Forte (eight points) helped CC build a 12-0 lead in the first. The Panthers (1-3) averted being blanked in the stanza when junior forward Tyrone Temple connected on a jumper with 45 seconds remaining.

"I thought we did well getting the ball inside early on," Coratti said. "That's what we wanted to do with Chris Harding and Aras."

Catholic Central struggled with their shots in the second quarter but still led 23-10 at halftime, with



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Union's Steve Brown (left) and Rico Walker apply defensive pressure on Catholic Central's Aras Butkunas.

PLEASE SEE SHAMROCKS, C5

Ceremony sparks Redford Unified to big win

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Redford Unified put three banners in the rafters and six pucks in the net Thursday night.

Head coach Larry Singer removed the covering from the blue-and-yellow banners following the first period of Unified's varsity hockey game with Flint Kearsley at Redford Ice Arena.

With former and current players and former assistant coach Bill McSween Sr. on hand, banners toasting the 1999-00, 2000-01 and 2004-05 Mega division winners were unveiled amid the sound of hockey sticks tapping the ice in applause.

Shortly after the ceremony, the current squad - including 12 players from the 2005 Mega Red champions - came out on fire in the second stanza. Senior forwards and co-captains Bill Cetnar and Jason Hendrickson, both '05 champs, scored in the first 2:12 of the frame, breaking a 1-1 stalemate and sending Unified to a 6-1 non-league victory.

Hendrickson (Redford Union) afterward said the ceremony served as a tension-breaking, confidence-boosting reminder.

"It brought us all back together, it unified us," Hendrickson said. "It will

probably get us energized, knowing we can do it. We had a hard time putting pucks in the net and we're putting pucks in the net now."

Singer said he could sense a different team took the ice for the second period.

"I think when they came off the ice after the banner raising they were a bit more focused and trying to get things done collectively," said Singer. "When you're out there and your banner's raised you remember that you were a team, a championship team."

Unified freshman forward Joey Catalano started the game off with an unassisted goal just 2:27 into the contest.

Kearsley (4-5-2) tied the game five minutes later on a tally by senior forward Jeff Byres, the only shot to get past Unified sophomore goalkeeper Nick Smith (Thurston).

At the 52-second mark of the second frame, Cetnar broke the tie on assists from Catalano and freshman defender Scott LaMontagne.

Hendrickson scored his first of two goals, on helpers from senior defenseman Conor Mahinske (Thurston) and senior defenseman Eric Valeri (RU).

Before the frame ended, Unified (2-4-1) made it 5-1 on tallies by Valeri and Hendrickson. Hendrickson and

senior forward Adam Eaves (RU) assisted on Valeri's goal while junior forward Joe Petriches (RU) and senior defenseman Justin Herbst set up Hendrickson's second marker with 7:13 left in the period.

In the third, sophomore forward Larry Marlow (RU) finished the scoring. Cetnar rushed the puck up the left wing and dropped a pass back to Marlow, who flung a wrist shot cleanly past Kearsley junior goaltender Brett Adkins (who started the third period in place of starter Kevin Brackett, also a junior).

LEGACY AND TRADITION

Before the banners were uncovered, Redford Union athletic director Brett Steele announced those players present from the three championship teams as well as McSween, an assistant for the first two championship teams (coached by Pete Mazzoni in 1999-00 and the late Jack Gumbleton in 2000-01).

"It's more of a community thing," said McSween who still lives in Redford Township with his wife, Marge. "When you look up there you think of all these parents and kids. It's pretty nice. I guess that's a legacy."

"... It's all part of a tradition and a lot of really, really good hockey play-

ers came out of here."

Among them was his son, Billy McSween, a 2001 Redford Thurston graduate who played defense for the first two Unified championship teams. McSween now plays at Davenport University along with ex-Unified teammates Kevin Moodie (2002 RU grad) and 1998 RU grad J.J. Price.

As far as players from the first two teams were concerned, Moodie also was at Thursday's ceremony, along with 1999-00 team members Steven Elliott and Jason Moul. The two McSweens and Moodie were the lone representatives from the 2001 team.

Moul, 22, a 2001 Thurston graduate and current Western Michigan University right winger, said the ceremony is meaningful and something he'll hold with pride.

"It means a lot, we put in a lot of 5 a.m. mornings (for practices)," Moul said. "It's just a symbol of all our hard work when we were younger."

Moul thought of the players who were unable to travel to Redford for the big night, including 1999-00 team captain Dave Sellin, now living in California.

"He (Sellin) was a huge part of that team," Moul added. The younger McSween said his

mom called him about the ceremony and decided it would be a must-see event.

"They look great (in the rafters)," he said. "It reminds me of all the people I played with. Playing hockey was the best time, it just brings back memories."

Although Singer would have liked to have seen a bigger reunion from the early teams, he said the banners will be there for whenever they do return.

"I'm satisfied (with the turnout), I wish we could have gotten more of the older teams out," Singer said. "But I think if they ever come back, they'll see (the banners) hanging, and the guys who were here certainly appreciated the recognition."

Members of the 2004-05 team in attendance included current players Cetnar, Hendrickson, Petriches, Smith, Eaves, Valeri, Herbst, junior forward James Lehr (RU), sophomore defenseman Nick Bonadeo (RU), senior goalie Nick Kinney (Thurston), junior defenseman Collin Franti (RU), junior forward Ben Piskor (RU) and 2005 grads Bob Lippe, Eddie Brown, Mike Gervais, Brandon Baity, Jason Halliday, Jeremy Hayward, Justin Regets, Nick Fischback and Aaron Bigger.

Rolling Stevenson icers wallop South Lyon, 8-3

There was no letdown Wednesday night for the Livonia Stevenson boys hockey team.

The Spartans, coming off a big triumph last weekend over No. 1-ranked Bloomfield Hills-Cranbrook (in Division III) at the Clarkston Tournament, took care of business Wednesday with an 8-3 non-league win over visiting South Lyon at Edgar Arena.

The Spartans, winners of nine straight, are 9-1 overall.

Eight different players scored for the Spartans, who led 4-2 after one period and 6-3 after 30 minutes.

Among those scoring included Chris Rapp (first of the year), Corey Matson,

Marcus Voran, Vince Byrne, Michael Voran, Jason Mifsud, Ryan Zucal and Sean Lerg (first career goals).

Stevenson had a power-play goal in each period.

Shawn Anderson collected three assists, while Jeff Anderson, Marcus Voran and Matson contributed two each. Other assists went to Dan Darrow, Ryan Wrathell, Michael Voran, Mike Jahn, Jason Kraemer and Steve Soave.

"We were able to spread our scoring around to a lot of different guys in this game, so that is a good sign that more guys are contributing offensively," Stevenson coach Mike Humitz said. "South Lyon is a

big, fast, skilled team, so it was encouraging to see that we could counter them.

"Marcus Voran was very effective for us tonight - very seldom does he not meet my expectations."

Garrett Colton and Kevin Burr scored in the opening period for South Lyon, while Bill Briggs scored a short-handed goal for the Lions in the second period.

Stevenson netminder Jeff Pashnick made 16 saves, while Derek VanVleck and Tony Johnson combined for 15 for the Lions, who dropped to 7-2.

W.L. CENTRAL 4, FRANKLIN 2: A total of 30 penalties were called, includ-

ing 16 in the final period as Walled Lake Central (6-1) downed host Livonia Franklin (2-4-1) in a WLLA crossover at the Edgar Arena.

Central had 16 total, while Franklin was whistled for 14. Each team received two misconducts.

Ironically, Franklin was 8-for-8 on penalty, but went 0-for-8 on the power play.

After a scoreless opening period in which Franklin fought off four straight Central power-play chances, the Vikings scored three times in the second period on a pair of goals by Shane Barry and one by Brad Murphy.

Franklin's Bryan Kozlowski scored at 7:55 of the second period to tie it at 1-1 on assists from Dan Kozlowski and Jason Wirgau.

In the third period, Central's Matt Johnson scored an unassisted short-handed goal at 3:43 to make it 4-1.

Franklin's Steve South capped the scoring at 6:23 of the final period on assists from Steve Stahl and Dan Kozlowski.

Patriot netminder Austin Mesler made a total of 30 saves.

Central goaltender C.J. Pobur made 22 stops.

LADYWOOD 4, NORTHVILLE 0: Goaltender Michelle Wymienko made 12 saves Wednesday en route to her first shutout of the season as Livonia Ladywood (6-1, 4-1) blanked the host Mustangs (5-5, 3-3) in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League win at the Novi Ice Arena.

Ladywood led 2-0 after one period on Brittney Holtz's goal at 6:59 from Ashley Ballarin and Heather Sartorius, followed by Abby Kienbaum's power-play goal from Rachel Killian with just 35 seconds left.

Just 46 seconds into the second

period, Brittany Andrews made it 3-0 for the Blazers from Killian and Kienbaum.

Sartorius completed the scoring at 2:28 from Laura Szwed and Danielle Foley.


Ladywood had a total of 28 shots on goal and took nine penalties (to Northville's 13).

NORTHVILLE 8, SALEM 0: Brandon Wales scored two goals and assisted on another to lead the Mustangs to a convincing victory. Northville led 3-0 after one period and 6-0 after two.

Derek Mohacsi, Kevin Uetz and Wales tallied first-period goals while Wales, Mike Garbatz, Mohacsi and Kevin Ruzyllo were credited with assists.

Mike Piotrowski, Garbarz and Anthony Deneau netted second-period goals while Ryan Pyatenko and Wales lit the lamp in the final 15 minutes of action.

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CRUSADERS

FROM PAGE C1

"We played really well against a great team," he said. "We just came off a big win over Texas Wesleyan, and (against Cal. Baptist) it was like a national championship match in the semifinal."

ALL-AMERICANS

Exceptional individual performances, of course, had a lot to do with the phenomenal team success.

At the top of the charts were Frost and senior outside hitter Natalja Tinina. Frost - who in September shattered the Madonna career mark for assists with her 5,146th against Daemen (NY) - and Tinina earlier this month were named First-Team All-Americans by AVCA/NAIA.

Two other Crusaders were part of the All-American team. Senior middle hitter Laura Lesko (571 kills) earned a spot on the second team while junior middle hitter Caryn Inman (472 kills, 192 blocks) received an honorable mention.

Frost (2,222 assists this season and 6,885 for her career) and Tinina (886 kills to break the MU career record of 2,851) also snapped up best setter and best player kudos, respectively, from both the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and NAIA Region VIII.

According to Frost, being an



PHOTOS BY MU SPORTS INFORMATION

Madonna University senior volleyball players Ashley Frost (left) and Natalja Tinina were named All-Americans first-teamers for their outstanding seasons.

All-American first-teamer is "nice, because I've worked really hard the last four years."

She also said she is very proud of breaking the Madonna assists' mark. But, typical for a player from a team that had unmatched camaraderie, she deferred credit to players such as Tinina, Lesko, Inman and others.

"I'm proud of it (the assists record), but I can't get assists without my hitters," Frost said. "I'm fortunate to play with some great athletes."

SIMPLY STELLAR

Concurring was Inman, also a first-team all-conference and

all-region selection.

"For me, this is my first time ever getting it," Inman said. "The seniors on my team who got first team or second team are just amazing. I guess just to be put up on the same level as so many good girls around me is an honor."

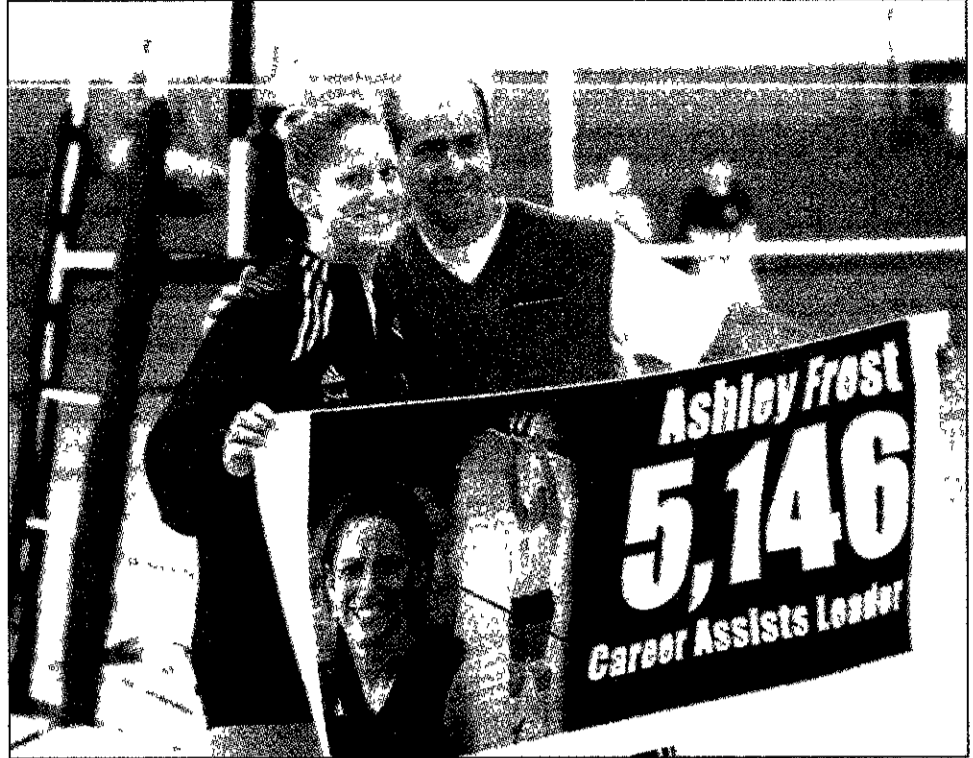
Abraham said "stellar" seniors Frost, Tinina, Lesko and Libero Stefanie DeNardin comprised the team's core. But he made sure to mention Inman and several others who provided a strong supporting cast.

"Caryn Inman was fantastic, Heather Spooner was very strong, Kelsey Mack is blossoming into a really great player, Jacqui Gatt is a fireplug for us, a great primary passer and defensive player," said Abraham, going down the list. "Amy Szymanski (Redford Township) came in and did a nice job and so did Becci Crane. Defensively, they gave us big-time spark."

Abraham sounded most disappointed about not being able to coach such a unique, talented squad any longer.

"This has been a dream season, like many in the past at Madonna," Abraham said. "Each team is special in its own way. But this was just a season that blew by, because it was so enjoyable working with this group. They're a bunch of winners."

He would get no argument from Madonna athletics direc-



Madonna University senior Ashley Frost celebrates with Crusaders head volleyball coach Jerry Abraham, after she set a new career assists record in September.

tor Bryan Rizzo, who said he doesn't think the university will soon see anything like the volleyball team's season.

"It's a shame when you get into a tournament like that at the nationals that there's only one winner," Rizzo said. "What we accomplished through the regular season, not losing a game, that's something that may never be duplicated in any sport here."

Rizzo added that "I don't know how you top it, short of winning the national title." smith@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2106

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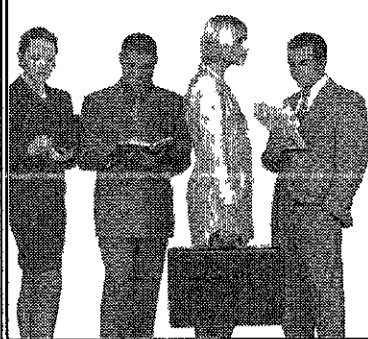
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Howell nips 'Cats with triples

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's basketball team will hit the holiday break on a two-game skid after dropping a thrilling 57-55 decision to Howell Wednesday night in the consolation game of the 8th Annual Chelsea Classic. The Wildcats, now 1-3, are idle until a three-games-in-one-week stretch once school resumes the second week of January. Plymouth will travel to Lincoln Park for a make-up game on Jan. 9, before hosting Adrian on Jan. 10. Coach Tom Van Wagoner's squad will open its Western Lakes Activities Association schedule Jan. 13 at Walled Lake Central. "It's frustrating being 1-3, but I think we've learned a lot in our first four games," said Van Wagoner, who didn't have the services of point guard

Brent Jones for both games of the Chelsea tournament. "You have to give Howell credit the way they played. They made six threes against us, just like Haslett did the other night. "We put a lot of pressure on them, but they got the ball to the right people. They hit a couple of huge threes down the stretch." The Wildcats' offensive production was spread evenly among five players. Senior forward Josh Le Duc led the way with 11 points and seven rebounds. Also putting up solid numbers were Alex Harvey and Jim Wilbur (nine points each); Brandon Roberts (eight) and LaBroderick Caldwell (six). Cody McKim paced Howell with 17 points. Brett Richards added 11 for the Highlanders, who improved to 2-2. Howell led 20-17 after one

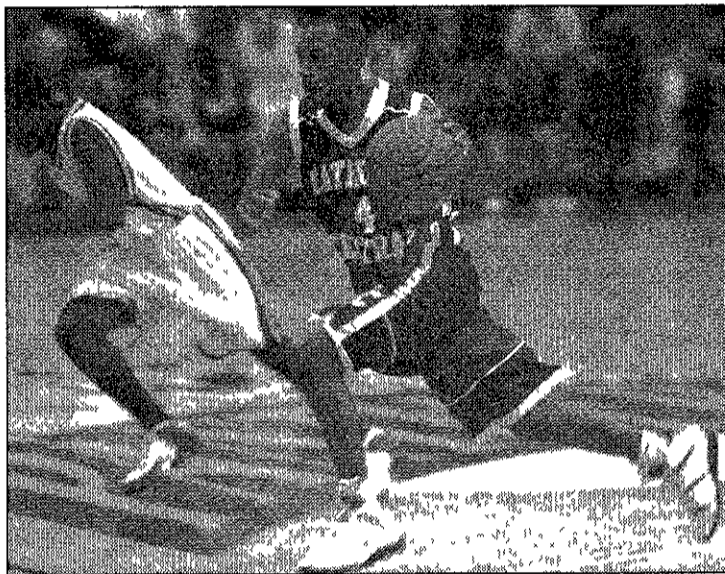
quarter and 32-31 at the half before the Wildcats rebounded to grab a 43-41 advantage after three quarters. Plymouth's lead grew to as many as four points in the final stanza, but Howell hung on down the stretch. With 40 seconds left and the Highlanders leading 55-52, the Wildcats were whistled for a questionable intentional foul. The Howell shooter drained both shots to make it 57-52. Plymouth stole the ensuing in-bounds pass and Roberts buried a triple at the buzzer. Both teams shot well from the charity stripe as Plymouth canned 9-of-13 freebies while the Highlanders found the bottom of the net on 11-of-14 attempts from the stripe. The tournament was won by Haslett, which edged Chelsea by one point in the title game.

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

SHAMROCKS

FROM PAGE C1

smooth-as-silk senior guard Antyrio Raimer (19 points) calmly draining a trey from beyond the top of the arc at the horn. Triples by RU's Ryan Meyers and Chris Brown (11 points, five rebounds, five assists) briefly gave the Panthers some hope early in the third, slicing the margin to 28-16. But the Shamrocks answered with seven consecutive points, including a triple from the right side by Butkunas. It was 37-19 after three and the teams pretty much traded buckets in the fourth, although Raimer put an exclamation point on the proceedings with two identical rainbow three-balls from the right wing. Also sparking CC to the victory was 6-7 senior center Harding (Livonia), with eight points and 11 rebounds. For Redford Union, besides Brown, junior guard Trevar Simmons and sophomore guard Terrell Beard each scored 11 points. Steele said his team just isn't all that confident when shoot-



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Antyrio Raimer of Novi Catholic Central sprints up the court next to Redford Union sophomore guard Terrell Beard during Wednesday's non-league varsity boys basketball contest.

ing the ball. "We've been struggling shooting the basketball for four games," he said. "It's a confidence thing that's carried over. But we have five days off here, which is good for us. The kids need time away to recharge themselves." "The point guard had credit by the Shamrocks came into their building and

took control. "They've got a nice basketball team," Steele said. "Their top seven players are all seniors, they've been through a lot of battles with us. They've had some difficult losses, with our game last year one of them. This is a year they've pointed

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL Tuesday, Dec. 27 Red. Covenant vs. Det. Mackenzie at Country Day Roundball Classic, 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28 Wayne vs. Det. Osborn at Highland Park, 1 p.m. (Roundball Classic at Country Day) Clarenceville vs. Melvindale, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 Wayne vs. Det. Henry Ford at Highland Park, 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30 Birm. Brother Rice at Redford Union, 7 p.m.	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Tuesday, Dec. 27 UM-Dearborn Invitational, 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30 UM-Dearborn Invitational, 9 a.m. PREP HOCKEY Tuesday, Dec. 27 (Ladywood Tourney at Arctic Pond) Ladywood vs. Victory Honda, 1 p.m. Ply.-Canton-Salem vs. Regina, 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28 Ladywood Tourney at Arctic Pond, 1 & 3 p.m. PREP WRESTLING Wednesday, Dec. 28 Salem 'B' Invitational, 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 Salem Varsity Invitational, 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30 Brother Rice Warrior Inv., 9 a.m. PREP BOWLING Friday, Dec. 30 Ladywood in B.C. John Glenn Tourney at Monitor Lanes, 10 a.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday, Dec. 28 Madonna at Savannah Art & Design, 7 p.m. Lewis (Ill.) at Schoolcraft, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29	MADONNA vs. Southern Poly Tech at Savannah Art & Design, 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30 WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Tuesday, Dec. 27 (St. Xavier, Ill. Holiday Classic) Madonna vs. Calumet (Ind.), 1 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 27-28 Madonna at St. Xavier Classic, TBA. ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Wednesday, Dec. 28 Whalers vs. Windsor Spitfires at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30 Whalers vs. Erie Otters at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 1 Whalers at Windsor, 2 p.m. TBA - time to be announced.
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CITY OF LIVONIA

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 5, Chapter VII and Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, the Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 4.0447 mills, of the taxable valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the next fiscal year commencing December 1, 2005, and ending November 30, 2006, and in addition to the above amount which is authorized to be levied for general purposes by the Charter of the City of Livonia:

- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.8080 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for police protection and law enforcement personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purpose;
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 1.2134 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for fire, police and snow removal personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.8088 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for library services, supplies and facilities in the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.0107 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to the provisions of Act 379 of the Public Acts of 1925, for the purpose of advertising, exploiting and making known the industrial and commercial advantages of the City of Livonia and to establish projects for the purpose of encouraging immigration to, and increasing the trade, business and industries of the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount which is authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 2.0767 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to the provisions of Act 298 of the Public Acts of 1917, for the purpose of establishing, operating, maintaining and administering the municipal garbage collection system and/or plant for the collection and disposal of garbage and refuse in the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.2507 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, for the purpose of debt retirement on the 1990 Street Improvement Bond, Series I, Series II, Series III and Series IV; in addition to the amount which is authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.4979 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, for the purpose of defraying City expenses and liabilities for the collection and disposal activities required for curbside recycling and yard waste composting programs; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.7855 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for a community recreation center, recreation personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities and operations; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.8893 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, for the purpose of providing revenues for repairing or replacing public roads, sidewalks and trees in the City of Livonia, in addition to the amount to be levied for general municipal purposes;

AND PROVIDED FURTHER, that the Wayne County Bureau of Taxation, City Assessor, City Treasurer and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary or incidental to the full performance of this resolution, and the City Clerk is hereby requested to immediately transmit copies of this resolution to each of the above offices.

CITY OF LIVONIA ADOPTED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2005 - 2006

GENERAL FUND (101)		REVENUES	EXPENDITURES
PROPERTY TAXES	402-446	\$28,588,137	
LICENSES & PERMITS	470-519	2,188,600	
GRANTS	528	122,684	
STATE SHARED REVENUES	567-581	9,256,386	
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	602-651	3,273,046	
FINES & FORFEITS	656	3,886,000	
INTEREST & RENTS	665-669	1,965,026	
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	680-698	1,633,945	
TOTAL REVENUES		\$50,913,824	
LEGISLATIVE			1,210,289
JUDICIAL			2,623,479
EXECUTIVE			463,846
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION			2,534,361
HUMAN RESOURCES			783,168
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			1,323,235
PUBLIC SAFETY - POLICE			20,510,650
PUBLIC SAFETY - FIRE			10,330,511
PROTECTIVE INSPECTION			1,235,983
OTHER PROTECTIVE			6,244
PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING			4,063,603
PARKS & RECREATION			581,012
CULTURAL			1,511,331
PLANNING			769,450
OTHER CITY FUNCTIONS			2,950,572
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			\$50,897,741
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		REVENUES	EXPENDITURES
MAJOR STREET FUND	202	\$4,587,000	\$5,311,602
LOCAL STREET FUND	203	3,444,727	3,714,153
ROAD SIDEWALK & TREE FUND	204	6,097,162	5,990,582
MUNICIPAL REFUSE FUND	205	12,299,268	12,277,032
COMMUNITY RECREATION FUND	208	7,748,813	7,635,347
COMMUNITY TRANSIT FUND	218	378,988	391,906
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION	261	505,000	603,000
PLYMOUTH ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	262	2,172,862	1,240,527
ADJUDICATED FORFEITURES FUND	265	310,000	544,800
LIBRARY FUND	271	4,614,995	4,602,718
CABLE TELEVISION FUND	297	548,200	638,261
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	566	25	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$42,707,040	\$42,949,928
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS			
MBA COM. RECREATION	308	\$1,986,900	\$1,986,900
D/S/ POLICE COMPUTER	309	0	85,000
LIVONIA MBA BOND DEBT RETIREMENT	315	0	0
LIVONIA 16TH DISTRICT COURT	322	72,000	72,000
1998 MVH BOND DEBT RETIREMENT	323	0	0
1999 MBA REFUNDING	324	494,915	494,915
2005 MBA REFUNDING	325	344,471	344,471
1990 STREET IMPROVEMENT	377	1,176,162	1,176,057
1998 PRDA STREETScape DEBT	394	572,895	572,895
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUNDS		\$4,647,343	\$4,739,258
ENTERPRISE FUNDS			
NEWBURGH VILLAGE SR. CIT. HOUSING	294	\$733,600	\$717,990
SILVER VILLAGE SR. CIT. HOUSING	296	561,170	484,392
GOLF COURSE	508	1,902,968	1,852,055
WATER AND SEWER	592	\$25,882,467	\$25,852,490
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND		\$29,080,205	\$28,906,927

Publish: December 25, 2005

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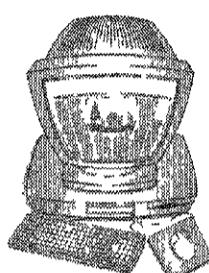
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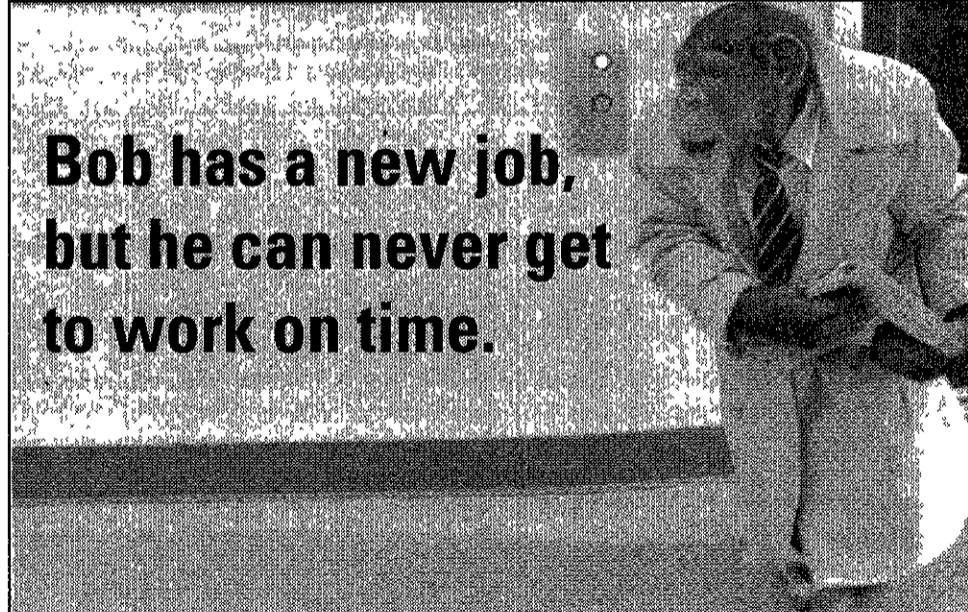
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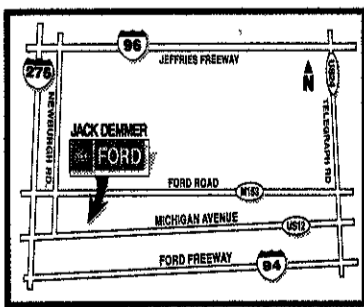
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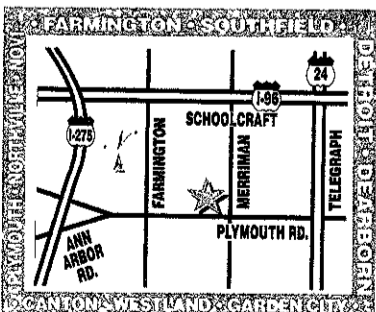
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Sunshine: It's the invisible homewrecker

(NewsUSA) — A trend in home building today is larger windows and more of them. Windows not only reduce the need for artificial lighting, they increase a home's "curb appeal" and value. Yet there is a hidden cost to all that sunlight: irreversible damage to indoor furnishings.

Upholstered furniture, hardwood floors and carpets are at risk whenever they are exposed to sunlight shining through a home's windows.

"Our customers have been in their homes on average 11 years, so they are very aware of the fading damage caused over time by sunlight," said Mike Gilkey, president of Gilkey Window Company.

Ultraviolet radiation in sunlight is largely responsible for this damage. Even the latest low-E (low-emissivity) glass technology for residential windows fails to provide adequate UV protection. That's because the portion of ultraviolet radiation called UVA passes right through low-E glass, causing fading and deterioration to furniture, floors and more.

The damage is irreversible,

ClimaGuard SPF, however, will virtually eliminate harmful ultraviolet rays without interfering with natural daylight or compromising that familiar clear glass look.

but it is possible to stop damaging UV radiation from penetrating your home's windows with a new glass technology from Guardian Industries called ClimaGuard SPF. This technology blocks more than 99 percent of all UV radiation without any visible change in day lighting.

The best way for homeowners to deal with damaging UV radiation is to stop it before it enters the home through their windows," said Tim Singel, director of residential glass products for Guardian Industries.

In the past, window glass that was coated to protect against UV radiation also usu-

ally blocked some visible sunlight, or the coating made the glass shiny like a mirror. This left the homeowner with a choice between performance and appearance.

ClimaGuard SPF, however, will virtually eliminate harmful ultraviolet rays without interfering with natural daylight or compromising that familiar clear glass look.

"ClimaGuard SPF is the first residential glass technology to offer this level of UV protection without the undesirable tradeoffs," Singel said.

ClimaGuard SPF is a coating that is applied to the interior glass surface of a double-paned window unit. Since the coating is not exposed, there's no reason to be concerned about scratching the coating or which cleaning solutions to use; just wash the window as you normally would. And since the coating is applied by the glass manufacturer, there's no concern that the coating will wrinkle or peel after the window is installed.

For more information, call (800) 436-2157 or visit www.climaguardspf.com.



While sunlight can provide an open-air feeling in homes, it also can cause permanent damage to wood floors and fabrics.

Good time: Buying a house now can save you money

I am now renting. How do I go about buying a house?

If you are renting I think now is an important time to buy a house. Some of the reasons for this are:

■ Interest rates have been low and they are expected to go steadily up. These days many mortgage payments are very close to what rent payments would be for similar properties.

■ Also, we have had a slow recovery in the housing market. For less money than if we had a robust real estate market,



Ask the Realtor

Michael Aldouby

■ The spring is usually the beginning of the real estate season. Because of this sellers are the most confident in getting the most money for their house during this time. Right now, however, you have a greater likelihood in getting

more house for the money.

Here are some things to consider when buying a house.

■ Decide what kind of house you want and where. Figure out what features you want and which ones you could live without.

■ Find out how much you can afford and how much you want to spend. Make sure you get a pre-approval from a lender. This will tell you how much you can afford to spend. It is important because there is no point looking at houses

you cannot afford. If you want a house and find out later that you can't afford it you will be disappointed.

■ Get a Realtor. Realtors provide many services to buyers, which are usually just about free to the buyer. Usually it's sellers who pay Realtors. Some of the services that Realtors provide buyers are finding houses to look at, determining market values, negotiating on their behalf.

■ When the time comes to make an offer you will need

to give an earnest money deposit (EMD). The EMD is usually held by the real estate company that represents the buyer. The point of the EMD is that it lets the sellers know that there is a serious buyer. If you have an accepted offer, you cannot simply change your mind. If you do, you risk losing the EMD. Usually you have up to seven days to do a private inspection. If a problem is found, you often have

to get out of the transaction completely and get your deposit back. The offer is also contingent upon your mortgage approval. Normally you have about 30 days to get your approval. If the approval is declined you usually can get your deposit back.

Michael Aldouby is a columnist and a Realtor with Real Estate One. Please feel free to call him at (734) 953-2232.

Home perfect for do-it-yourselfers

Is there someone in your family that enjoys woodworking, restoring a vintage automobile, or just doing different fix-it projects around the house?

Have you been stymied by lack of a proper space to set up your tools? If so, take a look at the brilliant design of the Tamra (403-52).

One of the many notable assets of this plan is the 780 square foot, two-car garage that includes a shop/storage area with a built-in workbench and cabinets to hold tools and materials. Adjacent to the garage is a full-length RV pad to hold your vacation vehicle when not in use.

Step inside from the garage and deposit your soiled clothing in the large utility room. In addition to room for a washer and dryer, there is a deep sink, built-in ironing board, and room for double freezers. Conveniently located across the hall is a full bathroom with a skylight.

To the front of the Tamra are the living and dining rooms. They can be left open to each other, or optional walls may be constructed. The vaulted living room is good-sized and has a nice bay window.

After a meal in the formal dining room, you can entertain your guests here in elegant style.

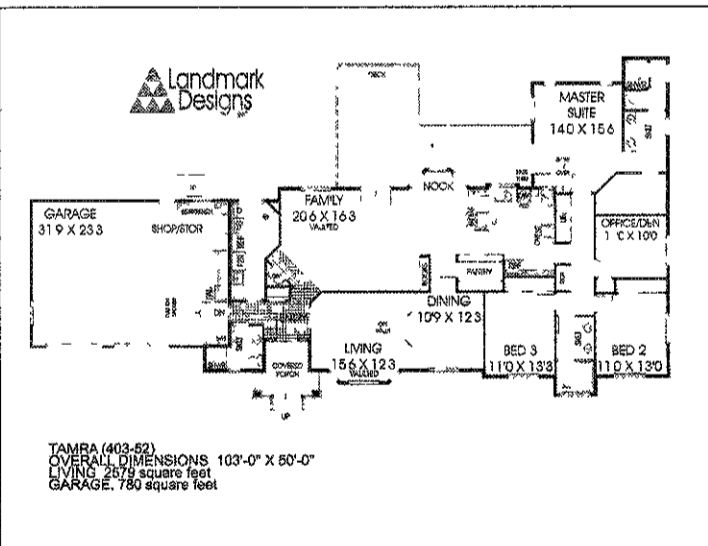
The main gathering spot in the home, the vaulted family room, is quite generous and features built-in bookshelf and combination gas/wood fireplace on a raised hearth. French doors open onto a substantial back deck where summertime fun will find you at the barbecue.

A bright breakfast nook separates the kitchen from the family room. The easily managed kitchen has an informal eating bar, cook top range, separate ovens, appliance center and walk-in pantry.

The master suite, isolated for privacy, has among its amenities a huge walk-in closet, raised TV shelf, access to the deck and a private bathroom with skylight and twin basins.

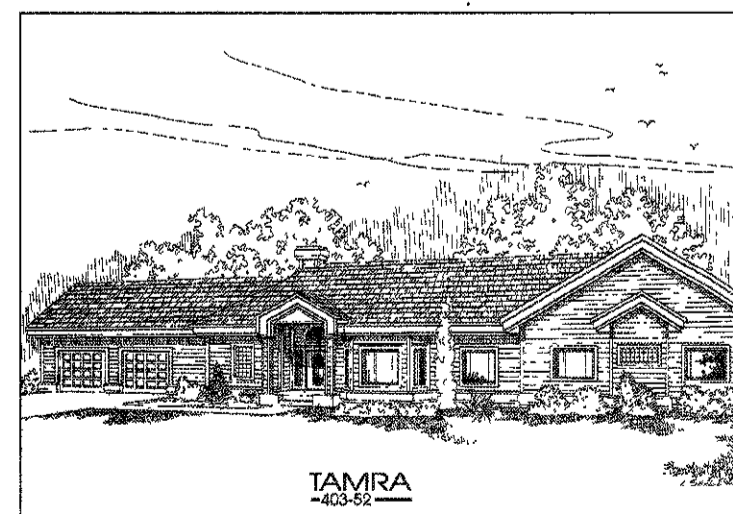
The two identical secondary bedrooms, divided by a skylit bathroom, have plentiful closet space and a view to the front. Completing the floor design of the Tamra is a small home office/den, and hallway linen storage.

For a study plan of the TAMRA (403-52), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, Inc.,



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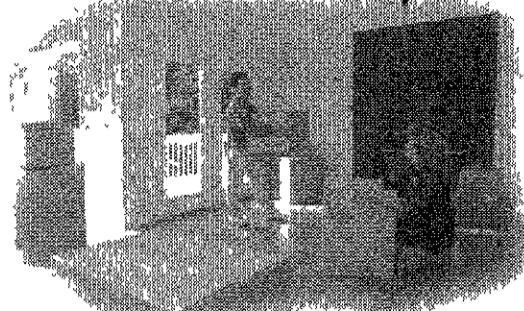
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A Planned Condominium Community
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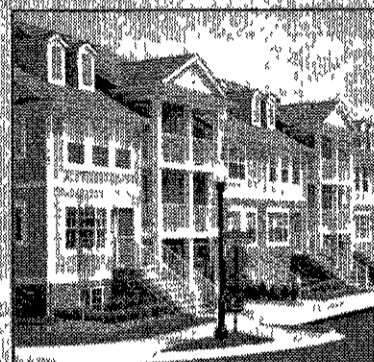
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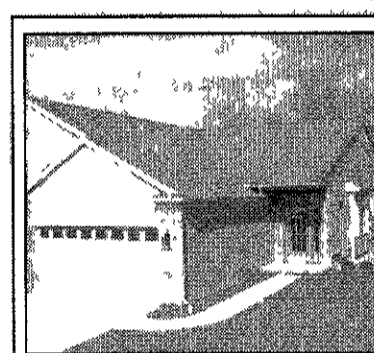
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Brokers Welcome

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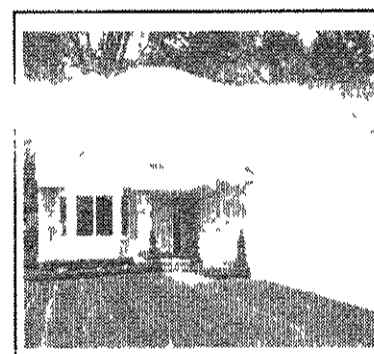
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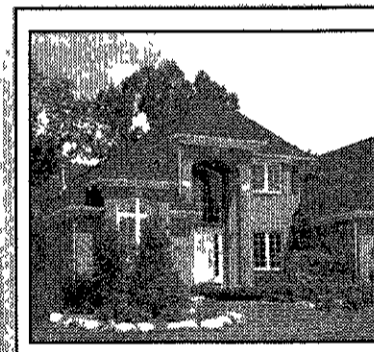
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• Granite tops, premium carpet
• First floor laundry
• Open Floor

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STANDING 3 BEDROOM
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• Great room w/ gas fireplace
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• Custom landscaping w/ brick paver patio
• Granite tops, premium carpet
• First floor laundry
• Open Floor

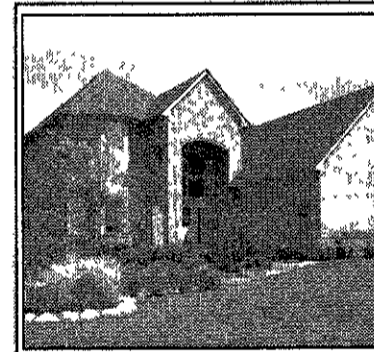
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• Side Entry Garage
• MULTI BUILDING CO. IN CONJUNCTION WITH BABCOCK CONSTRUCTION
Models Open Daily 11am - 6pm

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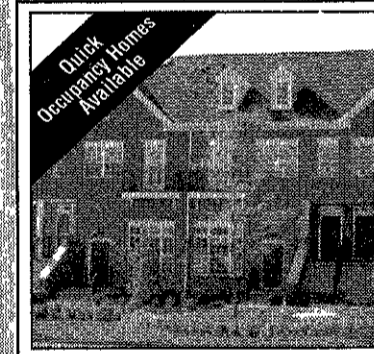
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Lyon Township

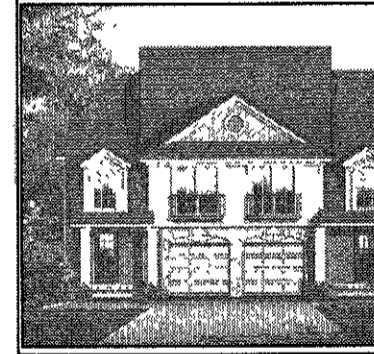
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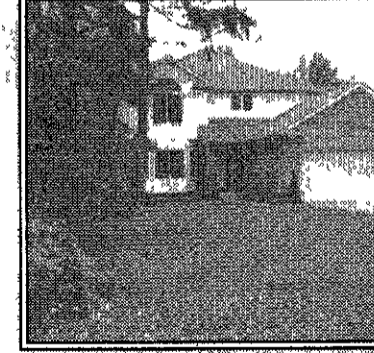
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Livonia

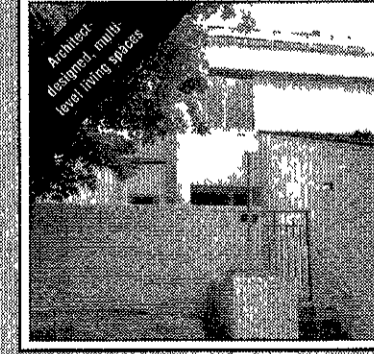
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• Granite & Ceramic Throughout
• Oversized Garage
• Custom Landscaping

Livonia

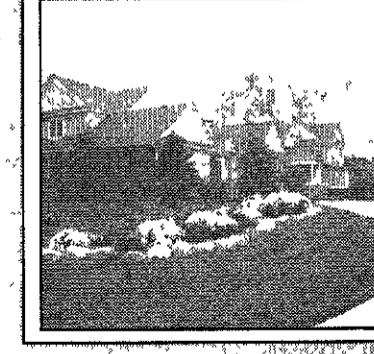
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Fully equipped kitchen with designer cabinets & vanities
Central air included
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Two huge bedrooms
Private patio
Abundant green space

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First Floor Master Bedrooms, 2600-2800 sq. ft. ICF construction - 5 star energy rated! Heat and Cool for less than \$100 a month! Hardwood floors first floor, Lime stone bathrooms Solid Cherry Cabinets with Granite, recessed lighting throughout Kohler+ Fixture Bosh Stainless Steel Appliances 2 car garage 9 foot basements Bloomfield Schools

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Merry Christmas!
Born 2-18-2005
Proud parents
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Born 4-21-2005
Proud parents
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Born 1-25-2005
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loving parents
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Michigan



Joshua David Clouser
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Howell, MI



Brayden J. Hill
Merry Christmas!
Born 11-11-2005
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Tracey & Corey
Livonia, MI



Gavin C. Mitchell
Auntie's Sweetie
Born 10-27-2005
Proud parents
Chris & Michelle
Livonia MI



Aidan James
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Born 8-20-2005
Love Andy & Angie,
Alex & Austin
Michigan



Abigail Sophia
"Little Peanut"
Born 5-31-2005
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Matt & Andrea
Michigan



Ryan Dosch
Grandma's Little Angel
Born 3-28-2005
Proud Big Brother
Leian
Lake Orion, MI



Joshua David Edward
God's Precious Gift
Loved dearly by
Parents, David & Kelly
and Big Sister, Jeanna
Redford, MI



Tyler Pawlowski
Merry Christmas!
Born 9-3-2005
Proud parents
Jason & Kathy
Georgia



Logan Riley Patterson
Daddie's Little Man and
Mommie's Little Snuggler
Born 5-16-2005
We love you!
Mommie & Daddie
California



Landon John Wiesner
Merry Christmas!
Born 4-2-2005
Ecstatic Grandmother
Alice Wick
Novi, MI



Landon John Wiesner
Merry Christmas!
Born 4-2-2005
Blessed parents
Lisa & John
Farmington Hills, MI



Madison Rose Sullivan
Merry Christmas!
Born 2-8-2005
Proud parents
Tim & Katie
Ypsilanti, MI



Karissa Shay Beach
Daddy's Little "Girly Girl" &
Mommy's Little "Sunshine"
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Mommy & Daddy
Michigan

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- For appreciating the value in what we do
- For giving us the opportunity to serve you
- For making our jobs meaningful and worthwhile!

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7800-7930 Animals/Pets

<p>7800 Animal Services 7810 Breeder Directory 7820 Birds & Fish 7830 Cats 7840 Dogs 7850 Farm Animals/Livestock 7860 Horses & Equipment</p>	<p>7870 Horse Boarding-Commercial 7880 Household Pets-Others 7890 Pet Grooming & Boarding 7900 Pet Services 7910 Pet Supplies 7920 Pets Wanted 7930 Lost & Found-Pets</p>
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9-5pm, Wed., Thurs., Fri.-Sat.

Moving Sales 7130

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MISC. ITEMS. 11723 Cavell,
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734-658-9616

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New in plastic, sell \$150.
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Household Goods 7160

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Deliverable, 734-891-8481

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make offer. 248-396-4105

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Still in wrapper, seats 6 w/ longer. Retail for \$950, sacrifice for \$2950. 734-732-9338

Household Goods 7160

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Nordic Track SL 720 recumbent exercise with fan. 1 yr old, used twice, \$275 or best offer 734-522-0008

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Exercise/Fitness Equipment 7215

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Exercise/Fitness Equipment 7215

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

Miscellaneous For Sale 7500

All steel bldgs. Must sell, deposit will hold, 40x40, 50x100, 60x100, can deliver. Ask for Jill at 1-800-813-8530

Miscellaneous For Sale 7500

ALL Steel Buildings
Clearance! 24x30 \$2,300 30x38 \$4,990, 40x56 \$8,990 50x100 \$12,950 Must Sell! Call for availability. Troy 1-800-616-1082

Miscellaneous For Sale 7500

Degrees online from home 100% Job placement assistance. Computer and financial aid it qualify. Call toll free 866-868-2121 www.onlinedegreewatch.com

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FREE DIRECTV Satellite for 4 rooms. FREE TiVo/DVR. Add HDTV. 220 channels including locals. \$29.99/month. First 500 order get FREE DVD player. 866-641-7031 Promo #16026

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OLD GUITARS WANTED!
Fender, Gibson, Gretsch, Martin. 1930's thru 1960's. Top cash paid! 1-800-401-0440

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PRINTER/FAX/SCAN/COPY HP
Office Jet. All in one. Variety of scrubs, all colors & patterns, size medium, all print. 734-266-1876, 734-377-8913

Miscellaneous For Sale 7500

SLOT MACHINES - (2) Valley Blazing 7 & (1) Fire Ball. Exec cond. Other slot machines avail. (810) 231-0724



Meet Rodney.

He's the one with the laptop.

He's showing his boss how to play **PICK THE PROS.**

It hasn't occurred to him that his boss could win the trip for four to Las Vegas. (and not take him).

Have you played **PICK THE PROS** today?

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Holiday Greetings

to our four legged friends!



HUNTER & HARLEY
Their never ending love and devotion are the best gifts they could ever give us.
The McCormick's Plymouth, MI



CALI
"My Little Princess"
Thanks for all of the love and laughter. Merry 1st Christmas baby!
Dawn



SEASON'S GREETINGS MR. CLINTON
Hope you have a joyful and blessed Christmas.
Ursula Barrett Canton, MI



"MY BABY, MITZIE"
She shares her life with me and has proved to be more than just a dog. She is part of my family.
Carolyn Livonia, MI



LUCY
Happy Holidays to all fellow seniors!!
Lucy of Troy, MI

They show their holiday spirit everyday of the year!



PEPPER
You have brought much happiness and joy to our home for 8 wonderful years. You are my best friend.
Carolyn & Family Farmington Hills, MI



ANDY
Wild and fun...brings laughs to friends and family every day.
The Salva's Redford, MI



AMOS
Cute as can be! Has brought joy to me every day.
The Salva's Redford, MI



LUCY
Yappy Holidays!!!
Love ya Goose!
Kellie Plymouth, MI



STELLA & MURPHY
Good luck Stella as you head off to Leader Dog training. We will miss you.
The Gillikin's Canton, MI



GRIZZLY & SABRINA
You both are our angels.
Merry Christmas.
Your Family MI



MORGAN...
the Elf, reporting for duty Santa! Don't forget Kellie, Andy, Chase and Gus!
From Busia Bloomfield Hills, MI



"LUCKY"
Merry Christmas to Alyssa and Kathleen!
Love, Lucky MI



FLUFFY
Our pretty girl. Thank you for 15 1/2 wonderful years with you. We miss you so much - our home is not the same without you.
The Thomas's Rochester Hills, MI

