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THURSDAY
December 7, 2006

CANTON Observer

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Cops nab 2, ticket 5 in drug sweep

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Canton Township police
arrested two Plymouth-Canton
high school students and ticket-

ed five others on various drug
charges after conducting a
sweep of the parking lots
Wednesday morning at
Plymouth-Canton Schools
Educational Park.

The drug sweep at the 5,800-
student high school park at Joy
and Canton Center roads —
which is home to Canton,
Salem and Plymouth high
schools — is the first after a task

force consisting of Canton
police, school district officials
and the Growth Works Youth
Assistance program identified
less than 10 high school stu-
dents for every 1,000 was

involved in a drug, alcohol or
tobacco incident last year.

Canton Police Deputy Chief
Laura Golles said the search for
drugs was conducted with the
help of six canine officers and

their drug-identifying dogs.

"The dogs walked up and
down each parking aisle, and as
they hit on a car it would be

PLEASE SEE SWEEP, A5

Animal attraction

Safari expert educates students on wildlife

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

It was off to the hottest and most
dangerous parts of Africa for students
at Field Elementary this week for an
up-close-and-personal look at some of
the most dangerous animals in the
world.

"First, you need a passport, your
ticket to the world," Nelson Pearson of
Wildlife Safari Adventures in Canton
told travelers in Lauren Snell's first-
grade class. "First, we're going to
Namibia, which they say is the hottest
place in the world."

That's where the springhaas, a rab-
bit-like animal that eats dry grass and
doesn't need water to exist, resides.
Then it was off to the Sahara Desert,
home to a 50-pound African land tor-
toise; the lush, green Congo River
area to see a nine-foot python; with a
quick trip to Kenya to view the chee-
tah. Student took a quick side trip to
Australia to get a glimpse of the cuck-
abura bird.

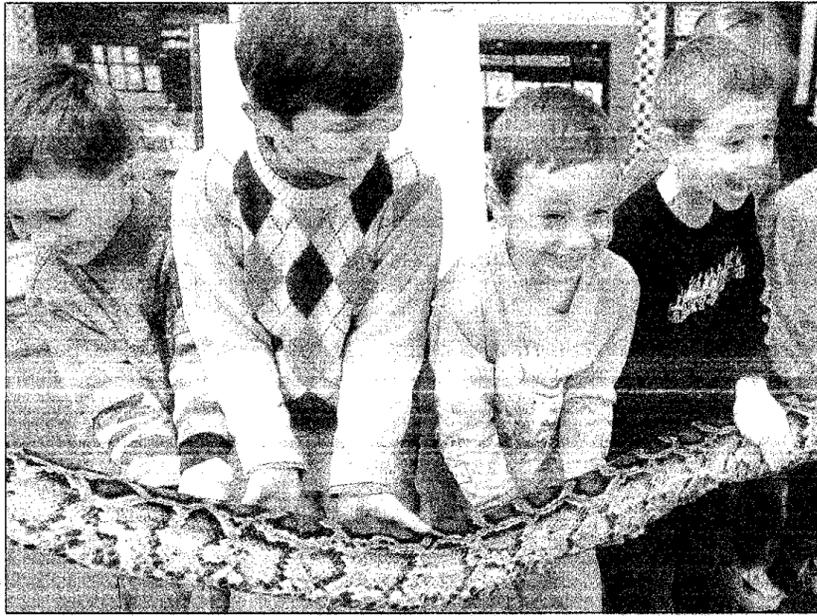
"My goal is to submerge the kids in
an African safari venture," said
Pearson, also known as The Animal
Guy. "It's education and entertain-
ment, edutainment, trying to make
sure they have an experience without
going there."

"If you don't experience it, you
won't have a broader view of the
world, and you won't care about
them," he added.

"I liked the snake because it was
scaly and cool and dangerous," said
Taylor Cvenegros, 7, in Donna Pahl's
class. "I also liked the (springhaas)
because it was nice and soft and
fuzzy."

"I learned that some animals kill
and some are nice," added Nicholas
Carey, 6, of the animals he saw during
the presentation in Snell's room.

"It's a chance for them to see ani-
mals up close," Snell said, "and learn
different information and facts about
animals in Africa."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Abuhanam (from left), Nick Carey, Michael Mullenax and Jake Kendall helped pick up a real python Tuesday at Field Elementary.



Ryan Durham (from left), Riley Doyle and Jamarion Brown get a close look at a springhaas.



Nelson Pearson, aka 'The Animal Guy,' discussed with the students the impacts poachers have on African wildlife.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Coffey and Bernie Johnson (right), both members of Local 98 of the Plumbers Union, pass out fliers to people shopping at Wal-Mart early Tuesday afternoon. The pedestrian taking a flier is unidentified.

Local union pickets Wal-Mart over hiring practices

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Bell ringers aren't the only people greeting shop-
pers outside of Wal-Mart this holiday season.

Union members of Plumbers Local 98 are braving
blustery winds to pass out literature against the retail
giant at its Ford Road store in Canton.

"We're pushing local jobs for local people," said
union member Carlo Castiglioni. "The way this is
happening isn't a win for the (township)."

The union members are frustrated they weren't
hired to help build the new Wal-Mart in Livonia at
Plymouth and Middlebelt.

"Instead of hiring us, they're paying those people
low wages," said Joe Hofmann of Westland. "It's not
fair."

Hofmann, who donned a Santa hat outside the
store on Monday, is one of several plumbers that
began protesting at the Wal-Mart before
Thanksgiving.

The union's flier, which has a stop sign on the back,
says that the Livonia Wal-Mart "is being constructed
by plumbers who are paid substandard wages and
fringe benefits." It also asks shoppers not to buy from
the store.

Wal-Mart spokesman Nick Infante said it's unfor-
tunate the union is trying to sway customers away.

PLEASE SEE PICKET, A5

Canton Public Library plans to create space devoted to 'tweens'

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

The Canton Public Library
is following the lead of The
Cheetah Girls and Hilary Duff
by tapping into the "tween"
market — those youngsters
who fall between the teenage
and young childhood years.

"We started our tween pro-
gram last summer and the
response was huge so we felt it

was time to give them their
own space," said Anne E.
Heidemann, head of the
library's children's services
department.

The library is creating a
tween space in the back of the
children's area that's expected to
open early next year.

Having catapulted Mary-
Kate and Ashley Olsen into
superstardom, tweens aren't
old enough to drive but are big

enough to cross the street
alone. They're generally
between the ages of 9-14.

More than 8,500 of the
library's cardholders fit the
tween demographic, according
to Heidemann.

"These are the kids who are
a little more grown up but
don't feel comfortable making
the jump to be with teenagers,"
she said.

In contrast to the yellow and

baby blue paint in the chil-
dren's area, the 25-by-15-foot
tween section will be decorat-
ed in greens, purples and
blues. The area will have a
unique ceiling design, five
computers, seating, magazines
and its own reference desk.

"We're giving them some-
thing a little more sophistat-
ed," Heidemann said.

Aneeta Takhar, 14, said
she'll visit the area when it

opens. "The teen room gets loud so
this is a good thing," she said,
adding that she's happy more
computers are coming into the
library.

Officials will seek input
from kids on what to call the
area. The name will be
unveiled at a ribbon-cutting
ceremony that's expected to
take place in January.

When library board mem-

bers approved the project in
September they said total
costs weren't to exceed
\$50,000.

"We're extremely excited
about this and can't wait to see
it done," Heidemann said.

The library's tween pro-
gramming has included movie
nights, game nights, ice cream
making and book discussions.

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

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Coming Sunday in Health

Eating healthy
during the
holidays can be
a challenge, but
with a little
planning it can
be done.



A giving hand

Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle members Joan Noricks (from left), Loren Wadington and Nancy Richter recently presented a \$655 check to Steve Darr, director of Canton's Open Door Food Bank, to purchase personal hygiene products for women receiving assistance from the Food Bank. The money was donated by attendees of the recent kick-off event for the newly established Giving Circle. The Food Bank, affiliated with the Tri-City Christian Center, has had a shortage of products such as shampoo, combs and brushes, lotions, and make up because of an increase in the number of families needing assistance. 'Full bellies are more important than clean hair, but there is a need for hygiene products. The women in our program will be very grateful,' Darr said. Giving Hope is a pooled fund through which members make grants on issues related to women and their families in the greater Canton and Plymouth area. A fund of the Canton Community Foundation, Giving Hope currently has 33 founding members. Any woman interested in the Giving Circle can visit the group's Web site at www.cantonfoundation.org or call (734) 495-1200.

Shop Canton

The Canton Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Downtown Development Authority and Canton Leisure Services, will be promoting the Shop Canton Holiday Fest Marketing Initiative at Canton Corners Shopping Center (corner of Lilley and Ford Road) from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Santa will be on hand to visit with the little ones as well as accept donations of canned goods, new children's books and new clothing to help support Canton Goodfellows. Parents are invited to bring their cameras and take holiday pictures. Every person that visits Santa will receive a gift bag with coupons from area businesses for the parents and treats for the kids. After visiting Santa you can enjoy strolling carolers as well as specialty entertainment artists, window painting, face painting, coloring contest and many more fun activities for young and old.

For more information about this event, including business sponsorship at the event, contact Dianne Cojei at the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040 or e-mail her at dianec@cantorchamber.com.

'Jesus in Islam'

The Muslim Community of Western Suburbs (MCWS) is hosting a lecture titled "Jesus in Islam" at 7 p.m. on Dec. 14 at the Canton Public Library (1200 S. Canton Center Road). The speaker, Harry Bassel, will discuss Jesus, and how he is viewed

AROUND CANTON

from an Islamic perspective. Our non-Muslim friends and neighbors are cordially invited. Admission is free and refreshment will be served. For more information call (734) 467-7704 or e-mail info@mcws.org.

Head Start openings

Plymouth Canton Head Start, which is a free preschool program, is now enrolling children that are 3 and 4 year olds. There are openings at all three locations, including on Sheldon Road at Michigan Avenue, the Full Gospel location on Palmer in Canton and one site in Plymouth. Children will be placed at the location that is closest to their home.

To enroll a child or for more information, call (734) 326-6271.

IKEA fund-raiser

IKEA Canton will hold an all-day fund-raiser Dec. 10 to support First Step, Western Wayne County's only agency providing comprehensive services to support victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The event will feature discounted shopping, food, fun, and entertainment. Tickets for the event cost \$25 and provide participants with the chance to save 15 percent on in-store purchases (limited to one check-out transaction per person) between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10. In addition, food and live entertainment will be available from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

To purchase tickets or to request more information, visit www.firststep-mi.org or call (734) 416-1111. All of the pro-

ceeds from the event will be donated to First Step. The donations will be used to help First Step to provide essential services such as shelter, assault response, 24-hour help line, counseling, children's programs, and other services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. The First Step's 24-hour help line is (734) 459-5900. Services provided by First Step are free to clients.

Book signing

Canton poet and photographer Cheryl A. Martin will be signing a copy of her book, *Woman Reclining*, at the Book Cellar and Cafe in Plymouth Sunday, Dec. 10th from 3:30-7 p.m. She will also have framed art available for sale. If you'd like to order a copy from the author, call her at (734) 397-1626 or e-mail her at peroinc5@comcast.net.

Decorating for the holidays

Looking for a way to make your old holiday decorations seem new again? Want to get a designer look for a bargain price? On Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., the Canton Public Library will offer Learn to Remix Your Décor with program host Marlene Prater. She'll show you how to refresh your holiday decorating with items you have around the house for a whole new look for your holiday table or mantle.

The program is free but registration is required. Register by calling (734) 397-0999.

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Physical Therapy UPDATE
 Hands On Center
 Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy

RISK OF ACHILLES RUPTURE

There is research to suggest that the use of certain antibiotics called quinolones may increase the chances of rupturing the Achilles tendon, which is the strap-like tissue behind the ankle that works to extend the foot. This serious orthopedic injury requires surgical repair. Because pain can be mild at first, such ruptures are frequently misdiagnosed as a sprained ankle. One fairly reliable symptom, however, is the inability to stand on the toes of the affected foot. People who used quinolones were more than four times as likely as nonusers to sustain a tendon rupture. Past treatment with quinolones also made rupture more likely, but the effect as not nearly as strong as current use.

Physical therapy is a highly recommended course of treatment after Achilles tendon injuries. This method allows for a gradual return to your normal physical activities, utilizing a program specific to your needs. The physical therapist who provides these treatments will also educate you on prevention and support recovery. If you have been referred for physical therapy, call the HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY at 455-8370, 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth. We have easy access and parking. New patients are gladly accepted.

P.S. Only about four percent of all Achilles tendon ruptures are related to quinolone use.

Johan Comin, PT
 Mark Minsbengen, PT
 Bob Schoemaker, PT

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New name, same sweet sound

Chorale ready for holiday, spring season

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Music lovers who attend the BeckRidge Chorale's "Tis the Season" holiday concerts this weekend at Northville High School might not recognize the group's names.

But everything will come back into focus when the music starts and the voices ring.

The BeckRidge Chorale, formerly the Plymouth Community Chorus, hits the stage 8 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday for its annual holiday concert.

While the chorale still has about two-thirds of its members from Plymouth, Canton and Northville, the new name reflects the wide reach of the 130-member chorus, which draws members from as far away as Warren and Howell.

"The truth is, we're a regional ensemble," said Michael Gross, the group's director since 1979. "But we get the most of our members from the communities of Plymouth, Canton and Northville. Beck and Ridge are two roads that run through all three communities."

The self-supporting group generally performs two major concerts a year, one at Christmas and the other in the spring. They also perform with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and make appearances at events like the Plymouth Fall Festival.

They've added another performance this year. The chorale's Village Voices ensemble will pay tribute to Fred Waring who, with his group the Pennsylvanians, sold millions of records and won the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor the government can bestow on a



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Michael Gross conducts the BeckRidge Chorale, which changed its name from Plymouth Community Chorus to reflect the regional nature of its makeup.

civilian.

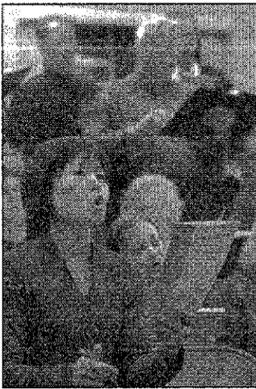
Gross worked with Waring at Penn State University and regarded him as "the world's finest interpreter of popular choral music." That concert takes place 8 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Village Theater in Canton.

The group, which gets together for 16 rehearsals every year, then gets ready for its spring concert, "Sing for the Cure," May 5-6 perform-

ances that will benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Institute for Cancer Research.

"We'll be performing music based on the stories of breast cancer survivors and their families," Gross said. Open auditions for that performance are 7 p.m. Jan. 16, 23 and 30 at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth.

Meanwhile, chorus members have embraced the new



Eunae Son sings 'Perfect Christmas Night,' one of the songs the chorale will sing during their performances this weekend. For ticket information, call (734) 340-4807.

same and the same sound as they prepare for this weekend's holiday performances.

"You can't just call it Plymouth-Canton anymore, because it's changed over the years," said Jane West, who has been a member for more than 20 years. "We, like to sing, and (Gross) is very good. It's perfect."

The group isn't just there for the music. The chorus also funds a scholarship program, established in May 1984 to help students pursue studies in the field of vocal music, an applied vocational career in the field of vocal music, aca-

demic study of voice or the study of voice for the purpose of organized recreational or community singing. Some recipients have chosen The Academy of Popular Vocal Arts, Interlochen and The Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

The group's funding comes from two primary sources: ticket sales and patron donations. They also make smaller amounts of money with efforts such as a refreshment booth at University of Michigan football games.

Operating on a budget that hovers just over the \$80,000 mark, the chorus only has two paid positions - director and accompanist. And the director's salary hasn't changed since 1984, when the chorus closed down the office it rented in downtown Plymouth and redirected that money to the director's salary.

That's OK with Gross, though, because he isn't in it for the money. Gross, the vice president of operations for a sales and marketing firm in Troy, is in it - as are the unpaid singers - for the love of music.

"I've always loved choral music," Gross said. "When I pick music, I pick music I think will touch someone. It's reactionary."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(734) 459-2700

CONCERT SEASON

BeckRidge Chorale begins its concert season Saturday. Here's a look at upcoming Chorale events:

■ Christmas concert, "Tis the Season," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. Northville High School auditorium, 45700 Six Mile between Sheldon and Beck in Northville. Tickets \$12 and \$15, assigned seating.

■ Tribute to Fred Waring, 8 p.m. Jan. 19, Village Theatre at Cherry Hill in Canton. It's a tribute to Waring, a choral music legend who won the Congressional Gold Medal.

■ Open auditions for the Spring concert, "Sing for the Cure," take place Jan. 16, 23 and 30, at First United Methodist Church, on N. Territorial a quarter-mile west of Sheldon in Plymouth.

■ Spring concert, "Sing for the Cure," May 5-6, to benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Institute for Cancer Research.

For more information and ticket order forms, visit the chorale's Web site at www.ply-communitychorus.org or call the ticket hot line, (734) 340-4807.

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Mentoring group lets couple make difference in child's life

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER



When Allen and Vickie Coleman moved to Plymouth Township from St. Louis, they wanted to become involved in their community.

Allen eventually worked his way onto the board of directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit (which he now chairs), then found it wasn't quite enough. He decided he wanted to actually be a "Big," but the group's bylaws didn't allow board members to mentor children.

So determined to help youngsters was he, Allen helped get the bylaws changed. Now three board members, including Coleman, are "Bigs." "I wanted to give back to the community," said Allen Coleman, who is vice president at Strategic Staffing Solutions. "I had mentors in my life, and it seemed like the right thing to do."

One of those mentors was a man named Jim Coppinger, the father of one of Coleman's best friends. When Coleman was getting ready to graduate high school, his parents hadn't the means to send him to college.

DIRECTION IN LIFE

Coppinger took Coleman under his wing, helping him get college grants, setting his mind straight.

"Going to college didn't seem

In addition to helping Micah Becker of Westland carve his Halloween pumpkins, Allen Coleman of Plymouth Township has helped the youngster improve his reading skills as part of his Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring.

real," remembered Coleman, who eventually graduated from Southeast Missouri State with a degree in computer science. "(Coppinger) pulled me aside and said, 'You're going to college.' It changed my life."

Now the Colemans wanted to make a similar impact on a young life. They submitted themselves to the screening process, which includes reference checks, a check of driving records and the like. Big Brothers Big Sisters matches adult volunteers ("Bigs") with children in need of mentoring ("Littles").

Matches are made, as much as possible, by geographic location and spheres of interest. In July 2004, the group put the Colemans with a then-12-year-old Westland boy, Micah Becker.

"Micah was on the waiting list for a 'Big,' and he lives in

Westland, so it's convenient," Allen Coleman said.

Big Brothers asks mentors to have at least two face-to-face meetings per month, and the average time "Bigs" are asked to spend with "Littles" averages about four hours per month.

For Micah and the Colemans, the relationship has evolved to the point where Micah frequently spends weekends at the Coleman home in Plymouth Township.

While Micah and the Colemans are very close now, it wasn't always that way. "It was slow," Coleman admitted. "It takes a long time. It was pleasant enough, but we weren't really close. All of a sudden, we became close."

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The turning point was a simple enough weekend, Coleman said. Micah hung out at their house, playing games, and then it was time for bed.

"We sent him to bed, tucked him in, gave him a hug," Coleman recalled. "It was more of an intimate weekend."

The relationship has grown since then. Earlier this year, as Micah prepared to start high school Coleman felt they weren't working hard enough on reading skills, which had troubled Micah earlier in his academic life. As Allen and Micah prepared to play a game of backyard basketball, Micah, who at 14 stands 5-10 and wears a size 14 shoe, suggested

he get to pick the pizza for dinner if he won.

"He basically told me, 'You're not going to win,'" Coleman recalled, smiling. "I said, 'But if I do, what do I get?'"

The decision was if Coleman won, Micah had to read an extra chapter in the book they were reading. Coleman won the game. The extra time reading helped Coleman as much as Micah, because Coleman felt he needed to step up his mentoring.

"It was just a few months ago I decided I wasn't doing what I needed to do as a Big Brother," Coleman said. "So we took it to the next level, and that's when we got into the reading. I'm starting to get more involved in that aspect of his life."

That's OK with Micah's mom, Joanne Becker, who has been a single mother all of Micah's life. Micah's father, serving in the U.S. Army, chose to walk away from his son's life. Like many single mothers, Joanne Becker felt her son needed a male role model.

"Micah was at that age where you just knew he needed a male role model, so I decided to see if (Big Brothers) could help put some influence in his life," said Becker, who works at Complete Infusion in Livonia.

"There's only so much a mom can give to her son. Allen has helped him deal with some emotions. Allen can reflect on some things when he was a child, and Micah knows it's OK for him to feel some

things."

SOMEONE TO EMULATE

Joanne Becker figured the male role model would come in handy as Micah moved into his teen years, a time when boys can become rebellious.

"Even now, I call Allen, because Micah will listen to Allen," Becker said. "As a boy they think, 'That's just my mom.' With Allen, (Micah) listens because he's the role model. Sometimes boys think mom's are pushovers. But Allen has gone way above and beyond the call of duty."

The Colemans decided to do the mentoring thing as a couple, something Big Brothers and Big Sisters is promoting more and more. At first, the couple looked for a brother/sister combination to mentor, but none were available.

"We both wanted to be involved," Vickie Coleman said. "We want to help children, and this is something we can do as a couple to help us grow, help us enhance our relationship."

At first, Joanne Becker resisted, figuring Micah didn't need a mother. But the Colemans, who have been married 20 years, pressed on, figuring it would do Micah good "to see our relationship as a couple," Allen said.

Eventually, the couple won over Micah's mom, and now Joanne Becker is completely comfortable with all aspects of the relationship.

"I was kind of hesitant because I never had to share my son with anyone," Becker

said. "Then I found out they go to my church, they share the same values. Allen and Vickie are absolutely wonderful people. I couldn't ask for two better people to be in his life. From the first year, they started doing things with Micah, and you could see having that male role model was helping a lot."

For their part, the Colemans feel the same way. Although Big Brothers only asks for an average of some four hours a month, the Colemans spend more time than that with Micah. While the time commitment is something that seems to scare many potential volunteers away, Coleman said the opposite is actually the case.

"People wonder how much time it takes," Coleman said. "But once you develop the relationship, you actually find yourself thinking, 'I really miss him when I can't see him.'"

Micah and the Colemans see each other frequently, with Micah spending some nights and some weekends at the Coleman home. When they aren't seeing each other, they talk on the phone a couple of times a week.

Coleman said only geography will ever separate them.

"We'll be together for life," Allen Coleman said. "Even if we're somehow separated, we'll be friends forever. That's how it works. Sometimes, a match ends. I can't imagine our relationship ending."

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SWEEP

FROM PAGE A1

searched," Golles said. "The search was conducted only in the parking lots.

"What was found today (Wednesday) is in keeping with the statistics we recently reviewed," Golles said. "The effort is, and will continue to focus on, deterrence of drug use by our teens and parental awareness of what is out there."

Canton police report 38 cars were searched after positive responses from the drug-sniffing dogs. Charges ranged from possession of a controlled substance, a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a \$2,000 fine, to possession with intent to deliver, a felony which could result in up to four years in prison. Juveniles, those 16 years old and younger, will be referred to the juvenile court system.

Golles said students can expect additional drug searches at the park.

"There is no set schedule, just randomly throughout the school year," Golles said. "I would anticipate two or three sweeps."

Golles added there are no searches planned for inside the three high schools.

"At this point, no, but we wouldn't rule it out in the future," she said.

Theresa Newton of Canton Township, who has graduated two children from the park and currently has a daughter who is a freshman, said she's OK with police searching the high school parking lots for drugs.

"I don't think they should just randomly check students, but if the dogs smell something and it's illegal, I don't see why they shouldn't," Newton said. "It's probably a good idea for kids to know it's not tolerated at school."

Allison Fuller of Canton has two students attending P-CEP, and said as long as police aren't randomly searching students, she doesn't have a problem with police searching the parking lot.

"I don't have a problem with that at all, as long as nobody's civil rights are being violated," Fuller said.

Fuller's daughter, Olivia, 15, said at least one car had its doors pried open during the search.

"There must be a problem if kids are bringing drugs to school," Olivia Fuller said. "I don't mind (searches) because kids shouldn't be bringing drugs to school."

Sixteen-year-old Alea Applegate of Canton, a Salem sophomore, said she saw a half-dozen police cars around the campus during fourth hour.

"It's none of their business what's in their cars," Applegate said. "If it's not on them, then I don't think they should get in trouble."

"It's not fair to the people who drive, it could have been their friends' (drugs) and they could

get in trouble for it," she added. "Obviously, they (police) have too much time on their hands."

Frank Ruggirello, the school district's director of community relations, said while the number of incidents reported by the task force is minimal, the drug sweeps are meant to be preventative.

"We think our numbers are low, but we don't have our head in the sand," Ruggirello said. "Kids will experiment with drugs, but it won't happen in our schools. The best deterrent is for us to stay on top of it, and kids will see we're serious about this."

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PICKET

FROM PAGE A1

"I want people to know there was an open-bid process," he said. "We don't discriminate against unions - they just weren't chosen for this job."

With more new stores on the horizon for the discount chain, Infante said it's possible those protesting could get hired for future jobs.

"There's a lot of quality work being done by union, as well as non-union, workers," he said.

As groups of union members huddled together at both of the Canton Wal-Mart's entrances,

some drivers ignored the plumbers while others honked their horns in support or stopped to talk.

"We've been getting a lot of support and that's good to see," said Redford Township resident Duane Wagner, adding that some customers have made a U-turn out of the parking lot after speaking with them.

The men arrive at the store in the morning and don't leave until the afternoon.

"This is the only way to let people know what's going on," Castiglioni said. "And we're asking the people to help get our point across by not shopping at Wal-Mart."

Union member Mark Bowden of Whitmore Lake said union workers aren't the only ones affected by Wal-Mart's business practices.

"They're running all the wages down in this part of the country," he said.

While the plumbers manned the Canton location, members of the Iron Workers Local 25 picketed at the site of the Livonia store.

Castiglioni said more unions are expected to pop up at area Wal-Marts before the end of the shopping season.

"They say we're too expensive (to hire) and, no, we're not the cheapest, but we are the best," he said, adding that the

union is open to "straightening" things out with the retail chain. "This is a large UAW area so until they play fair, we'll be out here."

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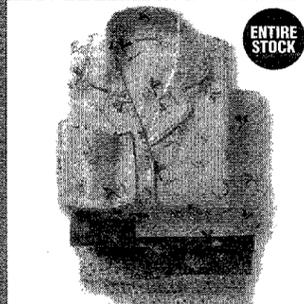
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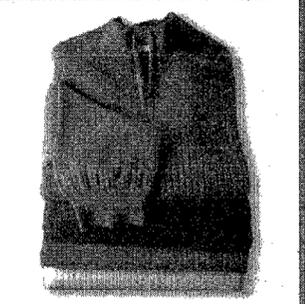
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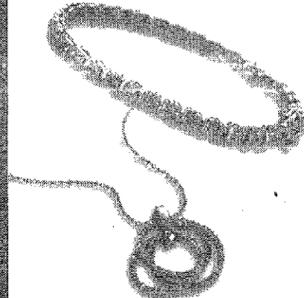
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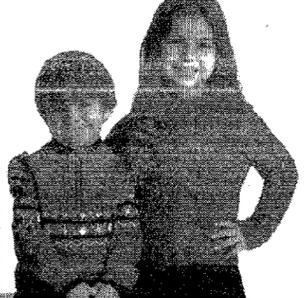
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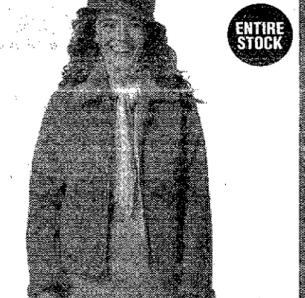
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- **MS Word II:** Dec. 14, at 9:30 a.m. Learn to add tables, header and footer, insert special characters and more. Registration required.
- **Book Buddies:** Dec. 14, at 5 p.m. The book discussion group for third- and fourth-graders.
- **Teen Chess Club:** Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. No registration required.
- **ABC Activity:** Dec. 15, at 10 a.m. Drop in sensory activities for children ages birth through 5 with caregiver. Puzzles, matching games, LeapPad and more.

David and Samantha McGrath stopped by the Observer office Monday to bring kid's gifts for the Cheer Club. The Salvation Army will pick them up later in December for distribution to kids who might otherwise have a meager Christmas.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LaJoy happy with billboard legislation

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

After months of battle, two bills capping the number of billboards on Michigan highways are a step closer to becoming law. "This has been a longtime feud between the state and the billboard industry," said State Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton.

"But I'm happy with the way it's come to a conclusion." Under legislation passed by the state House last week, the number of billboards allowed on state trunk highways, including interstate highways, has been capped at 16,000. Also companies won't be granted permits for new signs unless they give up previously-owned permits. According to LaJoy,

there is currently between 14,000-16,000 billboards along Michigan highways. On opposite ends of the debate, the state was pushing for fewer signs while the billboard industry was lobbying for the Michigan Department of Transportation to have higher standards in maintaining vegetation and cutting down shrubbery that impaired a motorist's ability to see their billboards.

LaJoy, chair of the House Transportation Committee, expects the bills to be approved by the full House in the next couple of weeks before the current legislative session ends. "There was a lot of give and take," he said. "But together, we've come up with a pretty good solution."

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Observer, Salvation Army team up for 'Cheer Club'

The Plymouth and Canton Observers and the Plymouth Salvation Army will once again team up for their "Cheer Club," the collection of toys and non-perishable foods the two have run for years. The Salvation Army headquarters, located on Main Street just south of Ann Arbor Road, will be the primary collection point. Dropping them off there gets them more quickly into the hands of those who need them. Donations can also be dropped off at the Observer office, 794 S. Main. The drive will run through Monday, Dec. 11.

The idea is to provide non-perishable food and other household necessities, along with new, unwrapped toys, for the Salvation Army's pantry and Christmas adoption program. That program has helped provide a Christmas for hundreds of needy people over the years who might not otherwise have been able to provide one. The program is simple: Drop off new, unwrapped toys; nonperishable foods including canned goods; and household items such as paper goods and toiletries. The Salvation Army, which serves Plymouth,

Canton, Northville and Belleville, is located at 9451 S. Main in Plymouth. The Salvation Army is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Items dropped off at the Observer office will also go to the Salvation Army. A list of donors will be maintained so that donors who provide a name and community can be recognized in the paper at the end of the campaign. For more information, e-mail Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or call (734) 459-2700.



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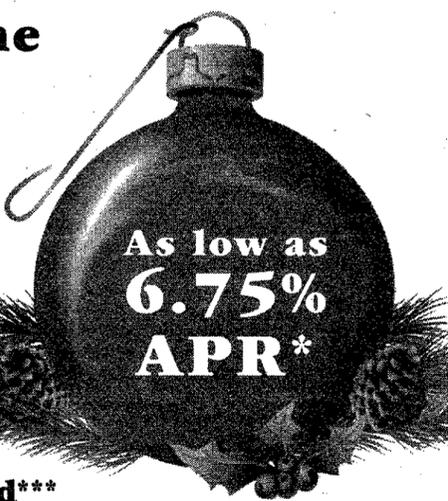
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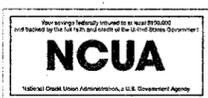
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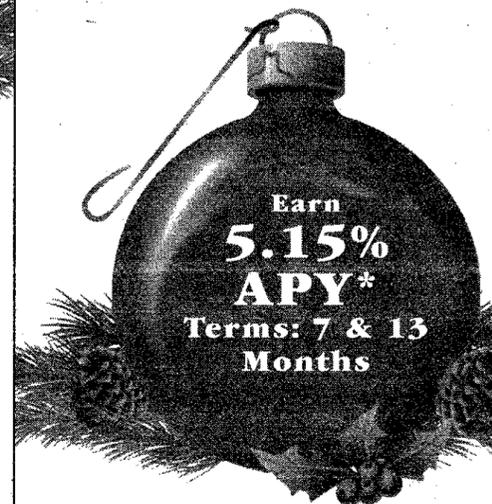
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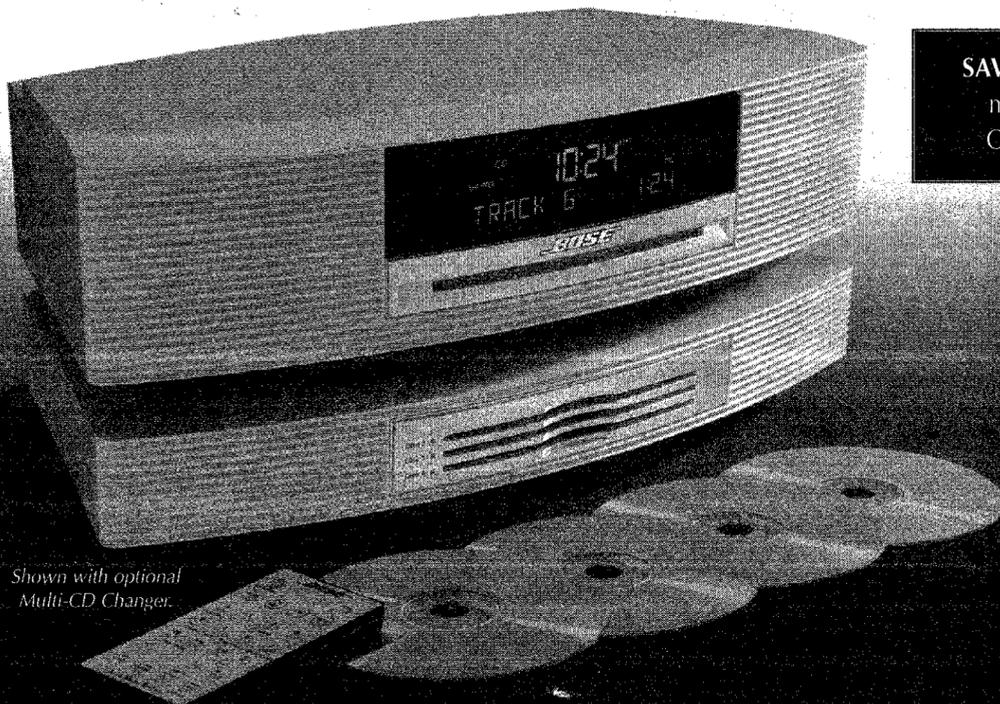
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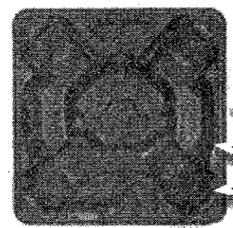
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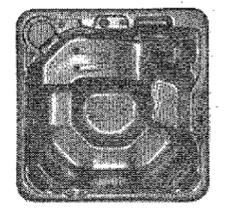


"Flores"



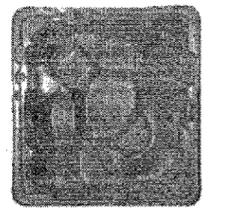
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6-8 Seats
 Total of 38 Jets
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 4 Volcano, 5 Cyclone
 4 Shoulder, 26 Euro Jets

"Salida"



79.5" x 79.5" x 34.75"
2 Seats, 2 Lounges
 Total of 33 Jets, 1
 Master Massage, 4 Poly
 Monster Jets, 1 Feature
 Jet(Waterfall), 8 Adj.
 Nozzle Cyclone Jets,
 19 Euro Jets

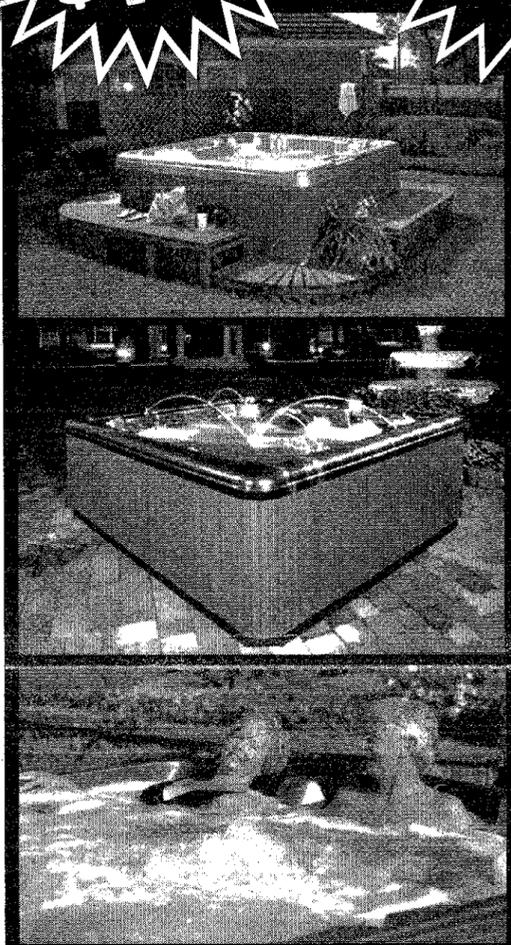
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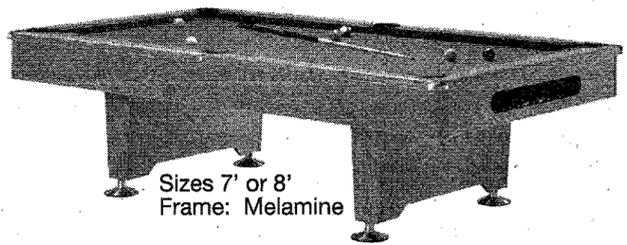
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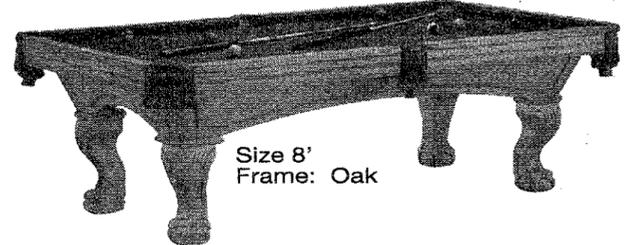


Oak Winchester



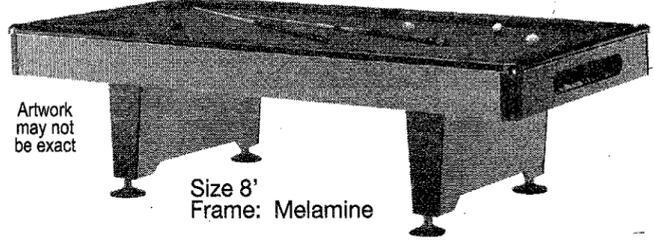
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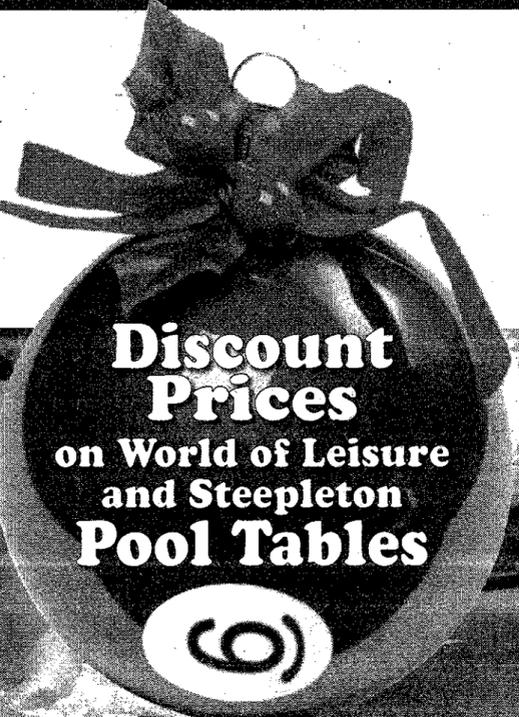
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Illegal immigration called a threat to nation's identity

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

More than jobs, the United States stands to lose its identity as a nation if it does not start cracking down on the tide of illegal immigrants coursing into the country.

That was the message of Colorado U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo when he addressed a crowd of about 75 people at a private residence in West Bloomfield Friday night.

Tancredo said the recent midterm election was not a referendum on illegal immigration. If anything, the returns in the districts that mattered said Americans are concerned about the state of their borders.

Democrats who think they can turn against that are flirting with disaster.

"Anywhere people were voting on immigration they voted with us," he said. "If they come out with an amnesty plan they'll see their razor-thin majority disappear."

He also said it's a mistake to think the people who want to strengthen borders are racists. It's not about race, it's not about creed or religion, he said. It's about who the people of the United States are as a group.

"All we are saying is 'become an American,'" Tancredo said. "Diversity is a wonderful thing until it becomes the only thing. We cannot have diversity be the glue that holds us together."

The problem, he said, is that a lot of people come to this country and do not assimilate. The languages of the old country do not disappear in favor of English and, in the particular case of immigrants from south of the border, a mentality of not having moved at all persists.

"They say they've always lived in America, which is true if you're talking about the conti-



U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colorado, tells listeners that immigration reform is not just about jobs, it's about the identity of the nation itself.

ment," Tancredo said. "But what purpose is there in citizenship if America is just a place on the map?"

The congressman's visit went from a plan to a reality just a few months ago and the hosts' West Bloomfield home was packed with guests to hear his comments. The event was not a debate and there was no one there to be converted. The guests were already familiar with the program and murmured their approval whenever familiar catchphrases or terms floated over the conversation.

Linda Roth, the host of the event and incoming president of the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club, said she met the representative in Washington, D.C., and offered the invitation for him to come to Michigan and speak on the topic. She said it's time for the nation to start enforcing its laws and the wall, while not a total solution, could stop millions from entering the country illegally.

Her husband agreed, saying the debate was already causing changes. "Apple growers in Washington

(state) are already seeing a change," said David Roth. "If we have to pay extra for American-picked fruits, we'll pay extra."

Bloomfield Township resident Elaine Bernia said there are definite dangers to letting the borders go soft.

"A country that does not defend its borders is not a country," she said. "We have to secure our borders, we have to know who's coming in. We already know terrorists to get into the country and it's irresponsible not to know who people are and where they live."

While the crowd was appreciative, he acknowledged there are significant hurdles standing between his views and the way the country does business.

Namely: Until there's something done to stop people from hiring illegals there's no way to keep them from coming to America to take those jobs.

"There's one thing we can do and that's to enforce the laws, if we did that we'd go a long way toward solving this problem," Tancredo said. "The national chamber of commerce has lobbied heavily against that."

Radio show exceeds its Toys for Tots goal

Jim Harper & The Magic Morning show have not only met, but exceeded their goal in raising 25,000 toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves' Toys For Tots Campaign!

The annual Toys For Tots Campaign toured Twelve Oaks Mall, Laurel Park Place, Northland Mall, Macomb Mall and Oakland Mall, collecting new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine Corps program.

This year's grand totals were 25,591 toys collected and \$13,954 collected.

On-air sponsors of the 2006 Toys For Tots collection program are Rock Financial and Holiday Automotive. Toys can still be donated at Art Van, Chicken Shack or Farmer Jack until Dec. 14.

Participating toy drop off locations are listed at www.DetroitMagic.com.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Gordon Chevrolet's Susan Ianni and WMGC's Jim Harper talk about the Toys program and her involvement with the WMGC cookbook project that benefits the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.



Ron Blauet of the Michigan Humane Society and Jim Harper of WMGC talk about pets and holidays during the Toys for Tots program.

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OUR VIEWS

District must use survey wisely

There's been some buzz about whether the Plymouth-Canton school district should have spent \$27,000 on two surveys relating to the district's desire to get a bond passed for improvements throughout the district.

The first survey, done in August, cost \$18,000 and told district officials why the two-question, \$120 million bond proposal failed so miserably in May. In a nutshell, that survey pointed out most voters thought the district was asking for too many luxuries and too much money.

District officials subsequently decided to go back to the public with a \$62.1 million proposal put in a single question. If passed, the bond, set to go before voters Feb. 27, would include a new middle school in Canton to replace an aging Central Middle School; the refurbishment of Central for alternative education, community education and a curriculum center; various replacements and upgrades around the district and \$2.3 million to reimburse the general fund for the purchase of the middle school property on Cherry Hill.

While the May proposals fell by wide margins, the second survey, which cost the district another \$9,000, indicates some 58 percent of voters are either already in favor or leaning toward passing the February bond. Only 39 percent are against or leaning toward voting against it.

Those are good numbers if you're a fan of the bond proposals, and district officials, spurned by voters last spring, must have felt good seeing them. The district added the second proposal in May at the last minute, including things like a pool, a new theater and athletic improvements in what was basically the 11th-hour, a move many observers think cost them the election.

No such mistake was made this time, as the Board of Education trimmed the wish list to those things school board members feel are definite "needs" and not "wants."

According to the first survey, district officials failed to convince voters everything in the May proposal, particularly those things in the second question, was vital to the operation of the district. It shouldn't be as difficult this time, since the list has basically been pared in half. That doesn't mean Superintendent Jim Ryan and others don't have to get out and sell it. Town-hall style meetings, appearances at civic groups and homeowners' associations will be necessary steps in convincing the public the district needs another \$62.1 million.

It would be easy, given the numbers suggested by the second survey, to think the February election is going to sail. But all they need do is look back a couple of years, where complacency forced Plymouth Township to go out twice for something as basic as police and fire services.

Did the district spend too much money for surveys that answered seemingly obvious questions? It doesn't seem like that much to us; perhaps had they spent it before the May election, it would have saved them the \$90,000 cost of an election. Once the district has gone out and educated the public this time, it will be for voters to judge whether it was too much money on surveys.

How they vote in February will answer that question soon enough.

Governor's tax plan offers a solid start

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has thrown out a challenge to the Republican majority in the Legislature to act now on a bold new business tax plan to replace the Single Business Tax.

It is unlikely that the GOP will take the governor's bait. Instead, it will leave any action on a new tax to the next Legislature, with a Republican-controlled Senate and a Democratic-controlled House.

But after much debate, complaining and posturing, the governor's proposal has a lot of merit and offers an excellent starting point for discussing the state's troubled tax system.

The governor began with some key goals. First, she wants to create a revenue-neutral tax. The SBT accounted for almost \$2 billion, about 22 percent of state revenues. Granholm has been adamant that all or most of that revenue needs to be replaced to pay for government services.

She also wanted a tax with the broadest base and the lowest tax rate possible, a substantial reduction in personal property tax, an elimination of tax on payroll, benefits and health care (a major problem with the SBT) and to preserve economic development. Granholm's proposal firmly addresses these goals and, according to her office's calculations, 77 percent of businesses will actually see a tax reduction.

She also argues that her proposal will make Michigan highly competitive with other states. In the state's efforts to attract new high-tech businesses, while holding on to our manufacturing base, the proposal includes more than \$125 million in tax credits for high-tech businesses. The state needs to balance establishing a competitive tax environment with providing needed state and local government services. We can not and should not sacrifice one for the other.

Any proposal by a governor must work its way through the legislative process. The governor has done her part by offering a viable alternative to the SBT.



A successful day

On Saturday, Dec. 2, 2006, the thermometer read 20 degrees, and there was a stiff wind chill to boot. A "warmth" could be felt throughout Canton however, as the generosity of our community shined through. I was one of many who braved the cold to sell Canton Goodfellows newspapers for the organization's "No Child Without a Christmas" program. The program's goal is to help 555 Canton families.

To those who donated, thank you. To those who donated once, and then again when you saw us, thank you again. To those of you who shared your story on how the Goodfellows gave you a Christmas as a child, know that inspired us to stay outside and sell a little longer. And to those who bought us a hot chocolate, please know your "warmth" was so appreciated.

If you missed us on Saturday, call Nancy at (734) 397-8975 to adopt a child/family. If you would like to make a financial contribution to the Canton Goodfellows, please send it to them to 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188.

It's my honor to be your neighbor.

Karl Zarbo
Canton

Evolution misconceptions

In recent letters to the editor about religious faith and science, I was dismayed to see that certain common misconceptions about evolution still exist in people's minds.

The number one misconception is that science somehow knows and teaches how life began; it does not and therefore you will not learn about the origin of life in science class unless and until solid evidence is available to make a scientific assumption possible. In plain words, right now, science cannot tell you how life began and therefore cannot discount the involvement of a supernatural force and does not.

The other great misconception is about the word "theory." In common usage a theory is not a fact but more like a guess or a hunch waiting to be proven. In science, theories like the theory of evolution or the gravitational theory do not become facts through the accumulation of evidence; theories are the end points of science as defined by the National Academy of Sciences.

Men could not be sent to the moon if gravitational theory was just someone's gut feeling. The flu virus would not change every year, certain bacteria could not become drug resistant, and mosquitoes could not become resistant to insecticides without the forces of evolution being present. The theory of evolution is the cornerstone of biology, without it nothing would make sense.

That is not to say that questions do not still exist in the field of evolution. Darwin posited in 1859 that evolution occurs through natural selection or the survival of the fittest. His hypothesis, although still conceptually sound, has undergone some adjustment and expansion. Copernicus and Galileo were condemned by the Catholic Church for stating that the earth revolves around the sun and not that the sun revolves around the earth, as Church teaching avowed. Pope John Paul II apologized before he died for the Church's grievous error and deplorable treatment of Galileo; one of many examples of why religion and science should be kept as separate disciplines.

LETTERS

Science and religion play important roles in many of our daily lives. They do not have to be viewed as adversarial. I feel it is important to first dispel misconceptions as a way of promoting genuine dialog.

Janusz M. Szyszko
Canton

Don't teach intelligent design

I am glad that "intelligent design" will not be taught in Michigan schools.

Others have turned the topic into religious debate between people who believe in God and atheists. This fine point is a familiar tack but negates God's influence in the natural order. I have not seen many people declare outright that evolution is a truth but I have seen many insist on their personal vision of God.

The civil war in Iraq right now is being fought about that. One person wrote, "Science is strongly rooted in seeking causes and observing effects."

That is, in fact, not the root of science but science itself. If these folks are so unable to understand the simplest concept behind the scientific method or behave in a willfully ignorant manner in order to achieve their goals then I think we need to question their assertions about faith. What seems to be open-minded debate on the natural world is another attempt to undermine our educational system.

Teaching evolution is reasonable. Supporters of "intelligent design" seem to be unreasonable. "Intelligent design" does not assign responsibility for creation to God but to some mysterious force — the invisible nature of "intelligent design" seems to be greed and willful ignorance. I do not want my tax dollars to be spent on lessons about false prophets or animal-headed gods — do you?

Alfred Brock
Canton

A tax plan

I tried to write a long article explaining how Michigan ought to deal with its budget woes, but like most budget talk, it was a pitiful failure. So, I've reduced that article to simple math and simpler language that everyone — even folks in Lansing — can easily understand:

State budget deficit — \$1 billion. Bad. Funding cuts in education, police, fire, social services and criminal justice. More criminals on the street, less cops, dumber kids. Bad for Michigan.

Single Business Tax — generates \$1.9 billion for Michigan. Good for Lansing, bad for business owners. Replacement tax coming which will cut business taxes \$500 million more. \$500 million more deficit. Total deficit now — \$1 billion + \$500 million = \$1.5 billion. More cuts in education, police, fire, social services and criminal justice. Even more criminals on the street, even less cops, and even dumber kids. Very bad for Michigan.

Idea: Extend sales tax to services. Extending sales tax to services will raise somewhere between \$2.7 and \$7.3 billion for Michigan. \$2.7 and \$7.3 billion are both more than deficit of \$1.5 billion. Hmmm, enough to plug deficit and keep criminals off the street, but also enough to buy everyone a Hummer. Too much money for government. Hmmm.

Idea: Tax cut for everyone, not just business. How? Take low estimate of service

sales tax revenue for Michigan — \$2.7 billion. \$2.7 billion — \$1.5 billion = \$1.2 billion. \$1.2 billion is surplus. \$1.2 billion not needed by government. \$1.2 billion could be refunded to you. But how?

Idea: Cut rising property taxes. And, make Michigan one of the lowest business tax states.

It's nice to have \$1.2 billion surplus to help people with high property taxes. It's nice to have low business taxes to encourage investment from all corners of the globe. It's nice to adequately fund education, police, fire, social services and criminal justice.

It's not nice to have \$1.5 billion deficit, more criminals, fires and dumb kids. It's not nice to have everyone fighting over crumbs left by old industry.

Sales tax on services combined with property tax cut and low tax business climate in Michigan, good for future. Very good.

Joe Hawver
Plymouth Township

Third judge needed

In response to your Nov. 2 article, "Third judge, staffing on table as court eyes cuts," I believe it would be a formula for disaster if the third judgeship at the court was eliminated.

At the outset, I must indicate that I have made no secret of my intentions to become a candidate for the judgeship when Judge John MacDonald retires. However, my personal goals are immaterial when considering what is best for the communities involved.

As a practicing attorney in the 35th District Court, I have personally seen the efficiency of the court grow exponentially since the addition of the third judge. Long waits to have a case heard have been nearly eliminated. This translates into less time that attorneys, police officers, prosecutors and court personnel have to wait for a case to be heard.

In the legal world, time is money. Police officers should be on the streets protecting our community, not in the courtroom waiting. Elimination of the third judge would essentially set our communities back five years. Getting a third judge back when case-loads inevitably rise again is no small task. Elimination of the third judge would have far-reaching unintended consequences. I hope the Court Authority takes these things into consideration when evaluating the need for a third judge at our court.

Joe Barone
Barone Law Offices, Plymouth

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"The data is in line with what we expected but we're being proactive. We don't think there's a problem but we're going to meet each year to see what the information means in the scope of 5,800 kids."

- Canton Deputy Police Chief Laura Golles on a new task force that will examine drug use at Plymouth-Canton schools

CANTON Observer
PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

GANNETT

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Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Great Lakes facing disaster unless Congress acts - now

Anyone who cares about fish, take note: Sport and commercial fishing throughout the entire Great Lakes is at total risk because of politics and gridlock in Washington. This is an industry worth more than \$7 billion annually — and involves four million recreational boats.

The main culprits are carp — and Congress. Specifically, Asian silver carp, originally imported from China to eat the muck from fish farm ponds. These fish are now working their way up the Mississippi River toward Lake Michigan. They consume as much as 20 percent of their weight in plankton per day, and grow to more than 100 pounds. Every fishery expert agrees that if they ever get into the Great Lakes, they could completely wipe out the ecosystem that supports trout, salmon and virtually everything else living in the largest body of pure fresh water on the globe.

The only thing standing between the carp and the Great Lakes is an experimental electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, about 25 miles downstream from Lake Michigan.

Installed four years ago, it repels fish by firing pulses of electricity through cables strung along the bottom. But the original barrier is failing and prone to blackouts. A new one was supposed to be in place last year. But engineers are worried that so much electricity pumped into the canal might set off explosions in the heavy barge and shipping traffic. While they struggled with the problem, money to finish the new electronic barrier ran out. The price tag to complete the project is now estimated at around \$10 million.

That's all it would cost to save the Great Lakes. To put it in perspective — \$10 million is 1 percent of what the government spends in Iraq per day! And everybody — the U.S. government; the Senate and the House; Great Lakes governors; and countless environmentalists and fishermen — has known about this for years!

"This is our Katrina," says Andy Buchsbaum, the director of the Great Lakes office of the National Wildlife Federation. "We can see it coming. And we can actually stop it. It would be absolute folly to do nothing."

But, alas, nothing is what's been going on in a bizarre and outrageous tangle of science, engineering, money, politics and Washington gridlock. Nothing could happen 'til the Army Corps of Engineers figured out how to solve the electricity problem.

Nothing now can be done, when the old barrier is failing and the new, more effective barrier can't be turned on. Nothing can be done until the \$10 million to pay for design, construction and operation of barriers against the carp can be authorized and appropriated by the U.S. Congress.

The legislative vehicle for the money is the gigantic, pork-laden Water Resources Development Bill (WRDA), which has been sitting around for years, untouched by any prospect of passage.

Meanwhile, the bill is under the jurisdiction of the House Transportation Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, the author of the "bridge to nowhere" appropriation.

He's the man who fought to build a \$315 million bridge to an Alaskan island with fewer than 50 people, while Congress stalls on \$10 million to save the Great Lakes. I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

The congressional Great Lakes Task Force, made up of members from the states around the lakes, has been urging the committee for four years to authorize money to fix the old barrier, design and build the new one and operate both.

Nothing has happened. How come? Because language authorizing the money is part of the WRDA bill, which in turn is stalled because of a disagreement between the House and the Senate.

I'm told there is no chance whatsoever that this bill will be passed by the lame-duck Congress this year.

U.S. Rep. John Dingell, D-Dearborn, himself an avid fisherman, is furious. "I am outraged that the permanent Asian carp barrier has been held hostage for the past few years," Dingell told me. "We simply cannot afford to have this creature get into our precious Great Lakes and create havoc. We must see that the barrier becomes a reality just as soon as possible."

So what to do? His fellow Democrat, U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak, who represents the Upper Peninsula and much of northern lower Michigan, is drafting a bill that would gain the authorization to spend the \$10 million needed to put the barrier in place.

Maybe it passes, maybe it doesn't. The National Wildlife Federation's Buchsbaum says the current thought is to separate the carp barrier from the stalled bill by introducing next year a bill authorizing \$10 million to upgrade the temporary barrier, build the new barrier and operate both.

There may be renewed hope. Democrats will control Congress next year, giving Dingell and Stupak more clout. And the new chairman of the Transportation Committee will be Minnesota Democrat Jim Oberstar, whose district borders Lake Superior. He understands the implications of doing nothing.

Here's hoping. But there is a deeper meaning in messes like this, where an obvious problem could be fixed by an equally obvious solution. This story demonstrates that we have created a political system in this country that is simply unable to work effectively. And that leaves us all very much in peril.

Phil Power is president and founder of the Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. The opinions and others expressed here are his own and do not represent official policy positions of the Center for Michigan. Readers can contact Power at ppower@hcn.net.com.



Phil Power

Anonymous mailings cowardly way to deal with resentment

After years of poring through police reports as part of the job, I got a chance Monday to do something I'd never done.

Make a police report. I sat with Plymouth Police Officer Christopher Lahtinen for about 30 minutes, describing in as much detail as there was the third dog-feces-filled letter I'd gotten in three months. It came Nov. 28, this time in a cardboard U.S. Post Office envelope, rather than the paper/bubble-wrap envelopes that carried the first two.

They'd been arriving about once a month, childish responses to something either the paper had printed (the first one contained a photocopy of a letter to the editor) or something I'd written (the last two contained photocopies of columns I'd written). All three had handwritten, derogatory statements challenging my integrity.

And all three contained old, stinky dog poop, just sprinkled in the bottom of the envelope.

The first had four stamps on it, but it hadn't been mailed, simply dropped in our mailbox. The second and third were postmarked from Detroit, apparently to disguise the mailer's true origin. Of course, had the sender been a bit smarter, he'd have realized that was more trouble than it was worth, since there's very little chance anyone is ever going to catch him.

Officer Lahtinen, a very professional young man, dutifully took all the pertinent information, let me know they'd be sending the envelope to the Michigan State Police crime lab. I'd already talked to postmaster Dennis Wiczorek and Plymouth Police Chief Wayne Carroll, both of whom expressed a willingness to do what is necessary and a belief it won't really do much good.

Wiczorek pointed out it isn't actually against the law to send dog poop through the mail, although the sender is probably violating some health code. Carroll suggested I file a harassment complaint, although he noted the sender was probably smart enough to wear gloves, thus eliminating the chance for finding fingerprints.

I'm not so sure. If you're stupid enough to send dog poop through the mail over something a columnist wrote, I'm not sure you're smart enough, or careful enough, to worry about fingerprints. But I digress.

The last thing Lahtinen said to me was, "If you get any other letters let us know and we'll add it to the file. From the looks of things, you're due for one in a couple of weeks."

It came early. When I got back to the office Monday, the letter sat in our pile of mail. Postmarked again

The first had four stamps on it, but it hadn't been mailed, simply dropped in our mailbox. The second and third were postmarked from Detroit, apparently to disguise the mailer's true origin.

from Detroit, this one was a "thank you" card, ostensibly signed by state Rep. John Stewart. The first poop letter was also "signed" by Stewart. In fact, the third note also invoked Stewart's name, calling me a "Stewart lover jerk."

Stewart vehemently denied sending the first note; I didn't bother asking him about the subsequent notes because I don't believe he had anything to do with it.

Since all of the notes included photocopies of things we'd either printed or written about the race to replace Stewart in the House, it's not hard to draw the conclusion the sender hasn't appreciated our coverage. Our editorial voice — including columns I've written and local editorial comments — has been hard on those who waged war in the Republican primary in that race. It got plenty ugly, and we didn't hesitate pointing it out.

Clearly, though, whoever is being this churlish doesn't care much for Stewart; he also doesn't know me very well. Stewart and I have had our moments, and he's not a big fan of this newspaper lately.

I suggested to the police they start looking at folks who bear animus toward Stewart. Of course, that could be just about anyone these days, particularly in the leadership of the Republican party.

I have an idea who is sending these notes, though I expect we'll never know for sure. One possibility: The screwball used an ordinary, lick-to-seal envelope this time, so it's possible DNA could be extracted.

People have a First Amendment right to freedom of speech. They have a right to their opinion. They have a right to disagree with me; heck, sometimes it seems like the national pastime. But surely there's a better way to do it than sending dog feces through the mail. That's something anyone older than 3 would know better than to do.

People have used words like "crazy," "nuts," "disturbed" and "disgusting" to describe the situation and the sender. I'd like to add another. Coward.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth Observer. He would prefer you contact him by e-mail, since dog poop can't be sent that way. E-mail him at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or call at (734) 459-2700.



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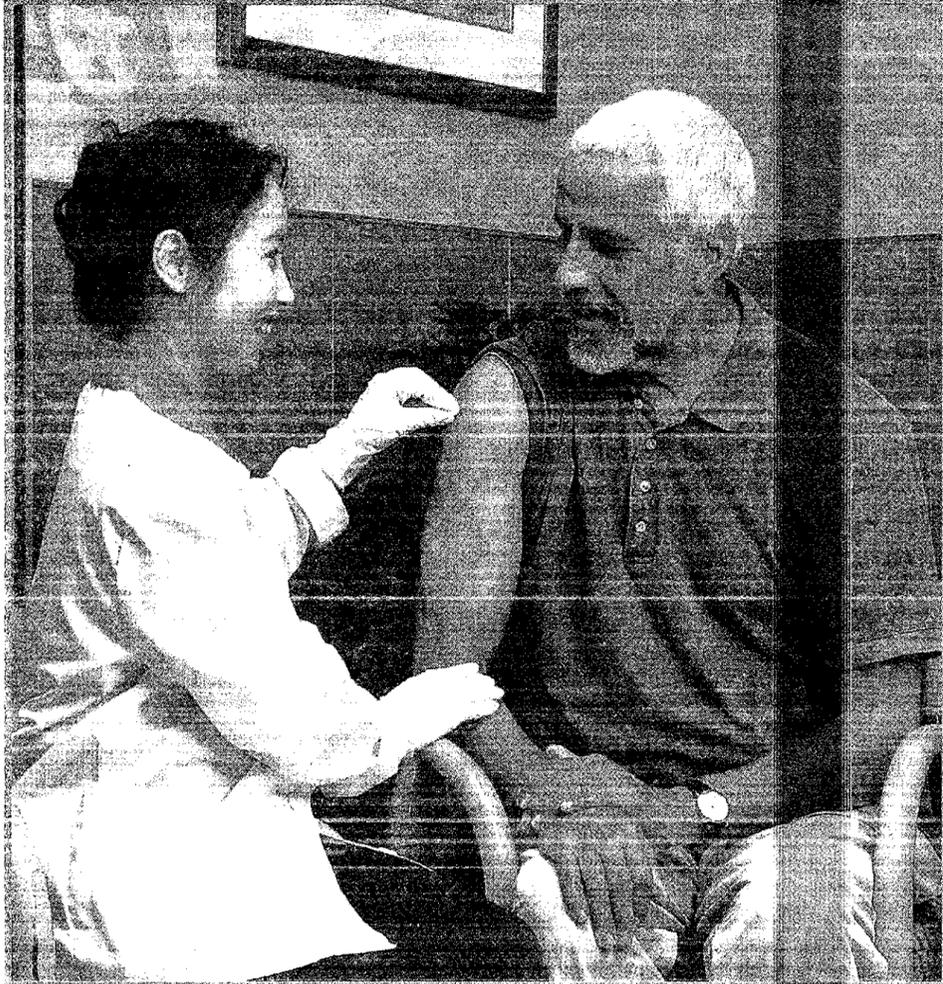
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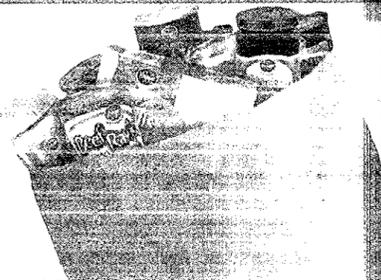
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Ficano proposes major renovation for Cobo Hall

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Citing an increasingly competitive environment for conventions and the possibility of losing a major event, Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano is proposing a new plan to put a new face on Detroit's Cobo Center.

Ficano is putting forward a plan to renovate Cobo and reorganize its operations to draw business into the region and keep existing business where it is.

"Cobo generates \$800 million a year in economic activity," Ficano said. "If a business came in offering to do that we'd all be turning backflips."

Part of that activity, the North American International Auto Show, is on shaky ground. For years, participants have complained the Cobo venue isn't large enough anymore and competing shows, in Los Angeles, Beijing and other cities, could be poised to eclipse



Ficano

said. "We have to look like it."

The new Cobo plan would expand the floor space, reorganize the layout around the center to make it easier to navigate and place the building in private hands.

The building would be operated by Walbridge Aldinger and Hines Interests with representatives from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan serving as an advisory board. The plan also creates a \$180 million endowment for operating funds.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has long been an opponent of suburban funding of a new Cobo Arena. The new plan has some brighter

the Detroit event.

"We're competing with the world, not just other American cities," he

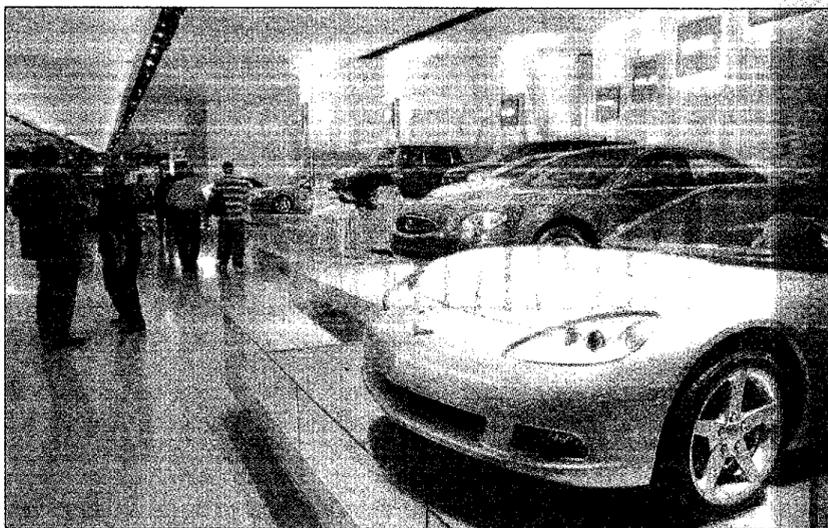
points, but he still finds it unacceptable.

"The good news is that Ficano and his team dropped the price from \$650 million to \$450 million," he said. "The bad news is there are a lot of stakeholders who aren't at the table."

The first of those stakeholders is the state. He said the DeVos Arena got a \$60 million bump from Lansing and there should be something similar, even if not so large, for the state's marquee city. He also said the new Cobo plan only affects Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties when other counties, like Washtenaw, should be part of the plan.

Similarly, the two largest beneficiaries of a new Cobo should be somewhere in the mix.

"The effort to retain the North American International Auto Show is one of the biggest reasons to have a new Cobo and the Big Three aren't involved?" Patterson asked.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The North American International Auto Show is a major event each year at Cobo Hall. Keeping the auto show competitive with other shows in other cities is a major reason for a proposal to expand and rebuild the hall in downtown Detroit.

"What about the three casinos, who will benefit more than them from more convention traffic?"

The upshot, he said, would be that more players at the table would make the continuation of the existing hotel tax more palatable for suburban voters. It would certainly sweeten the deal for him.

"Over the past two years,

county judges have released inmates from jail because of overcrowding," he said. "I'm looking at \$90 million for a new jail and he wants \$200 million for a new Cobo? That's what I'm dealing with."

The new Cobo plan offers a carrot to counties in the form of cash payments (\$233 million in all) to allow the liquor/hotel tax to go on for another 35

years to pay for the reconstruction.

Of course, this is not the end of negotiations.

"We're going to have ongoing meetings, this is not an end-all plan, it's a framework that works," Ficano said. "This is a very viable plan."

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OCC to host bird flu forum Dec. 11

Oakland Community College's Student Life Committee will present a forum on a possible bird flu epidemic, Monday, Dec. 11, at the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

The two-hour program begins at 10 a.m. in the campus' Smith Theatre. Admission is free and the public is invited. Light refreshments will be served.

Speakers include Dr. James

Averill, deputy pandemic influenza coordinator of the Michigan Department of Health. Dr. Averill will describe the nature of influenza and cover the state's plan for dealing with an outbreak.

Public Health Nurse Elaine Houser of the Oakland County Health Department's Emergency Preparedness Office will make a PowerPoint presentation on the

county plan.

Finally, OCC Environmental Health & Safety Manager Michael Schmidt will speak on the college's plan for coping with a pandemic.

For further information call Dusty Rhodes at (248) 522-3595.

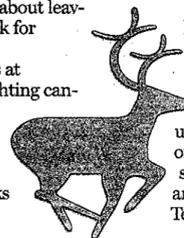
The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696. Free parking is available in nearby campus lots.

What's your favorite holiday tradition?

Everyone knows about leaving cookies and milk for Santa.

Or making latkes at Hanukkah. And lighting candles during Kwanzaa.

Even the festus pole has become a seasonal icon thanks to *Seinfeld*.



But we'd like to know how you personalize the holidays.

Maybe you've created a totally new tradition or you've put a unique spin on an old one. What makes the season special for you and your family? Tell us in 200 words or

less about your favorite holiday tradition and we'll publish responses in an upcoming issue. Also, share your Christmas photos with our readers.

Send replies by Friday, Dec. 15, to Hugh Gallagher, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail hgallagher@hometownlife.com.

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Toys for Tots donations remain strong in area

BY WAYNE PEAL
STAFF WRITER

Silly String flew at Northland Center in Southfield to celebrate some happy holiday news. The news: Despite the state's economy, metro Detroiters are still making sure youngsters have a happy holiday season. At the Nov. 29 celebration at Northland, it was noted that shoppers at several area malls — and listeners of WMJC-FM — raised a record number of dollars and contributions to Toys for Tots. "I'd have to say this was the best total ever," said WMJC spokeswoman Lindsay Warren, of the 25,591 toys and \$13,954 raised at a recent drive held at Northland, Twelve Oaks, Laurel Park Place and the Macomb and Oakland malls. That drive was held in conjunction with the WMJC

morning show, starring Jim Harper. Harper, a 25-year Toys for Tots supporter, told listeners that he was overwhelmed by their generosity. "Only in metro Detroit, during a period when we're one of the few states still in economic trouble, will you find people willing to sacrifice their own needs and even give less to their own kids, to make sure needy children have a decent holiday," he said. Toys for Tots, a charity of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, is far from finished. Toy donations are being accepted at area Art Van, Chicken Shack and Farmer Jack locations until Dec. 14. Toys drives will be held at other sites throughout Oakland and Wayne counties. As for the Silly String, it not only celebrated the WMJC drive's success, but also will go to help military personnel sta-



Northland Center shoppers offered a Silly String salute in honor of this year's Toys for Tots drive.

tioned in Iraq. WMJC marketing director Mary Helen Ciaravino learned the string could be used to help soldiers uncover impro-

vised explosive devices in Iraq and the station followed through by sending 200 cans to Iraq this holiday season. Toys for Tots began in the

Los Angeles area in 1947 and has spread to more than 200 metropolitan areas in the United States. Through various regional

centers, the metro Detroit region covers youngsters throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Dunkin' Donuts warms Salvation Army Red Kettle donors

The people who donate at Salvation Army Red Kettles are getting special recognition this holiday season. Dunkin' Donuts stores throughout southeastern Michigan are holding Salvation Army Appreciation Days Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8-9. The donors who give a minimum \$1 donation at participating kettle sites receive the coupons from the Salvation Army bell ringers for a free medium, freshly brewed coffee or small hot chocolate

redeemable at any participating Dunkin' Donuts locations throughout metro Detroit while supplies last. In conjunction with The Salvation Army Appreciation days, Dunkin' Donuts also will be randomly giving away pounds of Dunkin's fresh ground coffee at bell ringer sites to people who donate a minimum of \$1 into Salvation Army kettles. Three lucky contributors to this year's kettle campaign will receive certificates from Dunkin' Donuts for one free medium coffee every week for one year. "Dunkin's appreciation days are one way to say thank you

to those who serve our community," said Nick Spencer, marketing manager of Dunkin' Donuts. "The Salvation Army volunteers are a great group to be giving credit to, as they are extremely focused and committed to meeting the needs of the community in Michigan." "With the need in Metro Detroit higher than ever, we appreciate Dunkin' Donuts' effort to make this year's Red Kettle Campaign a great success," said Russ Russell, executive director of development for The Salvation Army. "The Salvation Army serves 7,000 meals daily and provides shelter to 1,700 men, women and children; it takes a lot of vol-

unteers to make that possible and we appreciate that Dunkin' Donuts is honoring that." The Salvation Army Appreciation Days, the fourth in a series is Dunkin' Donuts way of saying thanks to the

area's hard working, dedicated individuals who keep America running. Dunkin' Donuts has brewed high quality, fresh coffee for more than five decades. Today, Dunkin' is America's largest retailer of coffee-by-the-cup,

servicing nearly one billion cups of brewed coffee each year. The donors receive the coupons from the Salvation Army bell ringers that can be redeemed at participating Dunkin' Donuts stores.

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FRI/SAT LS 11:15
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VAN WILDER 2: THE RISE OF TAJ (R) 7:20, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:40
DECK THE HALLS (PG) 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:35
HAPPY FEET (PG) 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:20
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Birds chart their own courses in the sky

"At any time of the year and in any part of the world, a bird student can always find pleasure in his hobby, where unseeing, unhearing people find little of interest."

- Samuel Scoville Jr.

Enormous pleasures are to be found in expected activity at cold weather bird feeders: A chickadee industriously works the meaty kernel out of a sunflower seed on a frosty morning, a downy woodpecker tears voraciously into a suet slab, a flock of doves settles in to peck seed, and the occasional Cooper's hawk dives to snag a slow-to-respond dove. But for me, the best pleasures of observing the avian world are the unexpected. And those notable birding moments are almost always away from the feeder.

It's a tale of adaptation, birds independent of flock behavior, birds exploring their ways and blending their natural behavior to the opportunities of the ways of nature and the acts of mankind.

Birds do not always follow conventional printed wisdom. "They do not range north of Ohio" may be very wrong. "By November they have departed for warmer climates." Tell that to a species and they would flap their feathers in amusement at the assumption.

Grant you, I am not an avid "birder" with a "life list" of birds. And I classify almost all small birds, especially warblers, as LBJs: Little Biddy Jobbers. And my favorite species is usually the one that draws my attention at the moment, be it a crumb-snatching house sparrow on a cold Birmingham sidewalk or a great horned owl sinking talons into rabbit flesh.

You can't go out looking for such moments. But when we see them, it reminds us that birds have been adapting to changing ways and weather — without the bonus of feeders — ever since the last great glacial retreat set the stage for an influx of avian explorers.

One such moment presented



Eastern bluebirds sometimes over-winter in Oakland County.

self a few mornings ago, shortly after dawn at the very moment sunlight dealt streamside frost a lethal blow. The location: An urban area of the Clinton River Watershed not far from downtown Rochester, at the confluence of the Paint Creek and Clinton River and the Clinton River Trail. The actor: A great blue heron.

Conventional wisdom has these colonial nesters already way south for winter. But this majestic loiterer knew that confluence still held treats to eat. I witnessed one lightning fast stab into water: a gullet filling moment.

And as gusts of cold wind sent dry leaves swirling over my meadow, I noticed motion high in a black walnut, a crow perched precariously near the end of a branch. He had discovered tasty remnants of caterpillar carcasses inside a weathered fall webworm nest. After 10 minutes of tearing the web was gone, and I suspect a crow belly full of protein.

Henry David Thoreau, perhaps the finest observer to ever write on nature, civil disobedience and the ways of man, saluted the eastern bluebird as the harbinger of spring. "If the warble of the first bluebird of spring does not thrill you, know that the meaning and spring of your life is past."

Fact: Many eastern bluebirds over-winter in Michigan among the sheltered valleys and rural lowlands rich with shrubs and dried berries. One such bluebird perched on my crab apple on the dawn of December. A reminder to me — a reminder to all — that as the darkest days of the season approach, the natural world is full of light and life and surprise.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way in Oakland County. E-mail him at oaknature@aol.com.



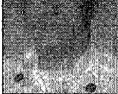
Oakland Naturally

Jonathan Schechter

Ensure you have fire-safe holiday season

Michigan is a great place to live during the holiday season.

While I hereby reserve the right to change my mind in January, doesn't almost every holiday classic movie show some type of "White Christmas"?



Tom Kiurski

Visiting family and friends, the warmth of a fire in the fireplace and the beautiful decorations of the season are great memories for most of us. I will ask us all to take fire safety into consideration as we prepare for the holidays, and I will give you some simple steps to take along the way to help ensure that "fire-safe holiday."

Let's start by looking at the centerpiece of the holiday season, the Christmas tree. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has found that, in a four-year study period, Christmas trees were the item first ignited in 310 cases in the average year. These fires caused an average of 14 civilian fire deaths, 40 injuries and over \$16 million in direct property dam-

age, and the statistics include both real and artificial trees.

If you choose a real tree and cut it down yourself, keep it outside until you are ready to bring it in to decorate. If you choose a real tree bought from a lot, then make a fresh cut at the base of the tree before bringing it in to decorate. This makes it easier for the tree to absorb water, making it less likely to catch fire. Choose a sturdy stand for the tree, with a large reservoir for holding water. A real tree that is six-feet tall can take up to one gallon of water every two days.

If artificial is the type of tree you choose, then pick one that is labeled as fire-retardant. This does not mean that the tree won't catch fire; it only means that it is less likely to catch fire, and will spread the fire more slowly than other trees. If you are going to get a metal tree, then do not use electric lights on it (bad combination).

Regardless of which type of tree you choose, keep the tree away from heaters, fireplaces, radiators, space heaters or any other heat source. As you take out your light sets for the tree, inspect them for signs of cracks or fraying. Discard the damaged ones and replace with newer

ones. Lights should be listed by an independent testing agency, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Use indoor-rated lights indoors and outdoor-rated lights outdoors. Unplug or turn off your tree lights when leaving the house or going to bed at night.

Although I never was a part of the tradition of using real candles on Christmas trees, many people have fond memories of doing that. The risk is not worth it, and I never recall seeing candles on a tree. In the recent study period cited earlier, an average of 8 percent of the Christmas tree fires during the holiday season were ignited by candles. Candles need adult supervision, sturdy holders and need to be kept away from open flames and heat sources.

As you decorate your home for the holidays, make sure you check smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and review your family escape plan with your family. Make sure everyone knows how to open windows, call 911 and tell the dispatcher what type of help they need, and know the family meeting place.

From all of your Livonia firefighters, have a safe and happy holiday season!

Tom Kiurski is a Livonia firefighter.

Rabbi Wine offers forums on Jewish history

Rabbi Sherwin Wine presents a series of three forums about the Jewish migration to America, in honor of the 100th anniversary of his father's arrival in the U.S.

Topics include: "The Voyage: The Incredible Journey from Suffering to Freedom," on Dec. 11 and "Arriving in America: The Greatest Success Story in Jewish History," on Dec. 18.

All three forums will be held at 8 p.m. at The Birmingham Temple, 28611 West 12 Mile

Road in Farmington Hills. There is an \$8 charge for individuals who are not Temple members. Advance registration is not required.

For additional information, visit www.birminghamtemple.org or call (248) 477-1410. The Birmingham Temple, a Humanistic Jewish congregation, welcomes all who seek to identify with the history, culture and future of the Jewish people.

Disc Herniation?

New FDA Approved Technology Treats Herniated Discs Without Drugs or Surgery

Suburban Detroit - A new free report has recently been released that reveals an amazing new medical breakthrough that has proven 86% successful treating debilitating back pain. Even with multiple herniated discs. Find out how space travel solved astronauts back pain and how this accidental discovery has led to the most promising back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" call 1-800-469-3618 and listen to the toll-free 24 hr. recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com

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Cheer for the hometeam read today's SPORTS section

Family Favorite Recipes

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....so good, you'll think we peeked at Grandma's cookbook!

We all have holiday recipes that are Family Favorites, recipes that are loved and cherished and passed down from generation to generation.

Send us yours today!

Through December 8th, send in your Family Favorite Recipe complete with cooking time and temperature (and maybe a bit of history or origin) to: classified@hometownlife.com and maybe yours will be picked to print!

Share your Family Favorite Recipe with your Observer & Eccentric Family!

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- 1 can cream of mushroom soup.
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- 1 can mushroom pieces (4 oz.)
- 1 envelope Onion soup mix
- 4 split chicken breasts

Heat oven to 350 F. Mix mushroom soup, milk and add rice, mushrooms and onion soup mix. Pour into ungreased baking dish, lay chicken breasts on top of mixture and bake 1 hour. Uncover and bake an additional 15 minutes. Serves 4, very easy.

Submitted by: Kim Schmidt

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CAROLINE FORD MASON

Sept 13, 1915 - Oct 27, 2006. Passed away from the complications of Alzheimer's disease in Sequim, WA at age 91. She was a 50 year resident of Birmingham and taught third grade at Pembroke Elementary School in Troy. She was born to George A. and Marie (Chalmers) Ford in Toledo, OH. She married James M. Mason in Toledo on October 3, 1942. Jim preceded her in death in 2004. Caroline and Jim lived for 50 years at 964 Kennesaw before moving in 2001 to Petoskey, MI with a final move to Sequim, WA in 2002. She was an avid sailor on Lake St Clair and member of Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Survivors include her son, Dr. Stephen and DeeDee (Carlson) Mason of Allouez, MI, daughters and sons-in-law, Diane and Ed Sherman of Mill Valley, CA and Marilyn and Don Thomas of Sequim, WA; six grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. Services for Mrs. Mason were held on November 1st in WA.

CHERYL A. BAKER

Age 61, November 30, 2006. Dear mother of Greg (Debbie) and Kristin Baker. Grandmother of Julia Baker and Mark Baker. Sister of Patricia Guido. Daughter of Bertha Rowden. Memorials suggested to Make a Wish Foundation.

DOLORIS SINKOVICH

Age 89, Oct. 2, 2006, of Westland, Michigan passed away under the loving care of friends, Mary Christoff, George and Virginia Cross, Gene and Jan Suchy, Peggy Ellenwood, the Bialowicz family, Dan and Karen Stachow, Lois Mach and Alfred Elias. Preceded in death by her husband George Sinkovich and son, James W. Frank. Also survived by several grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted on Oct. 6, 2006 from St. Theodores Catholic Church. Resting at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

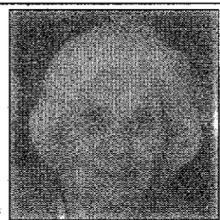
FREDERICK D. "Fred" ATIYEH

Age 84, December 3, 2006. Beloved husband of the late Nicolena. Dear father of J.R. (Diane) and David (Susan). Loving Grandfather of Brandon, Chelsea, Darren, Dominic, Tony and Alecia. Dear brother of Rebecca Barragato. Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Ave., Novi, 248-348-1800, Wednesday 2-4 & 6-9 PM. Instate Thursday at Holy Family Church, 24505 Meadowbrook, Novi, 9:30 AM until the funeral service at 10:00 AM. Entombment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, MI. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter, 20300 Civic Center Dr., #100, Southfield, MI. Online condolences: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com



HAROLD R. "BUTCH" WATTON

Age 65, of Canton, passed away December 1, 2006. Devoted husband of Joyce. Loving father of Pam (Mark) MacLennan, Jill (Kevin) McAndrew, Jeffrey Watton. Step-father of Nick Mancini, Gina (Matt) Meares, and Paula (Scott) Theaster. Beloved grandfather of Chelsea, Tori, Rory, Morgan, Ashleigh, Dj, Aj, Alyssa, Lindsey, Tristin, Martin. Dear brother of Carol (Edward) Valente, Elaine (Jim) Crawford, David (Kathy) Watton. Also survived by his friends at Station 885 Restaurant in Plymouth, where both Butch and Joyce enjoyed. Preceded in death by parents Leslie and Charolotte and by brother Ronald. Butch worked for the local 247 Teamsters Union as a cement truck driver. He enjoyed car restoration and especially the Woodward Dream Cruise. Funeral services were held on Monday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main, Plymouth. Share memories at www.schrader-howell.com



KALLIOPE VARON

Age 92, of Middletown, Ohio, died on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at her residence. She was born in Constantinople, Turkey, on January 1, 1914, to parents Constantine and Fanni (Raizopoulos) Papadopoulos. She has resided in Middletown for the past eight years. She was a member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Bloomfield Hills, MI, from 1937 to 2000, and a member of the Philoptochos Society for 40 years where her duties included visiting nursing homes. Mrs. Varon is survived by a daughter, Mary (David) Habig, Middletown, OH; three sons, Michael G. (Stacy) Varon, Joliet, IL, Gus W. (Sherry) Varon, Rochester Hills, MI, Dan G. (Elaine) Varon, Bloomfield Hills, MI; 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Varon. Services will be Saturday, December 9, 2006, at 1:30 pm, at the Ottawa Park Cemetery Chapel, Clarkston, MI. Visitation will be prior to the service from 1:00 - 1:30pm at the chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 2500 Grand Ave. Middletown, OH 45044. Arrangements by Wilson-Schramm-Spaulling Funeral Home, Middletown, OH.

MARGARET ROCKWELL GREGORY

Age 96, December 2, 2006. Wife of the late William Bruce Gregory. Mother of Joan Mountford, Carole King, and Mary Warner (Mrs. F. Stephen). Grandmother of David, Laura, and Christopher Mountford, Barbara King Dawson and Edward Gregory King, Bradford and Andrew Warner; and six great-grandchildren. Services were held at Franklin Community Church, 26425 Wellington, Franklin. Interment Oak Hill Cemetery, Pontiac. Memorial gifts may be made to Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, 405 Oakland Ave., Pontiac, MI 48342. For information, call A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

MARY I. SIDDALL

Age 85, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, passed away surrounded by family on December 2, 2006. Beloved wife of the late Dean E. Siddall, loving mother of Susan Burnett, David Siddall and Bruce (Karin) Siddall. Loving grandmother of Drew, Brett (Nora) and Kirk Burnett; and Amanda and Stephen Siddall. Mary was born on May 3, 1921, near Laurens, Iowa. A registered nurse, she served as a U.S. Army nurse in the 58th evacuation hospital in the South Pacific during World War II. Visitation Friday 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm at William R. Hamilton Funeral Home, 820 East Maple, Birmingham. Services Saturday 11:00 am at Franklin Community Church, 26425 Wellington, Franklin.

NANCY ROTHFUSS THEURER

of Bloomfield Hills passed away Saturday, December 2, 2006. She was born to Gladys Brothers and Rolland Rothfuss in Toledo, Ohio, on October 20, 1927. Nancy was preceded in death by her husband Richard Franklin Theurer. She is survived by daughters Kathryn (Mark) VandeBrake and Annette (David) Kelter, and son Britton (Glenna) Theurer. She has six grandchildren: Sally and Jacob VandeBrake; Brooke, Grant, and Cole Kelter; and Michiko Theurer; and one great-grandchild, Kathryn VandeBrake. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 9th at St. James Episcopal Church of Birmingham. Donations in Nancy's name may be made to Hospice of Michigan, 2525 Telegraph, Suite 100, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. Arrangements by the Wm. R. Hamilton Co. of Birmingham, 248-644-6000.



PATRICIA K. MCGLONE

Age 85 of Plymouth, December 3, 2006. Beloved wife of the late Frederick. Loving mother of Bruce (Diane), Scott (Catherine), and Janis (Kelly). Dear grandmother of Lisa (Nick) Chambers and the late Kristen. Dear great-grandmother of Jack and Luke Chambers. Her love of visitors, family and friends alike deeply touched all who knew Mumsey. Her laughter and enthusiasm brought a sense of joy to anyone who spoke with her. Memorial service Sunday 1PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd, (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Visitation Saturday 3-6 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the University of Michigan-College of Pharmacy (Kristen McGlone Memorial) 428 Church Street, Ann Arbor MI 48109. To leave a message of condolence, log on to www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com.



PAUL R. KUEBLER, SR.

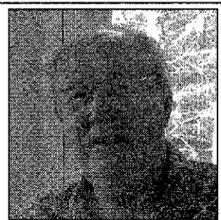
December 4, 2006, age 89, of Westlake, Ohio, formerly of Birmingham, Michigan. Beloved husband of Catherine M. (nee: Pelletier) for 62 years. Dear father of Paul, Jr. (Maureen), Robin O'Callaghan (Liam) and Walter. Loving grandfather of 16 and great-grandfather of 13. Brother of Kathryn Kuebler. Preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Olivia Kuebler, his brother, John Kuebler, his sister Mary Bymes (John) and his grandson, Padraic Kuebler. Memorial Mass Saturday, December 16, 2006 at 11 AM at Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon at Woodland, Birmingham. Visitation at church begins at 10:30 AM. Memorial Tributes to Holy Name Church or The Capuchins. A. J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

RANDOLPH A. "Scotty" ADAM

Age 87, November 29, 2006, of Warren, formerly of Madison Heights. Born October 24, 1919, in Dundee, Scotland. Husband of Grace Adam (deceased 1972). Father of Randy Adam, step-father of Bert Mason, Harold Mason, Art Mason, and Bob Mason. Also survived by one granddaughter, Angeline (David) Misener, and one great-granddaughter, Madelyn Grace. Predeceased by four, brothers and two sisters. Mr. Adam loved to watch sports, especially stock cars and racing; he was a great Tiger fan. He served in the British Army for six years during World War II, and retired from Colligan where he was employed as a Water Softener. Visitation Thursday, 5-8pm, and Friday, 6-9pm; services Friday, 7pm, at the funeral home, E. J. Mandziuk & Son (Warren Chapel). Inurnment White Chapel Memorial, Troy. Funeral luncheon will be held Sunday at Royal Canadian Legion in Royal Oak, 1005 East 11 Mile Rd.

SCOTT E. BIDDLE

Age 54, died of a heart attack September 24, 2006. Scott is the loving son of Melvin Ralph & Patricia Biddle. Brother of Ralph Jr. Father of Justin and Lindsey Biddle & Grandfather of Austin. A graduate of Redford Union & served in the Navy on the U.S.S. Peidmont. He is preceded in death by his father, who is dearly missed as is Scott.



STANLEY J. DOBIS

Age 76, died suddenly on December 2, 2006. Husband of Carmen. Dear father of David (Amy), Carole (Michael) Dominick, Linda (Brad) Judy. Grandfather of Jessica Mary, Stanley and the late Katherine Dobis and Hannah, Madelyn and Mia Judy. Brother of Mildred (Don) Freeman, Lillian (Jack) Schenden and Margaret (Dick) Fusco. Uncle to many nieces and nephews. U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean Conflict. Active member of St. Colette Church, Livonia Post VFW #3941, Monaghan Council of Knights of Columbus, Livonia Cable Commission, founding member of the Livonia Amateur Radio Club, and volunteer cameraman at various Livonia City events. Visitation Tuesday 5-9pm with a K of C Rosary at 7:30pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Wednesday, Prayers 9:30am at the funeral home, to St. Colette Catholic Church for 10:00am Mass. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

TIVADAR "TIV" BALOGH

December 1, 2006; age 79. He was born December 16, 1926 in Detroit. Retired architect and professor of architecture at University of Michigan. Beloved husband of Dorothy "Dot" (Nee: Bleimeister). Loving father of Melissa (Tim) Waidley and Margaret Balogh. Grandfather of Clara and Hope Waidley and Gwendolyn and Zoltan Seger. Memorial visitation Thursday 2 PM until the celebration of his life at 4 PM at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 42600 Ford Road (W. of Lilley Rd.) Canton (734-981-1700). In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Michigan Parkinson's Foundation.

VIRGINIA CATHERINE CLOHSE

widow of Clarence, mother of Phillip, Kaye Nightengale, Caron Trese and John (deceased) died December 2, 2006 of complications from pneumonia. She lived in the Birmingham area since 1949. She had a Masters in Social Work and a Masters of Library Science with Cognates in Archives from Wayne State University. She was a member of the American Library Association and Michigan Archival Association. She has served as the Archivist for the Birmingham Historical Society, Manuscript Chairman for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society; Historian of the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library; Lineage Research Chairman of the Piety Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and National Vice Chairman of the Genealogical Records of the NSDAR. In 1971, she received the Heritage Award of the Birmingham Historical Society. She documented much of the history of Birmingham and co-authored "The Book of Birmingham". Besides her children, she is survived by two grandsons, Three step-grandsons and six great-grandchildren. She was a complex and intellectually curious great lady who will be sadly missed by all. Birmingham has lost a true friend. Visitation at the Wm. R. Hamilton Co. of Birmingham, 820 E. Maple will be from 2 to 4 pm and 6 to 8 pm on Tuesday. A private funeral service will be Wednesday in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ROPARD, P. O. Box 250425, Franklin, Michigan, 48025 in honor of her son-in-law, Dr. Michael Trese or the Michigan Kidney Foundation, 1900 E. Jefferson, Suite 222, Detroit, Michigan, 48207 in honor of her longtime physician and friend, Dr. Jerry Danckik of Beaumont Hospital.

OBITUARY POLICY

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

Deadlines:

Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday
Wednesday Noon for Thursday
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RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Faith Bible Church, 34541 Five Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. No admission but a love offering will be received. Nursery provided. For information, call (734) 464-7990.

Advent tea party
12:30-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at The Retreat Center at St. John's, 44011 Five Mile, Plymouth. Reflect on Advent scripture readings, four Sundays of Advent and the essence of Emmanuel - Christ with us. Tickets \$10, includes tea and lunch, benefits Catholic Social Services of Wayne County Pregnancy Counseling Department. Please bring an item for a newborn to donate. For reservations, call (734) 414-1104 or visit www.TheRetreatCenter.org.

Youth Christmas program
Garden City Presbyterian Church will present the annual youth Sunday school Christmas program, a play with singing entitled "You Can't Cancel Christmas" 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the church, 1841 Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road. Come and share the joy of Christmas in a warm and friendly environment. Refreshments immediately after program in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Handicap accessible. For more information, call (734) 421-7620.

Christmas concert
3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, in the sanctuary at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96 (Schoolcraft), Livonia. The sounds of Christmas will be enhanced by the Christ Our Savior Festival Choir, Jubilation Handbell Choir, Laudate Choir (grades 1-6), Confirmation Choir (grades 7-8), a Brass Ensemble, and various instrumentalists. The concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken. Mark Lohmeyer, Minister of Music and organist, will be leading the concert. For more information, call (734) 522-6830 or visit the Web site at www.christoursavior.org.

Christmas jazz
Christmas Jazz Vespers Service 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For information, call (248) 374-7400. Jazz in the Spirit, from First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, will present a musical, poetic and prayer filled worship experience. Childcare provided to age 4. No charge.

25th annual concert
St. Aidan Catholic Church presents its 25th annual Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the parish, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission is \$5 plus TWO non-perishable food items. Proceeds go to Christmas Baskets prepared by St. Aidan Christian Service Commission.

A Christmas Prayer
A musical drama, a prodigal son's journey featuring musicians and liturgical dancers 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 553-7170.

Hanukkah gift shop
Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood Hanukkah/Judaic gift shop opens from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 10. Selection includes holiday gift wrap, chocolate coins, dreidels, candles, electric and traditional menorahs and many Judaic gift items. Congregation Beit Kodesh is located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, Livonia.

Choral festival
Concert of Advent and Christmas carol festival featuring Kirk in the Hills Young Children's, and Junior and Senior Boys' and Girls' Choirs, 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. No charge. For details, call (248) 626, 2515, ext. 109.

Bible-based ESL classes
Mondays 7-8:30 p.m. Registration: Dec. 11 and 18 (classes closed after that), at First Baptist Church of Farmington, 33400 Shilohwasse. Call (248) 474-0350 ext. 222. Open to adults 18 and over. Book fee only.

One, the movie
A contemporary journey toward a timeless destiny 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Love offering accepted at the door. Presented by Citizens for Peace. Call (734) 421-1760.

Advent services
7:30 p.m. Wednesdays Dec. 13 and 20, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. Begins with a simple soup and bread supper at 6:30 p.m. followed by Holden Evening Prayer accompanied by our handbell choir. A pick your favorite Advent hymn sing precedes the service. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend.

Advent worship
Services 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 13 and 20, at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday Worship services are 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary). Sunday School & Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Sunday.

Traditions of Christmas

Multi-event open house with carols, stories, musical performances, model train layouts, cookie decorating, crafts, displays, film, and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever 3-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, Birmingham. A gift to the community. No tickets, donations or reservations necessary. Call (248) 644-2040.

Glory of Christmas
7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and Sunday, Dec. 10; 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 and 9, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 and 10, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 North Territorial, Plymouth. Tickets are \$13.75 and \$15.75, and available by calling (800) 585-3737. Call (734) 414-7777 for information.

Sock party/potluck
Admission is a pair of new socks, scarf or mittens and a dish to pass (real food please) 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at St. Linus Activity Center, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights. Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths. For details, call (313) 996-8644.

Men of Grace
A special night of worship featuring Christmas songs, spirituals, hymns, traditional and contemporary, original music, and arrangements performed by Men of Grace from Grace Centers of Hope (Pontiac) 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, one block east of Beck, Plymouth. Free will offering will be taken to benefit seminary study Scott Eberlein. Call (734) 453-5252.

Crosstalk
A lively discussion for singles on a topic of current interest 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Learn how the Bible approaches modern day events. Free childcare provided. For details, call (248) 374-5920.

Cookie walk
Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church's 13th Annual Cookie Walk takes place Saturday, Dec. 9, at 36075 W. Seven Mile, 3/4 mile east of Newburgh on south side of street, Livonia. Doors open at 8 a.m., sale starts at 9 a.m. and lasts until we are sold out. Pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut and poppyseed rolls, and over 50 different varieties of ethnic (kiefle, kolachy, rugela, koulourakia, biscotti, linzer) and traditional cookies and candy will be for sale.

Christmas cookie walk
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago, between Beech Daly and Inkster, Redford. Cookies are sold by the pound.

Cookie walk
9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 9, at First United Methodist Church of Wayne, 3 Towne Square. Homemade cookies, pies, breads, and candies. Special orders taken for pumpkin rolls. For information, call (734) 721-4801.

Live Nativity
During open house noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Please join us for cookies, juice and coffee in Knox Hall as the Live Nativity is displayed. Be sure to bring your camera to capture the live nativity scene featuring real animals and actors. For more information, call (248) 374-5932.

Fine arts festival
An afternoon of Christian youth entertainment and holiday shopping 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Westside Christian Academy, 9540 Bramell, one mile east of Telegraph, between Plymouth and Chicago, Detroit. Program promptly begins at 3 p.m. Vendors and crafters interested in obtaining table space or for more information, call (313) 533-1956.

Christmas play
Journey to Bethlehem returns for a sixth year, a walk-through play of the birth of Jesus 4 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. For more information, call (734) 421-1760.

Advent mass
9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Felician Sisters Chapel at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Use the Newburgh entrance. Breakfast to follow mass. An activity of Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths. For information, call (734) 513-9479.

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SPORTS

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(CP)

Thursday, December 7, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . ewright@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Jump-start

Dixon's late-game jumper, scrappy defense pace Salem to 49-48 victory

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Gritty "D" helped Salem's basketball team overcome a 12-point fourth-quarter deficit Tuesday night.

But it was a gutsy "J" that sealed the Rocks' most satisfying victory in recent memory.

Senior guard Jierah Dixon buried a clutch, left-handed, 12-foot jumper with 13 seconds left to give Salem a thrilling 49-48 victory over visiting Redford Union in the season opener for both teams.

Following a time-out, RU's Terrell Baird launched a potential game-winning baseline jump shot from 16 feet out, but it was swatted off course and high into the air by Salem's Ross Davis. The ball squirted loose underneath the basket as the horn sounded.

Dixon could barely remember the last time before Tuesday night that he'd hit a game-winning bucket.

"I think I made one in elementary school once," he said, smiling. "Our point guard, Mike Marek, gave me the opportunity for a back-door cut, I pulled up for the



Jierah Dixon reacts to his game-winning shot with 13 seconds left in Tuesday night's 49-48 victory over Redford Union.

jumper and it was nothing but net from there. I spent a lot of time in the summer — a lot of hours in the gym — working on my shot, and tonight it paid off.

"It feels good to win this one, especially because it was our first game. Hopefully, it sets the momentum for sever-

al games to come."

When the Panthers' Remington Leverette converted a baseline drive 20 seconds into the fourth quarter, RU led 42-30 and appeared well on the way to an impressive road win.

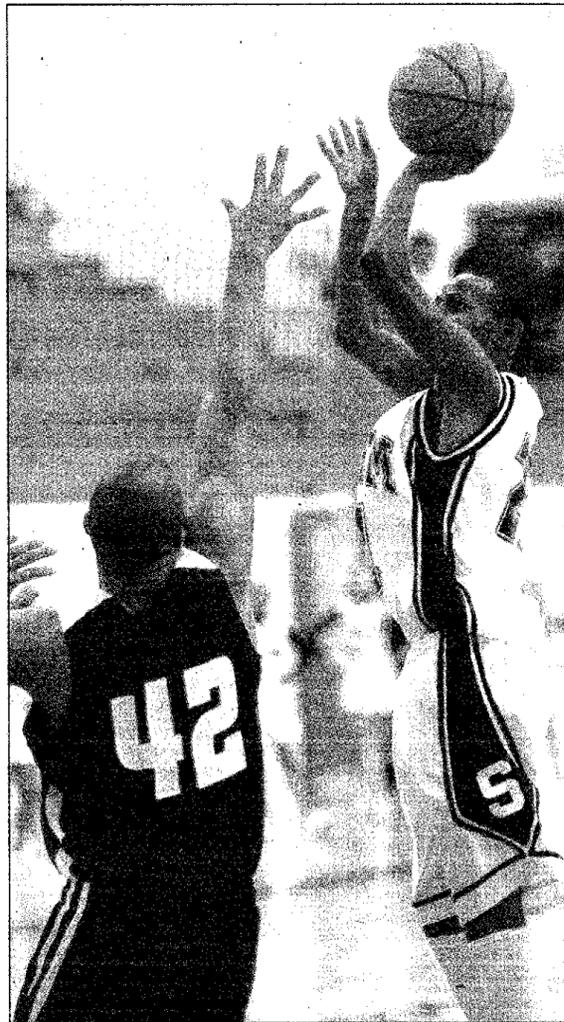
However, the Rocks clawed back into it thanks to a relentless trapping defense that rattled the Panthers' guards into six fourth-quarter turnovers.

"We stepped up the tempo with our defense in the second half after they controlled the tempo the entire first half," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "We decided to trap them every time down the court in the second half and the guys stepped up and played well."

"In the first half, it seemed like we were snakebit. It was like, here we go again. But a lot of our seniors have been on the varsity since they were sophomores and tonight that experience they've gained kicked in. I'm very proud of the way they hung in there and got the win."

A pair of juniors — Davis and Grant Stone — led the Rocks with 15 points a piece.

PLEASE SEE SALEM, B3



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Jierah Dixon prepares to unleash the game-winning shot Tuesday night against Redford Union.

Sidelines

Baseball tryouts

Registration for the 2007 Canton Little League will be held Jan. 20 and Feb. 17, 2007, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran School, which is at 1309 Penniman Ave. in Plymouth (quarter-mile east of Sheldon).

The leagues offered will be: Minors (7- to 10-year-olds); Majors (11- and 12-year-olds) and Juniors (13- and 14-year-olds).

The league is open to all Plymouth and Canton residents.

Proof of residency and a birth certificate are necessary at the time of registration.

For more information, visit www.cantonlittleleague.net; or send an e-mail to info@cantonlittleleague.net.

Hoop tryouts

Tryouts for the Salem/Plymouth/Canton girls basketball club will be held Saturday, Dec. 9, in the Canton High School gymnasium, which is located in the Canton North building. Following are the respective teams' tryouts times:

- U14-U17 — noon to 1:30 p.m.;
- U9 and U10 — 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.;
- U11 and U12 — 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and
- U13 — 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information contact Brian Samuiski at (734) 414-0425 or Fred Thomann at (734) 484-7746.

Ignition food drive

The Detroit Ignition (3-3) teams up with Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan for the Kick it Forward Food Drive to be held on Sunday, Dec. 10, at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth.

All Ignition fans who bring a non-perishable food item to the 4:35 p.m. game on Dec. 10 against the Milwaukee Wave will receive a \$22 ticket to the Dec. 16 game against the Baltimore Blast for just \$15.

Since 1977, Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan has been turning surplus food into millions of meals for hungry people in southeastern Michigan.

The 'reel' deal

It's official: Canton angler's mammoth walleye earns 'world record' status

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Patience is more than a virtue for successful fishermen — it's a necessity.

It also comes in handy for anglers who have to wait for their potential world-record catches to become certified.

Canton resident Chris Merbler, 14, can attest to both of those facts.

Last April, the Plymouth Christian Academy eighth grader reeled in a whopping 9-pound, 13-ounce walleye while fishing with his dad in Lake

Erie. The Merblers immediately weighed the fish then sent the required paperwork to the International Game Fish Association, which is based in Florida.

Over four months later, the Merblers were informed that their suspicions were correct — Chris's catch was a world record for kids between the ages of 10 and 16.

"The IGFA is pretty strict when it comes to certifying world-record fish," said Ron Merbler. "They look things

PLEASE SEE RECORD, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fourteen-year-old Canton resident Chris Merbler (seated) and his dad, Ron, received good news recently when the 9-pound, 4-ounce walleye Chris caught in Lake Erie was certified as a world record.

Turnovers costly in Chiefs' loss

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Canton's basketball team was done in by Monroe and a ton of turnovers Tuesday night — but not necessarily in that order.

PREP HOOP

The host Trojans prevailed, 49-44, in the season opener for both teams. While Monroe's pressure defense was tough, it didn't hurt the Chiefs as much as the 23 turnovers that short-circuited their offensive efforts.

"You're not going to win many games when you turn the ball over that many times," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "We were leading 17-12 at the half, but we came out and committed way too many turnovers. Monroe's defense gets after it. They're very athletic and very aggressive."

"It was our first game, so we were going in blind. But that's no excuse because they were too."

The Trojans led 9-6 after one quarter before Canton stormed back to seize a five-point advantage at the break. Monroe grabbed a 28-24 lead with eight minutes to play, however, the Chiefs rebounded to knot the game at 42-all with about three minutes to play.

"We just didn't do a good job against their pressure," said Paye. "They dropped back into a 2-2-1 zone and we couldn't hit any shots."

Senior center Ryan Waidmann and junior forward Neil Sharma both scored 13 points to lead the Chiefs. Senior forward Steve Paye netted five points.

The winners were paced by Mike Wallace, who canned 13. Audie Cole and Ramad Brown both contributed 11.

The silver lining to the Chiefs' cloudy night was their performance at the free-throw line. Canton hit 20-of-28 attempts from the charity stripe (71.4 percent). Sharma was perfect, nailing 6-of-6 while Waidmann swished 7-of-9.

Canton will return to action Tuesday when it hosts Troy Athens. The opening tip is set for 7 p.m.



DETROIT IGNITION PHOTO

Jamar Beasley (left) is congratulated by teammates after registering a goal that was part of a 14-point night in the Ignition's 25-15 victory over California Sunday afternoon at Compuware Sports Arena.

Beasley's 14 pace Ignition

The Detroit Ignition (3-3) defeated the California Cougars, 25-15, in front of 3,121 at Compuware Sports Arena Sunday.

Midfielder Kyt Selaidopoulos registered the game-winning goal, a two-pointer, 2:02 into the fourth quarter of play to give the Cougars their fifth consecutive loss. The Ignition's offensive spark was led by forward Jamar Beasley who tallied a franchise-record 14 points with one three-point goal, four two-point goals, and three assists.

The Cougars took the lead early off an unassisted three-point goal from forward Aaron Susi at 1:24 of the opening frame of play to give California the 3-0 advantage. Detroit

PLEASE SEE IGNITION, B4

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RECORD

FROM PAGE B1

over very closely. A lot of techniques that people use when they fish for walleye don't qualify under the IGFA rules. For instance, you can't use certain kinds of hooks or live bait, and if it's a junior angler, the only assistance he or she can receive from someone is to net the fish once it's reeled in."

Chris Merbler said that he sensed the fish was bigger than most as he reeled it in.

"It put up a fight," he said. "We fished a little longer after I brought it in then we took it right to the post office to get it weighed. You have to get it weighed right away in order for it to be official. Then we filled out a bunch of forms and sent them, a picture of the fish and a sample of the line to the IGFA. I was a little nervous until I heard back from them because you never know if somebody else caught a bigger one while you were waiting for your fish to be certified."

The Merblers have steered their love for fishing into their own Web site:

www.walleyekid.com.

"It's up and running now, but it's not totally done," said Chris. "There's a lot of stuff on there, like information for kids on how to get started fishing, informational videos that you can watch right on the site, the best tackle shops and boat launches in the area and my dad and I put updates on there about where we fished and what we caught with what kind of bait."

One thing Merbler is not ready to do is rest on his laurels — or world records.

He has bigger fish to fry. "Next on Chris's list," said Ron Merbler, "is to catch a world-record perch."

ewright@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2108



How to you spell undefeated? E-A-S-T!

The East Middle School A and B girls basketball teams recently completed the school's first undefeated seasons in 17 years when they went 16-0. Pictured (front row from left) are Lindsay Krug, Lucy Wildman, Kristin Klavon, Kayla Bridges, Mariah Tesarz, Robyn Mack, Melissa Pronovost, Jackie Godin, (second row from left) Kinari Shah, Ashley Cade, Besa Cera, Alex Roberts, Taylor Birman, coach David Schmittou, Abby Livingston, Kaitlyn Mattson, Alaina Turner, Jasmine Knowles and Kellie Connelly.

PCS icers battle to 5-5 tie with Blazers

Despite losing a 3-0 first-period lead, Livonia Ladywood hockey coach Bruce Peck had a lot to be happy about in Tuesday's 5-5 deadlock with host Plymouth-Canton-Salem at the Arctic Edge.

"This was a test for us, I consider it a passing grade," said Peck, whose team lost to state runner-up P-C-S twice last season. "This was only our second game and it was their fourth. We haven't had time to jell. We've had a lot of practices, but not many games."

Ladywood is 1-0-1 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League, while the Penguins are 3-0-1.

PREP HOCKEY

After the Blazers got up by three goals, P-C-S stormed back with four unanswered goals in the second period for a 4-3 advantage.

The Penguins enjoyed a 5-4 lead late in the third period when Ladywood's Abby Kienbaum knotted the count with only 1:20 left on assists from Prenella Semma and Maria Rotondo.

"We dominated the first period and they dominated the second period," Peck said. "We don't have a lot of depth and we got tired."

"But the third period we did not give up. We kept fighting." Katie Zimmerman paced P-C-S with three goals and one assist. Nikki Songer added one goal and one assist, while Adrienne Cercone scored the other goal.

Laura Szwed led Ladywood with two goals and one assist. Angie Iafano, Semma and Kienbaum each added one goal and one assist. Heather Sartorius and Rotondo each contributed two assists.

Ladywood goalie Michelle Wyniemo made a total of 26 saves, while the Penguins' Kristie Kowalski stopped 20 shots.

Red-hot Whalers ice Guelph, 4-0

On a bitterly cold Sunday afternoon, the Plymouth Whalers kept up their red-hot pace in the Ontario Hockey League with a 4-0 shutout of the Guelph Storm in a game played before 3,608 at the Guelph Sports and Entertainment Centre.

Plymouth won all three games played this weekend 4-2 over Saginaw on Friday and 5-3 over Guelph on Saturday (both at the Compuware Sports Arena) to go with Sunday's victory.

The Whalers have won four in a row to move into sole possession of third place in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division with a record of 17-10-1-0 (35 points), five points behind the first-place Spirit (19-9-0-2) and one point behind second-place Sarnia (16-9-2-2).

Although the Whalers received contributions from just about everyone on their roster in the victory in Guelph, center Evan Brophey — who was celebrating his 20th birthday — emerged as the game's first star, figuring in on all four Whaler goals with a goal of his own and three assists. In three games last weekend, Brophey figured in on nine of Plymouth's 13 goals with three goals and six assists.

Brophey was also the first star in the Whalers' 5-3 over Guelph on Saturday. Brophey — a Chicago Blackhawks draftee — leads Plymouth in scoring with 11 goals and 35 assists for 46 points in 28 games.

Besides Brophey, Tom Sestito (14th), Steve Ward (seventh) and James Neal (team-leading 17th) also scored for the Whalers. Plymouth goaltender Michal Neuvirth posted his first-ever OHL shutout in stopping 28

Guelph shots.

After a scoreless first period, Plymouth opened the scoring at 8:03 of the second period on the power play when Sestito ripped home a rebound off a Ward point shot past Guelph goaltender Tom McCollum.

Brophey made it 2-0 at 10:33 of the period when he wired a shot on the left wing top shelf past McCollum. Ward capped a Plymouth rush to increase the lead to 3-0 when Brophey — stationed at the top of the right circle in the Guelph zone — found Ward at the high slot and the Plymouth captain made no mistake.

Neal finished the scoring on another power play at 12:50 of the third period when Brophey found Chris Terry on the right wing in the Guelph zone and Terry threaded a pass through traffic to Neal on the left wing, who beat McCollum with a well-placed shot.

Although Plymouth scored 13 goals over the weekend in the three victories, the Whalers remain one of the top defensive teams in the OHL. Plymouth is second in the OHL with just 84 goals allowed, trailing Kitchener (81) for the top spot in the OHL. In addition, the Whalers went 16-for-17 on the penalty kill this weekend.

Plymouth plays in London on Thursday before returning home Friday to host Sudbury and Barrie on Saturday at the Compuware Sports Arena. Both games will start at 7:05 p.m. Tickets are available by calling the Compuware Sports Arena at (734) 453-8400 or by going to Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

'Cup' headed to Compuware

After a successful visit to Compuware Sports Arena earlier this year, details for the Stanley Cup's return to the Compuware Sports Arena are starting to take shape.

The Stanley Cup will be back in Plymouth on Friday. After a 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. visit and public viewing at one of the 18-Detroit Area Plymouth Whalers Customer Reward program partner Meijer stores (Meijer of Canton, 45001 Ford Road) the Cup will be on display at the Compuware Sports Arena from 7:15-11 p.m. in the Main NHL Arena. Plymouth Whalers season ticket holders and hockey fans of all ages will be able to view and enjoy the Stanley Cup while taking in the Plymouth Whalers vs. Sudbury Wolves game, which begins at 7:05 p.m.

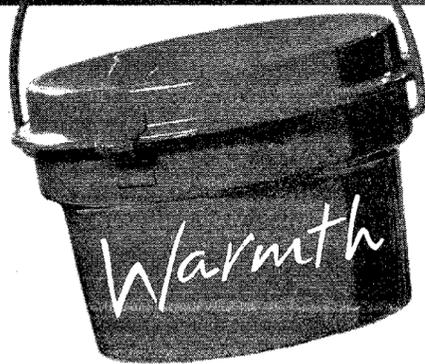
"We're grateful that (Compuware CEO) Peter Karmanos has decided to bring the Cup back to Plymouth again this year," said Plymouth Whalers President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci. "Hockey fans love to be with the Cup, so we're excited to give them the opportunity to see the Stanley

Cup one more time this season."

Like last July 17, the Compuware Sports Arena will provide a professional photographer for fans who want a picture with the Stanley Cup or folks can bring their own 35-millimeter cameras and snap a photo. The arena is requesting a \$10 donation for professional photographs with proceeds being donated to the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Hockey fans who don't already have tickets to the Friday, Dec. 8 game can purchase tickets at any Ticketmaster location, the Compuware Sports Arena box-office (Open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday to Friday) or by calling (734) 453-8400 and charging by phone.

After hosting Sudbury and the Stanley Cup on Dec. 8, the Whalers host Barrie on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:05 p.m. The game features the Whalers' Annual Teddy Bear Toss. Fans attending the game are requested to bring a new Teddy Bear to the game and throw it on the ice the first time the Whalers score in the game. The new Bruins will be picked up and donated to charity, courtesy of Plymouth United Way.



WHAT'S IN YOUR KETTLE?

WHEN YOU GIVE to a Red Kettle, it's not just coins and bills landing inside — you're putting WARMTH into that kettle, helping The Salvation Army shelter, clothe and comfort tens of thousands of men, women and children who have nowhere else to go. Give now at 1-877-SAL-MICH.

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Christmas With Your Pets!



Your pets already think they're the stars of the family.... Now let them see it in print! Place your pet's photo on a special page designed just for them! This special page of "critters" will run in our papers on December 24.



Mr. Bigglesworth
What fun you are to have around the house!
We hope we bring you as much fun as you bring us.

Ron & Liz
Livonia, MI

Just \$15*

Deadline is 12/15/06

Send picture and info to:
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Classified Dept.
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150

or email to:
oeads@hometownlife.com
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HOMETOWNLIFE.COM • OEA@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM
* Must be Prepaid. Photos may be mailed or e-mailed but must be received by 12/15/06. No photos will be returned.

Please recycle this newspaper

SALEM

FROM PAGE B1

Davis scored Salem's first seven points, but was forced to the bench for the rest of the first half after committing his second personal foul with 2:43 left in the first quarter. Despite the reduced minutes, the junior enjoyed a stellar varsity debut as he also contributed seven rebounds and four steals.

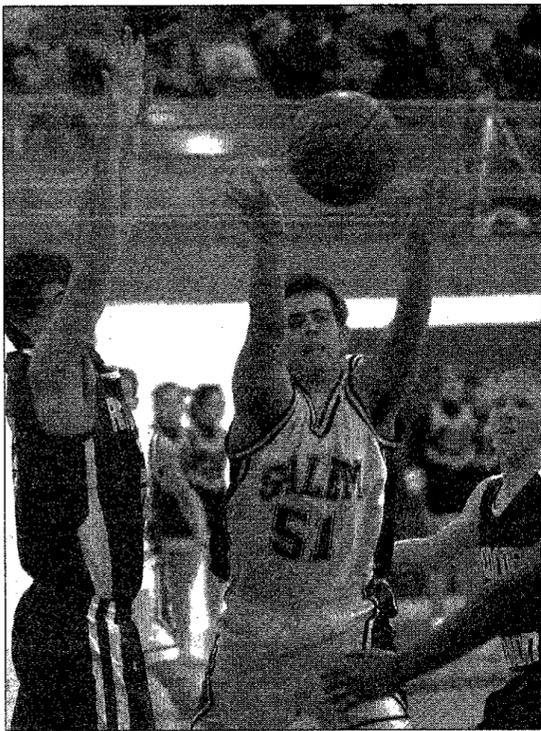
Senior J.P. Truesdell and Dixon both finished with seven points for the winners.

Leverette paced the Panthers with 18 points and six rebounds. Guard Justin Floyd added 11 points and Baird netted nine. Just six players scored for each team.

The calendar said "December," but the game's final three minutes had "March Madness" written all over them. With RU leading 46-41, the Rocks reeled off a 6-0 run thanks to a put-back by Truesdell (3:10 left), a mini-hook from Davis (2:00) and a fade-away jumper from Stone with 1:01 remaining.

Leverette canned a 17-foot jump shot with 35 seconds left to put the Panthers up, 48-47, but it only set the stage for Dixon's heroics.

"I feel good about this team," said Dixon, who was first promoted to the varsity during the winter of 2004. "We're probably not going to be great, but we're not going to be horrible either. If we keep working hard I think we can win a lot more games than we did last year."



Salem's J.P. Truesdell delivers a pass during Tuesday night's 49-48 victory over Redford Union. Truesdell finished with seven points and six rebounds.

Both teams shot well from the floor: Salem hit 20-of-41 shots (48.7 percent) while the Panthers connected on 20-of-39 (51.2).

The Rocks made 5-of-8 free throws (62.5); the Panthers drained 3-of-7 shots (42.8) from the charity stripe.

ewright@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2108

Ramthun's 20 lead LW over PCA

Senior guard Kyle Ramthun scored 20 points Tuesday as Lutheran High Westland earned a season-opening 50-39 victory at Plymouth Christian Academy.

"We missed a lot of free throws and we missed a lot of layups," said first-year PCA coach David Yost. "On the bright side, the boys didn't get frustrated; their court presence was very good."

"It's tough playing in the first game with a new coach and a new system. I'm a man-to-man kind of coach and they're used to playing more zone. I'm encouraged by how hard the boys work."

Sophomore forward Sam Ahlersmeyer added seven points for the winners, while senior center Alex Edwards and junior forward Josh Haller

combined for 18 rebounds.

The Warriors controlled play from start to finish, building an 18-point fourth-quarter advantage.

"We shot poorly the first half," said Lutheran Westland coach Dan Ramthun, whose team led 25-17. "Maybe we were pressing a little bit. We missed some easy ones."

"We did not shoot well, but we played well enough defensively."

Senior forward Matt Saagman led the Eagles with 14 points. Trevor Zinn added seven for PCA, which hosts Franklin Road Christian on Friday night.

The Warriors were 13-of-22 from the foul line, while PCA was 6-of-15.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 7
Lutheran South at Canton Agape at United Christian Church, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 8
Monroe at Salem, 7 p.m.
Canton Agape at Deerfield, 7 p.m.
Franklin Road at PCA, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 8
Northville at Salem
at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
Plymouth at Livonia Churchill at Eddie Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9
Canton at Dearborn at Detroit Skate Club, 7:20 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Saturday, Dec. 9
Canton at Davison Invitational, 10 a.m.
Salem 10-Team Invitational, 9 a.m.
Plymouth at Temperance-Bedford Invitational, 10 a.m.
PREP VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Dec. 9
Canton at South Lyon Invite, 8 a.m.
Plymouth at Madonna Tournament at Plymouth, 8:30 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 8
(Holland Sentinel Comm. Tourney)
Madonna vs. Goshen (Ind.), 6 p.m.
Hope College vs. Grace Bible, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9

Holland Sentinel Tourney, 1 & 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 9
Goshen (Ind.) at Madonna, noon.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 7
Whalers at London Knights, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 8
Whalers vs. Sudbury Wolves at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9
Whalers vs. Barrie Colts at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE
Saturday, Dec. 9
Det. Ignition at Milwaukee Wave, 4:35 p.m.

HOMETOWNlife.com

We've recently refurbished our website. Given it a fresh coat of paint so to speak. We wanted it to be easier to navigate. And great to look at. And useful for everyone. It took us a while but we think we made all that happen. Check it out. A lot of what you see is still there—local news, special sections, classifieds and some of it is new like our partnership with CareerBuilder.com, Apartments.com and Cars.com., three great sites to use when you want really great results. So grab your mouse and see what's happening on hometownlife.com

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HOLIDAY RECRUITMENT

Do you hire extra help for the holidays?

If so, consider running your employment ad in the *Observer & Eccentric's Holiday Employment Directory*. This special page will be running in Wayne and Oakland Counties every Sunday and Thursday, starting in October thru December - giving you plenty of time to prepare that new staff for the holiday rush!

\$46 per inch
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Save 20% on each day after the first run when you commit to more than one day!

For more information or to place your ad, please call:

800-579-7355

Observer & Eccentric

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CATCH THE WAVE

SUDBURY WOLVES

FRI. DEC. 8TH, 7:05PM

LADIES' NIGHT

STANLEY CUP at COMPUWARE SPORTS ARENA
FROM 7:30PM - 11:00PM FRIDAY, DEC. 8TH!

BARRIE COLTS

SAT. DEC. 9TH, 7:05PM

TEDDY BEAR TOSS

Center Ice Seating \$14 • Executive Reserved \$10

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www.plymouthwhalers.com

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ticketmaster

www.ticketmaster.com

Call 248-645-6666

COMPUWARE SPORTS ARENA
14900 BECK ROAD PLYMOUTH TWP., MI 48170



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday December 19, 2006. The bid opening will take place at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday December 19, 2006 at Plymouth City Hall 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth Michigan for the following:

DDA Landscape Maintenance 2007

Specifications and bid documents are available in the City Manager's Office, at City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, 48170 during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>.

Questions regarding this bid should be directed to the Downtown Development Authority at dda@ci.plymouth.mi.us or (734) 455-1453.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Publish: December 7 & 10, 2006

020842293

**MAYFLOWER AUTO TRANSPORT
1179 STARKWEATHER
PLYMOUTH, MI 48170
(734) 459-0053
NOTICE OF SALE**

The following vehicles will be sold at Public Auction for cash to satisfy lien pursuant to F.S. 713.78 On December 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

| VEHICLE | V.I.N. |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1993 Chevrolet Suburban Cheyen | 1GNEC16K1PJ352981 |
| 1991 Pontiac Grand Am LE (White) | 1G2NE14A7MC566956 |
| 1992 Cadillac Seville Touring (Black) | 1G6KY53B2NU819798 |
| 1992 Mercury Mystique (Red) | 1MELM6538SK601184 |
| 1991 Pontiac Sunbird (Blue) | 1G2JB14T2M7824716 |
| 1995 Mercury Cougar (Black) | 1MELM6243RH620827 |
| 1998 Ford Escort (White) | 1FAPP10P1WW234460 |
| 1989 Ford Thunderbird (Silver) | 1FAPP624XKH146025 |
| 1996 Oldsmobile 88 LSS (Green) | 1G3HY52K9T4843683 |
| 1990 Ford F150 Custom/Special | 1FTDF15Y1LLA36481 |
| 1997 Ford Taurus (Burgundy) | 1FALP52U7VG262430 |
| 1995 Toyota Tercel | JT2EL55D650063637 |
| 1989 Toyota Camry LE (Burgundy) | JT2VV22E5K0072559 |
| 1990 Pontiac Sunbird (White) | 1G2JB34K5L7637090 |
| 1991 Mazda Protege (Black) | JM1BC2264M0293179 |
| 1996 Pontiac Grand Am (Tan) | 1G2NE52TMTM541747 |
| 1996 Chevrolet Impala (Purple) | 1G1BL52P3TR108239 |
| 1992 Pontiac Grand Prix (White) | 1G2WH54T4NF235532 |
| 1991 Buick Century (Burgundy) | 1G4CW53L6M1682957 |
| 1989 Pontiac Sunbird (Blue) | 1G2JB11K0K7601167 |
| 1995 Mercury Cougar (Green) | 1MELM62W6SH601728 |
| 1999 Honda Civic (Red) | 1HGEJ6671XL034727 |
| 1988 Ford Ranger SXT/XL/XT | 1FTCR10A5JUE10837 |

Publish: December 7, 2006

020842292

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED USE OF THE
2007 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT FUNDS
DECEMBER 19, 2006**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM WILL BE HELD BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE TOWNSHIP HALL WHICH IS LOCATED AT 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD. ON DECEMBER 19, 2006.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE TO AFFORD THE PUBLIC THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE BEFORE THE BOARD ANY PROPOSED USE OF THE 2007 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.

PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS FROM THE WAYNE COUNTY OFFICE OF BLOCK GRANT, WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, ARE THAT THE ESTIMATED 2007 FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR THE TOWNSHIP WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$106,000.00. WAYNE COUNTY REQUIRES FOR 2007 THAT OUR REQUEST FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECTS NOT EXCEED 19 % OF THE TOTAL ALLOCATION. BASED ON THAT SPECIAL REQUIREMENT THE PROJECTS ARE PROPOSED AS FOLLOWS:

| PROJECT | BREAKDOWN OF ALLOCATION BASED ON 19% PUBLIC SERVICE |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS | \$ 20,140.00 |
| Senior Services | \$ 5,495.00 |
| Council on Aging | \$3,520.00 |
| Senior Alliance | \$1,975.00 |
| Transportation | \$14,645.00 |
| Disabled Van | \$4,845.00 |
| Senior Transportation | \$9,800.00 |
| BRICKS & MORTAR PROGRAMS | \$ 75,260.00 |
| Multi-Year Friendship Station | \$75,260.00 |
| ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM | \$10,600.00 |
| Administration | \$10,600.00 |
| TOTAL ALLOCATION | \$106,000.00 |

IF WAYNE COUNTY DETERMINES AFTER ALL APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECTS THE PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

| PROJECT | PREFERRED BREAKDOWN OF ALLOCATION SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS | \$ 51,445.00 |
| Senior Services | \$14,030.00 |
| Council on Aging | \$9,030.00 |
| Senior Alliance | \$5,000.00 |
| Transportation | \$37,415.00 |
| Disabled Van | \$12,380.00 |
| Senior Transportation | \$25,035.00 |
| BRICKS & MORTAR PROGRAMS | \$ 43,955.00 |
| Multi-Year Friendship Station | \$43,955.00 |
| ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM | \$10,800.00 |
| Administration | \$10,800.00 |
| TOTAL ALLOCATION | \$106,000.00 |

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, UPON COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING, WILL DETERMINE THE USE OF THE 2007 FUNDS.

ANY WRITTEN COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED USE OF THE 2007 FUNDS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO SUSAN VIGNOE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COORDINATOR, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD, PLYMOUTH, MI, 48170 AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2006.

MARILYN MASSENGILL, CMC
CLERK, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

Publish: December 7, 2006

020842291

IGNITION

FROM PAGE B1

responded quickly as rookie forward Worth Sampson put a two-pointer into the back of the net at 3:07 and cut the Cougars lead down to 3-2.

Beasley put Detroit up 4-3 at 10:13 of the first quarter with an unassisted two-pointer. Sampson registered his second goal of the game — a two-pointer — at 11:48 to extend the Ignition lead to 6-3.

The Ignition kept its momentum going with a two-point goal from Ricardoinho at 12:56 putting Detroit up 8-3. Detroit forward Mike Apple put the Ignition up 10-3 on a two-point goal, his first of the season, at 13:49 off a pass from Jonathan Greenfield.

The Cougars came back with a two-pointer at 14:08 from Enrique Tovar cutting the Ignition lead to 10-5 at the end of the first quarter.

Cougars defenseman Antonio Sutton beat Ignition goalkeeper Danny Waltman with a two-point goal at the 4:33 of the third quarter cutting the Detroit lead to just 12-9. Midfielder Jorge Martinez edged the Cougars

to within 12-11 with a goal at the 8:49 mark.

The Cougars' offense struck again with another two-point goal from Sutton at 9:28, giving them a 13-12 advantage and their first lead of the game. The Ignition regained the advantage with a two-point power-play goal from Apple.

Selaïdopoulos buried one into the back of the net, his first two-point goal of the season, off a pass from Hewerton at 2:02 of the fourth quarter to put the Ignition up 16-13. California responded quickly with a two-point, unassisted goal from Eduardo Velez at 2:26 as the Ignition held on to their 16-15 advantage.

Beasley registered another two-point goal, his third of the night, at 3:28 off a pass from Carlos Farias to extend Detroit's lead to 18-15.

The two connected again as Beasley tallied his fourth two-point goal of the night at 5:52 to extend Detroit's lead to 20-15. Again Beasley found the net with a three-point, sixth attacker goal at 14:12 extending the Detroit lead to 23-15. Beasley rounded off the night with another two-point goal, his fifth score of the night, at 14:34 to give the Ignition the 25-15 win over the California Cougars.

SPORTS BRIEF

HVS WINTER PROGRAMS

High Velocity Sports in Canton will be offering its "Winter 2" round of sports programs beginning Jan. 2 through Feb. 28.

The registration deadline for indoor soccer, flag football and dodge ball is Dec. 15. Leagues traditionally sell out during "Winter 2", so teams are encouraged to sign up early.

The team fee for indoor soccer (under-9 through over-30) is \$925 and the free agent fee (for players who need to sign up without a team) is \$95. The fee for U5-U8 is \$550 and the free agent fee is \$65. All indoor soccer leagues include eight games and free agent fees include a free T-shirt.

The team fee for flag football is \$925. Elementary, middle, high school and adult leagues will be offered.

The team fee for dodge ball is \$400 for six games, plus an end-of-the-season tournament. Teams consist of at least 10 players. Instructional clinics for soccer, basketball and volleyball are also available. Check www.hvssports.com for information on drop-in soccer and basketball; or call (734) HV-SPORT.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

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

David Medley, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-5260

Publish: December 7, 2006

020842276

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
FY 2007 CDBG PROGRAM**

Between December 7, 2006 and January 7, 2007, the Canton CDBG Advisory Council will accept project proposals for the FY 2007 Community Development Block Grant Program. All projects must benefit low and moderate income Canton residents and must comply with HUD regulations. The FY 2007 CDBG allocation is estimated to be \$336,000.00. Project proposals may be submitted through the Community Services Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188-1699. The Advisory Council will consider all project proposals at a duly noticed public hearing to be held in March, 2007. Requests for information and the project proposal form should be directed to: Gerald Martin, Community Services Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188, (734) 394-5194.

TERRY BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: December 7 & 14, 2006

020842277

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Township of Plymouth Board of Trustee Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Web site: www.plymouthtwp.org.

Minutes and agenda's are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, for public perusal.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: October 5, 19, November 9 & December 7, 2006

020842645

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, December 21, 2006 for the following:

**PURCHASE OF GOLF CARS & SALE OF USED CLUB CAR
GOLF CARS**

Bid forms may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, from our website at www.canton-mi.org or you may contact Mike Sheppard at (734) 394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the bid title, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: December 7, 2006

020842278

**Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings-
November 28, 2006**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, November 28, 2006, at 1150 Canton Center S. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. **Roll Call** Members Present: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Members Absent: Caccamo (on Military leave) Staff Present: Director Evas, Executive Director Santomauro, Director Conklin, Director Faas **Adoption of Agenda** Motion by Yack, supported by Zarbo to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by all members present. **Approval of Minutes** Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the Board Minutes of November 14, 2006. Motion carried by all members present. **Citizens Non Agenda Item Comments:** George Kruczek, 6618 Carlton, stated at the Sunflower Subdivision Homeowners Association meeting in November, residents had some concern regarding the quarterly fixed charge on their water bills. Payment of Bills Motion by Kirchgatter, supported by Bennett to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried by all members present. **Expenditure Recap for November 28, 2006**

General Fund 101 \$ 287,320.11

Fire Fund 206 48,722.26

Police Fund 207 73,793.32

Summit Operating 208 19,320.48

Cable TV Fund 230 1,729.79

Public Improvement 245 6,600.00

Twp Improvement 246 139,354.00

E-911 Utility 261 855.60

Auto Forfeiture(wva) 267 9,813.44

Federal Grants Fund 274 2,172.00

Auto Theft Grant 289 18,014.75

Downtown Dev. Authority 294 83,200.86

Cap Proj-Road Paving 403 72,410.42

Bldg Auth Construction 469 2,250.00

Golf Fund 584 32,484.21

Water & Sewer Fund 592 43,310.47

Construction Escrows 702 165,760.12

Post Employ. Benefits 736 31,662.71

Total - All Funds 1,138,774.44

PRESENTATION: PRESENTATION OF FIRE PROMOTION BADGES. Trustee Zarbo presented Captain badge's to Thomas Davison and John Hunter and Lieutenant badge's to Robert Glenn, and Tom Krueger. **GENERAL CALENDAR:** Item 1. **CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR COMMUNITY FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION.** (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for site plan for Community Financial Credit Union. Motion carried by all members present.

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Site Plan for Community Financial Credit Union

WHEREAS, the Project Sponsor, Mr. Randy Penner, has requested site plan approval for Community Financial Credit Union to be located at the southeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Beck Road, identified as tax EDP # 128-99-0007-002; and, WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed the site plan and made a recommendation to approve the request to grant site plan approval, as summarized in the attached written analysis and recommendation. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, Michigan does hereby approve the request of the petitioner, Mr. Randy Penner, to approve the site plan for the proposed Community Financial Credit Union subject to any and all state and local development regulations and further subject to any conditions recommended by the Planning Commission and staff, as described in the analysis and recommendation attached hereto and made a part hereof. Item 2. **CONSIDER THE INTERSECTION AUDIT COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2007 INTERSECTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.** (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to accept the Intersection Audit Committee's recommendation for the 2007 Intersection Safety Improvement Program as noted below: Capital Projects Road Paving Fund, Account Number 403-506-969-0000 Construction, Saltz @ Canton Center: \$150,000, Palmer @ Haggerty: \$200,000, Joy @ Canton Center: \$100,000, Joy @ Haggerty: \$200,000, Cherry Hill @ Beck: \$140,600 (plus \$50,000 from Biltmore), Engineering & Land for 2008 Program: \$334,400

Total: \$1,125,000 Motion carried by all members present. Item 3. **CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH WAYNE COUNTY TO PROVIDE WINTER MAINTENANCE ON 17.11 MILES OF COUNTY ROADS.** (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the agreement with Wayne County to provide additional winter maintenance for 17.11 miles of local roads and authorize the

payment of \$46,021.52 from account No. 101-441-950-0000 (Wayne County Road Maintenance). Motion carried by all members present.

Item 4. **CONSIDER AUTHORIZING BODY AND PAINT REPAIRS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE PATROL UNIT #2416.** (MSD)

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize payment to Jack Demmer Ford for performing necessary body and paint repairs to Public Safety Police Patrol unit #2416 at a cost of \$5,332.64, with a possibility of added costs after tear-down. The Fleet Supervisor has generated a purchase order in the amount of \$5332.64 from the 592-000-110-1500 account and once repairs have been performed a repair order back-charging the Police Department 207-301-932-0000 account. Motion carried by all members present.

Item 5. **AWARD CONTRACT FOR SEPTIC FIELD INSTALLATION.** (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to award the contract for emergency septic field construction and septic tank replacement at a residence on North Canton Center Road to Al Pearson & Son Septic Tank Cleaning Co., Inc. in the amount of \$22,970 plus a 10 percent contingency of \$2,297 for a purchase order total of \$25,267 (CDBG Program). Motion carried by all members present.

Item 6. **INCREASE TWO HOUSING REHABILITATION PURCHASE ORDERS.** (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to increase P.O. #60540 for Winter Drive Rehab-by, \$359.00 and increase P.O. #62053 for Canton Center Rehab by \$2,755.00 equaling \$3,114.00 (CDBG Affordable Housing Contingency, Account #274-666-972-2006). Motion carried by all members present.

Item 7. **CONSIDER A FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRELIMINARY BREATH TESTS AND HARDWARE/SOFTWARE ASSOCIATED WITH TRACKING THOSE FEES.** (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to establish the following fee schedule to charge walk-in customers at the police department front desk for the service of administering preliminary breath tests: • Canton residents: \$10 per test (a visit to the department is considered a test) • Non-residents: \$20 per test • Collection of fees to begin January 1, 2007. Further, I move to extend the capital purchasing deadline and approve hardware/software purchases associated with tracking these fees from Online Solutions, Inc, 2762 Woodmont West, Canton, MI 48188 in the amount of \$2065—FY2066 Police Account # 207 301 977 2580. Motion carried by all members present.

Item 8. **EXTENSION OF GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTANT SERVICE CONTRACT.** (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter that the Canton Township Board of Trustees extend the contract of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. for issue lobbying for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2007 and continuing thereafter on a month-to-month basis until written notice of termination has been served with 90 days prior notice by either party. Motion carried by all members present.

Item 9. **GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT - CLERK'S OFFICE AND ELECTIONS DIVISION.** (CLERK) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the following budget in the General Fund to increase the Elections Division budget: Decrease Expenditures:

Appropriation from Maintenance and Repair #101-215-932-0000 \$ 2,015

Appropriation from Postage-Elections Dept. #101-191-729-0000 \$10,000

Total #101-215-718-0000 \$12,015

Increase Appropriations: Overtime-Elections #101-191-708-0000 \$10,000

Overtime-Clerk's Office 101-215-718-0000 1,400

Office Supplies-Clerk's Office 101-215-727-0000 \$15

Total \$12,015

This budget amendment does not affect the Elections Division budget - \$257,100 or the Clerk's Office Budget - \$485,308. Motion carried by all members present. OTHER: Supervisor Yack stated the next regular Board Study Session will be December 5, 2006 at 7:00, with the topics of Sewer Project - Rouge River Flood Plain and the Path System, held at the Administration Building, First Floor, Board Room, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, MI 48188. Supervisor Yack stated the Board participated in the Fire Prevention Poster Contest Awards at 6:30 p.m. this evening. Private and Public schools participated and Trustee LaJoy was the judge. Supervisor Yack stated at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 29, 2006 there will be a Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Summit. **ADJOURN:** Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Motion carried by all members present. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk -

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Board Approval.

Publish: December 7, 2006

020842281



Local wrestlers anticipate victory-filled campaigns

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Corey Phillips tips the scales at 140 pounds, but his worth to the Canton wrestling team is immeasurable.

As the three-time state-qualifying grappler prepares to embark on his fourth and final high school season, he does so with an incredible 158 victories already under his belt.

Considering the Chiefs have lost half of last year's "Elite Eight" squad to graduation, Phillips will be counted on more than ever this year for victories and leadership, according to fifth-year head coach Casey Randolph.

"Corey leads by example," said Randolph. "The other guys have to work hard in practice to match his work ethic. He always wrestles at a high level, but what makes him as good as he is that he's always focused on what he's trying to do. And while he's accomplished a lot so far in his high school career, there are still things that he hasn't accomplished that he wants to get done this year."

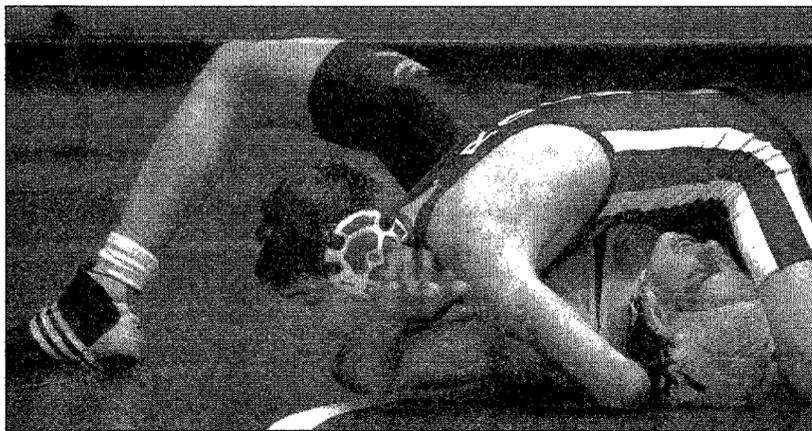
The biggest holes in the Chiefs' line-up were left at 145 and 160 pounds — the slots held down last year by Konrad Konsitzke and Marwan Faraj, both of whom have moved on to compete at the college level.

"We're awfully young and inexperienced this year," said Randolph. "We should get better as the season goes on, but only time will tell. If I had to predict who will be tough in the Western Lakes this year, I'd have to say Livonia Franklin is the favorite with John Glenn right behind them."

Serving as captains for the Chiefs this season will be seniors Kiel Price (160) and Donnie Laramie (heavyweight); and junior Adam Powers (189).

"The kids look up to Donnie because of the success he's had in wrestling (two-time state qualifier) and football (All-State defensive lineman)," said Randolph. "He's much more focused and mature than he was last year, so this should be a big year for him."

"Kiel is in better shape than he's ever been in," said Randolph. "Last year he wrestled up at 171 because we had Marwan at 160,



Salem's Alex Kemp (top) will give the Rocks a strong presence in the lower weight classes this season.

so he's where he should be now. He had a great football season and it looks like that's going to carry over to wrestling.

"Adam just has a great presence. He's a natural leader. It says a lot that the kids voted him captain even though this is his first varsity season."

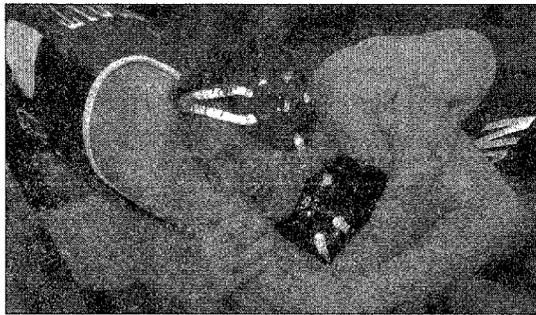
Other returning key contributors from last year's 28-4 squad include sophomore Carl Lucke (112), senior Adam Fleischmann (119), junior Steve Cox (125) and senior Joe Sanders (152).

Top newcomers who are expected to rack up their share of pins for the Chiefs include Connor Johnson (103), Donnie Watkins (103), Mitch Walski (112), Jeremy Filippelli (119), Phil Rollinger (125), Josh Hurst (130), Fawzi Zeidan (130), Brent Winekoff (135), Andy Rothwell (135), Rodger Kropp (145), Pat Durocher (145), Brian Brubaker (160), Nick McDiarmid (171), Jon Webster (189) and Dan Wanshon (215).

SALEM

The Rocks will be looking to overcome the loss of eight starters to graduation, including 189-pound state champion Jeremy Henderson. It won't be easy, but veteran coach Greg Woochuk is looking forward to the challenge.

"We have a good group of freshmen in who are wrestling for the first time," said Woochuk.



Canton's Corey Phillips is pictured during a Regional match last season. The three-time state qualifier has accumulated 158 wins heading into his senior season.

"We'll give them a couple of years and if they work hard, they'll be going to states before they graduate."

Salem will debut its 2006-07 contingent Saturday when it hosts a 10-team invitational that will kick off at 9 a.m. The finals are slated to start at approximately 7 p.m.

"It's an individual round-robin tournament, so the kids will get in a lot of matches," said Woochuk. "We always get some good teams in for this one, including Belleville and Adrian."

Among the top returners this season will be captains Nick Steiger, a 125-pound senior and Jeremy Epley, a 152-pound junior.



Plymouth's Ben Kosmalski (top) has already racked up a 6-1 record for the Wildcats during the opening week of the 2006-07 wrestling season.

and 160) and Sam Lepper (189). Playing key roles in developing the up-and-coming Rocks will be assistant coaches Tony Kennard, Jason Krueger and Pete Israel.

PLYMOUTH

The Wildcats have gotten off to a fast — and early — start under the guidance of first-year coach Jay Helm, who has led his team to a 4-3 dual-meet record. The Wildcats defeated Milford Lakeland, 39-37, and Fenton, 51-20, at a quad meet last week before placing fourth in the eight-team L'Anse Creuse Dual Tournament this past weekend.

Leading the way for the Wildcats have been senior Ben Kosmalski, who has racked up a 6-1 record at 119 pounds, Vince Darolfi, who has gone 5-0 with four falls at 189 and Dean Hubbard, who is 3-0 as a heavyweight. Junior Chris Favot is also off to a red-hot start after winning six of his first seven matches.

"We had a number of would-be seniors who opted not to get on board this year because of the coaching change or for whatever other reasons," said Helm. "But we have over 30 kids who are here every day, working hard and doing what is asked of them."

"Leading the way so far has been Ben. He has a team-high 34 takedowns already and he's been a great leader for us. He only has one loss and that was to a kid from New Boston Huron who finished fifth in the state last year."

"Vince has been a great leader for us, too, so far. This past weekend he had a badly sprained ankle and we told him it was up

to him whether he wanted to wrestle or not. In fact, we kind of hinted to him that he may want to sit out the tournament. But he decided to wrestle and he got three pins in three matches. He's a very tough kid who leads by example."

"Dean is a fine young man who offers good senior leadership. We're counting on him to be our guy at heavyweight the entire year."

Helm said he will rotate his captains on a week-to-week basis, depending upon who is setting the best example in practice and in matches.

"Since this is our first year, the coaches decided to leave the captains positions open so that everyone would have the opportunity to be a leader throughout the course of the season," said Helm. "Last week it was Ben and Vince."

Other Wildcats who are expected to make key contributions this season include Soham Parikh (103), Anthony Favot (103 and 112), Zach Neville (112), Vince Rizzo (145), Eddie Saras (171) and Anthony Pomerson (215). Rizzo has already accumulated five victories in the early going. First-year grapplers who will be counted on for points include Brandon Crowther, Rob Barackman, Justin Wagoner and Dylan Spicher.

"One of the reasons we've had so much success early on has been our assistant coach, Ben Hitchcock," said Helm. "He's very energetic and he's a great communicator."

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Lions, at 2-10, need to stop the Minn

There really is no reason why the Lions haven't beaten the Minnesota Vikings since 2001. It's not like the Vikes have been one of the NFL's elite teams in that time. As bad as the Lions have played for the last six years, no squad has dominated them like the good party ship Minnesota.

Nine straight times the Vikings have gone away victorious against Detroit. Since Scott Mitchell found Herman Moore in the end zone with just two seconds to play at the Metrodome back in 1997, the Lions' record against the purple people eaters is a robust 2-15. Two wins over their NFC North rivals in the last 17 meetings. How many times has Minnesota gone to the Super Bowl in that span? Zero.

Daunte Culpepper never lost to the Lions. Sure, he was an All-Pro quarterback, but that kind of domination is usually saved for the Montanas or



Mark Wilson

Elways of the football world. Mike Tice got fired in Minnesota after last season. Like Culpepper, he was on the winning end of football games vs. Detroit every time he played it. Mystifying.

"We just seem to have their number," Vikings cornerback Fred Smoot said when asked this past October why his team has owned the Lions over the last decade. "It's just one of those things."

The Vikings beat the Lions Oct. 8 in one of the strangest contests of the year. It was 17-3 Lions in the fourth quarter in Minneapolis when the Vikes ripped off 23 unanswered points, fueled by two huge Jon Kitna turnovers. Ben Leber returned a Kitna fumble 1 yard for a score and, later, E.J.

Henderson took one out of midair for a 45-yard interception return. Minnesota, 26-17. Baffling. "We're a beat up team, but nobody gives a darn. We have to find a way to win," Kitna said dazed and confused after the Lions lost that one to fall to 0-5 at the time.

Minnesota is coming into Ford Field this Sunday with a chance to do it again. The Vikings are fresh off an awful effort against the Bears in Chicago. Brad Johnson was intercepted four times in the loss. The Vikes are just 2-5 since that comeback win in October.

The Lions are 2-10. Their sixth consecutive 10-loss season ranks second all-time in the history of NFL futility. The gold standard was set by Tampa Bay from 1983-94, when they ripped off 12 straight 10-loss seasons. The Lions are now halfway there. They only play 16 games. To lose 10 or more in a

season six straight times in a league that prides itself on parity is beyond amazing. It's downright mind-blowing.

"I feel like every guy in this locker room played winning football and the quarterback let them down today," Kitna said after New England's come-from-behind victory last Sunday in Foxboro.

"The only thing left we have to learn is to be on top of the details in crunch time," Lions coach Rod Marinelli said. "We weren't able to do that."

To the casual observer, what Patriots QB Tom Brady did to the Lions in the fourth quarter was a thing of beauty. Completing 14-of-15 passes down the stretch was vintage Brady. He showed the Lions what it's like to have a Super Bowl-winning leader do his thing when it counted most.

"Winning time," is what former Los Angeles Lakers and Michigan State basketball star Magic

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Minnesota Vikings' ridiculous win streak

Johnson used to call it. The Lions haven't mastered "winning time" in ages. Their record now in the Matt Millen era is 23-69. Ninety-two games available to win and Detroit has been on the positive side just 23 times. Unbearable.

"Embarrassing and frustrating." Those two words came from a guy on the winning side last Sunday. That was Patriots fullback Heath Evans. New England was embarrassed and frustrated to even be "trailing" the Lions at Gillette Stadium. "A win is a win," Evans added.

Let's face it, New England acted as if the Lions were nothing more than a nuisance. Despite losing three times at home this season, Bill Belichick's team firmly believes it has no business allowing a team like Detroit to even lead in a game. New England is all about "winning time." When it was all said and done, the Pats got their

win and the Lions went home with another 'L.' Forget this moral victory thing. That's long over. It was cute in 2001 when Marty Mornhinweg would talk about "close losses" as the Lions were rolling to 2-14. The harsh reality is most NFL games are decided by a touchdown or less. Funny how coaches never seem to bring up the "close wins."

"Look, we're 2-10. It's a good 2-10," Roy Williams said to reporters, "but we always figure out a way to lose."

Breaking news to Roy Williams: there is no good 2-10. Never, ever is 2-10 looking good no matter how a team has played. That is not "winning time."

"They went out and played tough, but that's what we're supposed to do," Marinelli said. "That's what we signed up for."

So this Sunday, it's another chance to beat the Vikings. Stop what has become an awful losing streak against a division rival. Cliché time. The Lions really are only playing for pride now. Mike Martz is pulling out all the stops as the season winds down. Backup quarterback Josh McCown made two catches at wide receiver last Sunday. That's one more than high-priced Mike Williams has made all season. McCown would have had a third against the Pats, but one was nullified by his own offensive pass interference penalty.

"It was an opportunity to play and I tried to make the most of it," McCown said, adding, "We just have to keep chopping wood and getting better."

Chop all the wood you like, watching McCown catch balls was not in the Lions' original game plan. It's doubtful the former Arizona Cardinals

starting quarterback is embarking on a Hall of Fame receiving career.

There are two streaks the Lions need to work on the next two weeks. Beating Minnesota for the first time since '01 is up first and then going to Green Bay and winning is second. Detroit hasn't won at Lambeau Field since 1991. The Lions have never beaten Brett Favre in Wisconsin.

If the Lions can do those two things, they will finally get a taste of "winning time." Problem is, they haven't won two in a row since the first two of 2004. Make that three streaks that have to come to an end. No one said "winning time" would be easy.

Mark Wilson is host of the Lions pre- and postgame shows on WKRK-FM (97.1). He's a former Associated Press and Michigan Association of Broadcasters Michigan Sportscaster of the Year. He lives in West Bloomfield.

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\$20 OFF

Any Plumbing or Sewer Job Over \$200

Limit 1 coupon per customer. Good thru 1/18/07 with ad.





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Over 50 Years Combined Experience

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TWO MOVIE PASSES

2ND Place

\$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE

To be used at one of the participating breweries. (Not interchangeable)

Tennison CHEVROLET

LEASE PULL-AHEAD CONTINUES See Dealer for Details

0% APR FINANCING IS BACK!

Don't Miss Out!

'06 & '07 TRAILBLAZER 72 MONTHS FINANCING

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Livonia • 734-425-6500
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SUPER SAVINGS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

2007 F150 4x4 Styleside Supercab

5.4L V8 engine, prem cloth, preferred equip, deluxe mirror and trailer tow pkgs.
WAS \$32,980 NOW \$23,002

A-PLAN 24 MONTH ZERO-DOWN LEASE

\$0 DOWN \$246^{77*} /MO.

\$485 due at signing

2007 Mustang V6 Coupe Premium

Shaker 500 Audio System, driver & pass air bags, power 6-way driver's seat, manual A/C.
WAS \$23,825 NOW \$20,246

A-PLAN 24 MONTH ZERO-DOWN LEASE

\$0 DOWN \$315^{22*} /MO.

\$398 due at signing

*24 month lease, 10,500 miles per year. Plus tax, title, license fees. All rebates to dealer. Includes lease renewal. Lessee responsible for excess wear & tear. Expires 1-2-7.

Monday & Thursday 9-9
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NEW VEHICLES 1-734-524-1264
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NORTH BROS
33300 FORD RD. WESTLAND
www.northbros.com
www.service-appts.com

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- Dandelion, to marry
 - Foul-smelling
 - Build, slangily
 - Uncommon
 - Not fully enclosed
 - 1, to Claudius
 - Mongol dwelling
 - Locale
 - Before
 - Midnight teller
 - Serpent
 - Dodge
 - Zippered along
 - Hayseed humor
 - Thurman of the movies
 - Comet rival
 - Hard water?
 - Radiator part
 - Hot time in Quebec
 - Mr. Amaz
 - Homer-hitter

Answer to Previous Puzzle

NOON KALE ERS
 OBIE EWES EEO
 SOLE NETS SURFS
 HEYDAYS AK
 IRA BYEBYE
 RIPEN CBS LAO
 USER BOB MOWN
 FLA EEL FOWLS
 FAKING JON
 AD AERIALS
 EVENODDS KLEE
 BOA WRIT EASE
 BLT SETS RISK

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| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 18 | 19 | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | 44 | 45 | | | | | | | | |
| 47 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 56 | | | | | | | | | | |

SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | 2 | 5 | | | | | |
| 1 | 9 | | 7 | 4 | | | | |
| | 7 | | 1 | 8 | | | | 2 |
| | 8 | 7 | 2 | 9 | | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| 1 | | 3 | | 5 | | 2 | 4 | |
| | | 4 | | 8 | | | 7 | |
| 7 | | 8 | | | | | | 5 |
| | | | | | | 9 | | |
| | 5 | | 8 | 3 | 1 | | | 7 |

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| CHEETAH | GIRAFFE | RHINO |
| CROCODILE | HIPPO | SAFARI |
| ELEPHANT | LEOPARD | TIGER |
| GAZELLE | LION | ZEBRA |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SUDOKU

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SEEK AND FIND

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

Real Estate

3000's Real Estate

- 3000.....Homes
 3030.....Open Houses
 3040.....Ann Arbor
 3043.....Auburn Hills
 3045.....Bellefonte & Van Buren
 3047.....Berkeley
 3049.....Dover Hills
 3050.....Birmingham
 3055.....Bloomfield
 3060.....Brighton
 3070.....Byron
 3080.....Canton
 3085.....Clarkston
 3095.....Clemson
 3100.....Cohasset
 3110.....Dearborn
 3115.....Dearborn Hgts
 3120.....Detroit
 3130.....Chelsea
 3135.....Dexter
 3140.....Farmington Hills
 3145.....Farmington Hills
 3150.....Fenton
 3155.....Ferndale
 3160.....Farmington Hills
 3165.....Franklin
 3170.....Garden City
 3180.....Grosse Pointe
 3185.....Hamtramck
 3190.....Harland
 3205.....Hazel Park & Madison Hgts
 3210.....Highland
 3215.....Holy
 3220.....Howell
 3234.....Huntington Woods
 3235.....Keego Harbor
 3226.....Lake Orion
 3228.....Lathrup Village
 3240.....Livonia
 3250.....Livonia
 3260.....Livonia
 3265.....Livonia
 3270.....Livonia
 3280.....Livonia
 3290.....Livonia
 3300.....Livonia
 3305.....Livonia
 3310.....Livonia
 3315.....Livonia
 3320.....Livonia
 3325.....Livonia
 3330.....Livonia
 3335.....Livonia
 3340.....Livonia
 3345.....Livonia
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 3355.....Livonia
 3360.....Livonia
 3365.....Livonia
 3370.....Livonia
 3375.....Livonia
 3380.....Livonia
 3385.....Livonia
 3390.....Livonia
 3395.....Livonia
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 3655.....Livonia
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 3675.....Livonia
 3680.....Livonia
 3685.....Livonia
 3690.....Livonia
 3695.....Livonia
 3700.....Livonia
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 3800.....Livonia
 3805.....Livonia
 3810.....Livonia
 3815.....Livonia
 3820.....Livonia
 3825.....Livonia
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 3855.....Livonia
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 3980.....Livonia
 3985.....Livonia
 3990.....Livonia
 3995.....Livonia
 4000.....Livonia

Open Houses 3030

SOUTHFIELD
 OPEN SUN 1-4 PM
 25039 Woodvale
 W/Telegraph, N/12 mile, N. off
 Duffy Right on Woodvale, 2
 bdrm, 2 bath, garage, hard-
 wood floors, super yard, pond
 & deck. \$148,900. Ask for
 Ed Wertz
 Remerica United
 248-344-1800



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TROY
 Ready to move in for the
 holidays! 2834 Roundtree
 Sun. 1-4pm. 3 bdrm ranch.
 All appliances. Free vacation
 or association fee paid for 1
 yr. Call now 248-321-9795

Bloomfield 3065

BLOOMFIELD HILLS
 364 Woodedge
 OPEN SUN. 1-4
 2500 Sq. ft. 4 bdrm., 2.5
 bath, Living Room, Family
 Room, Hardwood floors, new
 windows. St. Hugo area.
 SANDY NORMAN
 Century 21 T & C
 294 E. Brown
 248-770-1353

Canton 3080

CANTON RENT TO OWN
 Large 6 bdrm., 3 bath on 5
 acres, rent to own, \$1500.
 734-658-8823

Commerce 3105

By Owner
 2 or 3 bdrm, 1 bath. Living
 room, dining room, porch.
 Fireplace, bsmt, 2 car garage.
 Great view! Sewer & water
 hook-up available. Close to M-
 5. As-is, \$595,000. (248)
 363-3187

Union Lake-Front 3145

**MAKE A DEAL ON THIS
 HOUSE EXTRAORDINAIRE!**
 Ranch with fully finished
 walkout on 3 acres. 4 bed
 rooms, 4 full baths, indoor
 swimming pool & spa! 5 car
 garage! Asking \$535,500.
 MLS #26196117.
 Century 21 Today, Inc.
 (248) 855-2000

Southfield 3145

By Owner
**AN HONEST
 STEAL!**
 5 Mile & Farmington
 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car
 attached garage. 2500
 sq. ft. tri-level. \$1500
 mo; or buy \$149,900.
 (248) 388-2444

Livonia 3250

By Owner
WATERFORD AUCTION
 Breathtaking lake house. At a
 steal. Seller to pay all costs,
 0% down financing. Private
 showings by appointment
 only. Visit our website to view
 property and other details.
 www.2730dixie.com

Wayne 3424

GREAT BRICK
 Front Ranch on quiet street.
 Updated Bathroom. Hardwood
 floors. Eat-in kitchen. New fur-
 nace. New roof. Newer win-
 dows & patio door in Dining
 room. Florida room. Fenced
 yard with new vinyl shed.
 Home warranty. \$89,900
 Century 21 Hartford North
 (734) 525-9600

Westland 3445

FINISHED BASEMENT
 3 Bdrm., 2 bath brick ranch,
 garage, updated kitchen, din-
 ing room, \$139,900.
UPDATES GALORE!
 Family Room, fireplace, 2.5
 baths, beautiful kitchen part
 finished bsmt., attached 2 car
 garage. \$184,900
 Century 21 Castelli
 734-525-7900

Livonia 3520

GREEN OAK TWP
 Open House Sun 1-4pm
 9901 Calla Drive
 1/2 mi. E. of Rushton Rd. N/
 off 10 mi. Reduced pricing,
 seller is motivated, will help
 with closing cost. Pre quali-
 fied for the house and receive
 a \$25 gift certificate. 4 bdrms,
 2.5 baths. Call for private
 showing.
 Reggie Carveth
 810-533-2570
 Michigan Group
 6870 W. Grand River

Livingston County 3520

GREEN OAK TWP
 Open House Sun 1-4pm
 9901 Calla Drive
 1/2 mi. E. of Rushton Rd. N/
 off 10 mi. Reduced pricing,
 seller is motivated, will help
 with closing cost. Pre quali-
 fied for the house and receive
 a \$25 gift certificate. 4 bdrms,
 2.5 baths. Call for private
 showing.
 Reggie Carveth
 810-533-2570
 Michigan Group
 6870 W. Grand River

Westland 3545

Bank FORECLOSURES!
 Homes from \$10,000! 1-3
 bdrm available! Repos, REOs,
 FDIC, FSBO, FHA, etc. These
 homes must sell! For listings
 call 1-800-425-1620 ext 3421.

Westland 3545

Bank FORECLOSURES!
 Homes from \$10,000! 1-3
 bdrm available! Repos, REOs,
 FDIC, FSBO, FHA, etc. These
 homes must sell! For listings
 call 1-800-425-1620 ext 3421.

Westland 3545

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 Homes from \$10,000! 1-3
 bdrm available! Repos, REOs,
 FDIC, FSBO, FHA, etc. These
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 bdrm available! Repos, REOs,
 FDIC, FSBO, FHA, etc. These
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Westland 3545

Bank FORECLOSURES!
 Homes from \$10,000! 1-3
 bdrm available! Repos, REOs,
 FDIC, FSBO, FHA, etc. These
 homes must sell! For listings
 call 1-800-425-1620 ext 3421.

Commercial / Industrial 3900 through 3980

- 3900.....Business Opportunities
 3910.....Business/Professional
 Building
 3920.....Commercial/Retail
 For Lease
 3930.....Income Property For Sale
 3935.....Industrial & Warehouse
 For Lease
 3940.....Industrial & Warehouse
 For Lease
 3945.....Industrial & Warehouse
 For Lease
 3950.....Industrial & Warehouse
 For Lease
 3955.....Industrial & Warehouse
 For Lease
 3960.....Industrial & Warehouse
 For Lease
 3965.....Industrial & Warehouse
 For Lease
 3970.....Industrial & Warehouse
 For Lease
 3975.....Industrial & Warehouse
 For Lease
 3980.....Industrial & Warehouse
 For Lease

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3000-3890 Real Estate

Open Houses 3030

FARMINGTON HILLS CONDO
 OPEN SUNDAY 1-3PM
 27709 Echo Valley, \$109,900
 1540 sq. ft., 2 bdrm, 2 bath,
 Great location & great price!
 Highly Motivated Seller!
 Dennis O'Hare, 734-395-3683
 Keller Williams Realty
 301 W. Michigan Ave.

Open Houses 3030

BLOOMFIELD HILLS
 364 Woodedge
 OPEN SUN. 1-4
 2500 Sq. ft. 4 bdrm., 2.5
 bath, Living Room,
 Family Room, Hardwood
 floors, new windows.
 St. Hugo area.
 SANDY NORMAN
 Century 21 T & C
 294 E. Brown
 248-770-1353

Green Oak Twp 3030

GREEN OAK TWP
 Open House Sun 1-4pm
 9901 Calla Drive
 1/2 mi. E. of Rushton Rd. N/
 off 10 mi. Reduced pricing,
 seller is motivated, will help
 with closing cost. Pre quali-
 fied for the house and receive
 a \$25 gift certificate. 4 bdrms,
 2.5 baths. Call for private
 showing.
 Reggie Carveth
 810-533-2570
 Michigan Group
 6870 W. Grand River

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On The Pond Condominiums

Updated kitchen with granite counter top, ceramic floor,
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 All new appliances including washer
 dryer. Great pond view. \$93,400
 for 1 bedroom.
 Call Muhammad Saleem
 at 248-719-0559

RE/MAX 100
 248-348-3000

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 FAX..... 734-953-2232
 ONLINE..... hometownlife.com
 EMAIL..... oeads@hometownlife.com

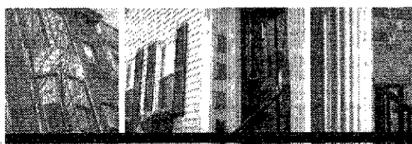
Deadlines:
 Sunday edition 5 p.m. Friday
 Thursday (Clarkston, Lake Orion, Oxford).....5:30 p.m. Tuesday
 Thursday (All other papers).....2:30 p.m. Wednesday

Offices and Hours:
 Eccentric office.....805 E. Maple, Birmingham
 Observer office.....36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia
 Hours8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

Open Houses 3030

SOUTHFIELD
 OPEN SUN 1-4 PM
 25039 Woodvale
 W/Telegraph, N/12 mile, N. off
 Duffy Right on Woodvale, 2
 bdrm, 2 bath, garage, hard-
 wood floors, super yard, pond
 & deck. \$148,900. Ask for
 Ed Wertz
 Remerica United
 248-344-1800





Apartments

Observer & Eccentric
HOMETOWNlife.com

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4000.....Apartments/Unfurnished
4010.....Apartments/Furnished
4020.....Condos/Townhouses
4030.....Duplexes
4040.....Flats
4050.....Homes For Rent
4060.....Lakefront/Waterfront
4070.....Mobile Home Rentals
4080.....Mobile Home Sites
4090.....Southern Rentals
4100.....Time Share Rentals
4110.....Vacation Resort/Rentals
4120.....Living Quarters To Share
4140.....Rooms For Rent
4200.....Halls/Buildings
4210.....Residence To Exchange

4220.....Office/Retail Space
4230.....Commercial/Industrial
4240.....Land For Rent
4300.....Garage/Mini Storage
4400.....Wanted To Rent
4410.....Wanted To Rent
4420.....Resort Property
4500.....Furniture Rental
4560.....Rental Agency
4570.....Property Management
4590.....Lease/Option To Buy
4590.....House Sitting Service
4600.....Convalescent Care
4610.....Foster Care
4620.....Home Health Care
4630.....Homes For The Aged
4640.....Misc. To Rent

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4000
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FARMINGTON HILLS
1 BDRM 1 MONTH FREE!
Spacious 1 & 2 bdrm. Laundry in unit. Water & carport incl. \$575-\$700. (588) 254-9511

FARMINGTON HILLS
1 MONTH FREE OR AS LOW AS \$545
1 & 2 Bdrms. Fully furnished. Includes water, electric, gas, and carport. Close to I-96/Grand River (MS) Minutes to St. Marys and Bolshoi Hospitals. Short Term Leases.

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Orchard Lake Road

4000
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NOVI-MAIN STREET AREA.
1 & 2 Bdrm Apts. Washer/Dryer, Private Entrance & Balcony. 248-348-0626 EHO

NOVI
Meadowbrook N. Of 10 Mile
FREE RENT TILL 2007
Hurry...includes our beautifully remodeled apartments with new kitchens, custom paint and moldings, and in unit washer/dryers! Limited availability...come see why! EHO
FREE TOP MEADOWS (248) 348-9590

PLYMOUTH 1 bdrm. available. Near downtown. \$590/mo. incl. heat, + security. 734-455-2635

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PLYMOUTH A Downtown Plymouth apartment above dental office, with separate entrance, is available immediately. \$550/mo. includes all utilities and air cond. Call 734-459-2400

PLYMOUTH BROUGHMAN MANOR
1 Bdrm, \$570, 2 Bdrm., \$660 (734) 455-1215

PLYMOUTH - Clean, large 1 bdrm \$550 up, 2 bdrm \$675 & up. Incl heat/water. Laundry on-site. 248-446-2021

PLYMOUTH Cute, 1 bdrm w/deck, walking distance to downtown, avail. Plenty of storage, \$590/mo, utilities/\$40. 248-767-0089.

Plymouth
Happy New Year!
Rent Starting At \$589
*Selected Units Only
FREE HEAT
Newly Upgraded
1 & 2 Bedrooms
Plymouth Manor
Plymouth House
Close to downtown Plymouth!
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4000
Apartments/Unfurnished

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Recently remodeled 2 bdrm, hardwood floors, C/A, laundry, parking, \$845/mo. 248-535-4043
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SOUTH LYON WOW!!
\$470/MO.
\$0 SEC DEP.
(on approved credit)
Call today before they are gone!
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Affordable! Great Location!
What more could you ask for? Enjoy the comfort and convenience you deserve in our spacious one bedroom homes. Just one minute from I-696, I-96, M-10 (The Lodge) and Southfield Freeway, you will enjoy all the wonderful things that Metro Detroit has to offer. Come visit your new home today! Features:
● Fully equipped kitchens
● On Site Laundry
● Close to shopping, dining
● Carport included
● 24 hour emergency maintenance.
One Bedrooms, \$595
Directions: From I-696, exit Greenfield North to 11 Mile Rd. Go west on 11 Mile and we are one half mile down on the left. By apt. only. 248-557-1582. 586-754-7816
Professionally managed by First Holding Corporation

4000
Apartments/Unfurnished

WESTLAND A \$0 MOVE-IN!
Warren & Middlebelt. Large 1 bdrm. Free heat & water. \$585/mo. 734-459-1160

Westland - Awesome Location!
1ST MONTH FREE \$99 Deposit!
1 Bdrm
*some restrictions apply
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WESTLAND BEAUTIFUL
Brand new large 1 bdrm. Ceramic tile, \$400/mo. 32457 Lenawee. (734) 658-8823

WESTLAND
Blue Garden Apartments
AMAZING! MOVE-IN SPECIALS
\$520* - \$549*
Security Deposit \$200

● HEAT/WATER INCLUDED
● POOL
● CLUBHOUSE
● CABLE READY
● Pet Welcome
● Model

Spacious 1 and 2 bdrm. apartments with Balcony.
Cherry Hill near Merriman
Call for Details*
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4000
Apartments/Unfurnished

Westland
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RENT STARTING AT \$449/MO

ORCHARDS OF NEWBURGH
• 1 & 2 Bedroom plans
• Playground Area
• Pool & Clubhouse
• Carport Included

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WESTLAND FOREST LANE APTS.
6200 Wayne Rd
Studio's 1 & 2 bdrms.
\$50 off monthly for the first yr.
Heat & Water Included.
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Cute house, nice area, great starter. 248-921-2432.</p> <p>DEARBORN - WEST 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath ranch, garage, avail now, 23175 Park. \$995/mo. 810-227-1544</p> <p>DETROIT Warren/Evergreen area. 2 bdrm, brick side by side duplex, bsmt, new carpet, move-in-condition. \$675 + security. 313-909-1555</p> <p>FARMINGTON 2 Bdrm., hardwood floors. Laundry hook-ups. \$675. Ref. & deposit req. Option to buy. 248-348-0066</p> | <p>HOMES FOR RENT 4050</p> <p>FARMINGTON HILLS Ranch, 3 bdrm, 3 bath, living, dining & family rooms, bsmt, attached garage. Open Sun 1-4pm. 29529 Gilcrest \$1600/mo. 248-420-7595</p> <p>FERNDALE Newer 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, big kitchen, c/a, all appliances, fenced yard. \$995/mo. 248-340-9755</p> <p>GARDEN CITY Sharp 3 bdrm brick ranch. Finished bsmt, immediate occupancy, option to buy. \$800, 248-788-1823</p> <p>GARDEN CITY Sharp 3 bdrm, full bsmt, garage, fireplace. Avail. now. \$950/mo 1 1/2 mo. sec. Sec 8 ok. 734-397-8074</p> <p>HUNTINGTON WOODS 3 bdrm Tudor, \$2500/mo. ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620</p> <p>INKSTER 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, brick ranch, full bsmt., New kitchen/windows. \$725/mo. Sect. 8 OK. 734-981-0838</p> <p>INKSTER - Remodeled 3 bdrm ranch, bsmt, 2 car garage, immediate occupancy, option to buy. \$600, 248-788-1823</p> <p>LIVONIA 3 bdrm, brick ranch, 2.5 car garage, fenced yard, finished bsmt, appliances in large kitchen. \$1150 mo. 810-229-7968</p> <p>LIVONIA - 3 bdrm, brick ranch, 2.5 car garage, just remodeled, appliances, c/a. Pets nego. \$1150/mo. 734-776-2222</p> <p>LIVONIA 3 Bdrm. home on corner lot w/great room & wet bar. Could be 0 down, rent to own. 734-521-0235.</p> <p>LIVONIA - 3 bdrm ranch, 1000 sq. ft., 2 full bath, finished bsmt, 2 car garage. \$1150/mo. 248-752-1777</p> <p>LIVONIA, 3 bdrm, ranch, carpet, appliances, C/A, bsmt., 2 car garage, fenced. \$950/mo + security. 248-685-8138</p> | <p>HOMES FOR RENT 4050</p> <p>LIVONIA - 3 bedroom, 2 car, c/a, finished basement, stove, refrigerator, Pets. Negotiable. \$950/mo. 734-717-3452, 734-717-7643</p> <p>LIVONIA - 7 Mile/Gill. 3 bedroom brick ranch, 2 bath, 1900 sq. ft., finished basement, appliances, 2 car. \$1800/MO.</p> <p>MELVINDALE 2 Bdrm, brick ranch, garage, \$600; 2 bdrm, ranch, \$450. Option on both. 248-788-1823</p> <p>OAK PARK 3 bdrm, garage. \$650/mo. + security. 248-977-9218</p> <p>OAK PARK Newly decorated 2 bdrm duplex. (248) 669-0082</p> <p>PLYMOUTH - 3 bdrm, 2 bath, finished bsmt, appliances, 2 car garage, fenced yard, \$1200/mo. 734-717-5091</p> <p>PLYMOUTH 3 bdrm brick ranch. Fenced yd., attached garage. \$1095/mo. 734-838-9613</p> <p>PLYMOUTH-BAD CREDIT OKAY Lease w/option to buy. 3 Bdrm. 1 bath, garage, fenced, updated. \$1200/mo. 734-812-0565</p> <p>PLYMOUTH Best Value Spacious 2 bedroom w/basement. 261 W. Spring, \$700 734-674-3193</p> <p>PLYMOUTH Close to downtown & Hines Park. Beautiful 2 bdrm. duplex. Bsmt., appliances, beautiful deck. Nice area. \$850 mo. 734-668-2347</p> <p>PLYMOUTH - Country ranch, 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath. With out-buildings, \$1350; house only, \$1150. 734-516-1000</p> | <p>HOMES FOR RENT 4050</p> <p>PLYMOUTH - Downtown 3 bdrm, appliances, enclosed porch, small pets. \$1000/mo. + utilities. 734-453-8375</p> <p>Plymouth Duplex, Near Hines Park. Updated 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt, large yard, no pets. \$750. Agent, 734-718-8779</p> <p>PLYMOUTH - Rent while you buy this 3 bdrm brick ranch with full bsmt, C/A. \$1200/mo. Agent: 734-718-3495</p> <p>REFORD 3 bdrm, double lot w/garage & bsmt. Could be 0 down or rent to own. 734-521-0235</p> <p>REFORD - BEECH & 5 MILE 2 bdrm, overlooks park. Immed. occup. \$550/mo. + deposit. 313-468-4792</p> <p>REFORD - BRICK RANCH Clean 3 bedroom, 2 bath, finished basement, \$950/month. 248-477-2643, 248-320-8027</p> <p>REFORD - Near park Clean 3 bdrm 2 bath bungalow. Bsmt, garage & appliances. 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Agent: 734-718-3495</p> <p>WESTLAND - Sharp 4 bdrm brick ranch, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, 2 baths, option to buy avail. \$900, 248-788-1823</p> <p>WESTLAND Updated brick ranch, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, bsmt. 2 car, 1575 sq. ft. \$1100/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002</p> <p>WHY RENT? CANTON - Owner financed. 3 & 2 bdrm., mobile homes as low as \$150/mo. plus lot rent. Call James (313) 277-1907</p> | <p>VACATION RESORT/RENTALS 4110</p> <p>NAPLES, FL 2 bdrm, 2 bath condo w/ view, pool. First floor. 2 mos. minimum. \$1700 per mo. (734) 427-0183</p> <p>Living Quarters To Share 4120</p> <p>CANTON Looking for quiet non-smoking person to share 3 bdrm condo. \$500 includes utilities & cable. 734-812-1173</p> <p>FARMINGTON HILLS Professional roommate wanted. Huge be room! Furnished. Great location. \$395 mo. Incl. util., cable, internet, & cleanings. 813-205-9926</p> <p>LIVONIA Female to share with same. Full house privileges. \$595 (mo to mo) + security incl. utilities. 734 425-9592</p> |
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DECEMBER HIRING TRENDS FAVOR YOU



WORKWISE
by Mildred L. Culp

Are you ending the year squeezed for cash or squeezed for a job? Don't give up. This may be one of the best months

ever for finding work, whether temporary or permanent.

Mel Katz, executive officer at Manpower Inc., of San Diego, doesn't view job opportunities this December through a holiday prism. His operation places about 375,000 temps annually -- averaging about 4,000 on the job every day. "Over the last year," he says, "we've also been doing a lot of direct-hire employees because of the tight labor market and low unemployment." Seasonal trends aren't making the difference this year. "There are some very in-demand occupations, especially engineering, IT and finance," he reports. He cites defense and telecommunications in particular as busy and short-staffed, with 250 full-time openings to extend for six months to a year, just waiting to be filled in his company. Other openings span light industrial to clerical to high-tech, with lots of assignments in retail, hospitality and contact centers.

Joanne Cretella, vice president of Staffing Services for the Southeast Region of Spherion Corporation in Alpharetta, Ga., says, "There is a great variety of positions -- some management and supervisory -- in call centers and retail, and some industrywide in accounting as company close books." The southeast region places more temps in

December because of the holidays.

OPTIMISM

Employment prospects have been improving all year long, but several factors are converging to make this an excellent season for job hunting. First of all, many employers get new budgets in January. This motivates them to search more intensely for good people -- and to make decisions. Katz states that 48 percent of people who want permanent work and go to a temporary service will find themselves hired on a permanent basis. "This is not just the holidays," he remarks, "not just Manpower. It's the industry."

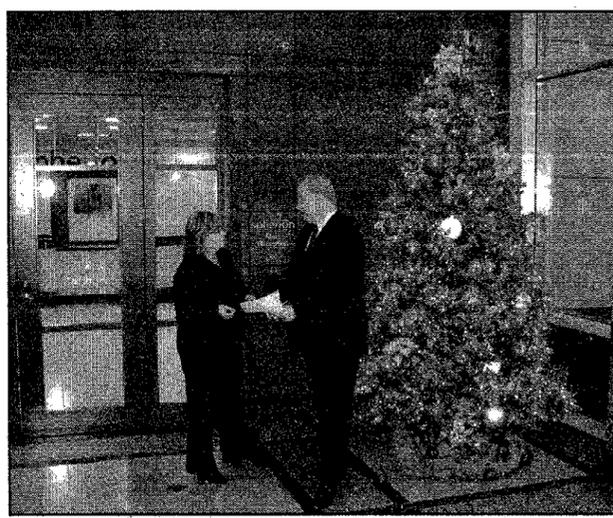
"Many temporaries become temp-to-hire," Cretella remarks. "Some companies actually hire temporaries with the precise idea of looking for employees to hire into positions. We also have those (temps) who show up on time, with good work habits and attitudes, and they get hired. This may not be the intent, but it happens many times."

Katz agrees. "If you're looking for direct hire work," he states, "being hired for the holidays is a great way to get hired on a full-time basis, because:

- "the employer gets to see the kind of work you do;
- "you get to see the kind of company it is; and
- "companies want to convert their temporary or holiday-only employees to full-time employees after the holiday season."

'EMPLOYEE'S MARKET'

Not all of these opportunities are slated for young people. Cretella states that Spherion recruits not just younger workers, but has invested considerable effort in workers over



Joanne Cretella, vice president of the Southeast Region of Spherion, speaks about holiday staffing with Gary Belanck, branch manager in Alpharetta, Ga.

30, including mature workers, as part of "a very wide range" of people filling these jobs. "We recruit from various age groups and backgrounds," she says. "Some people may have other professions, like teaching, and may just do this over the holidays. Others, like outdoor laborers, may have seasonal jobs. Some may be not employed and just want some extra money." Katz concurs with the attractiveness of experienced workers. He cites a shortage of seasoned executive/administrative assistants.

But get moving. There is a window. Katz recommends hunting early this month. Cretella says that mid-month is "too late,"

that "holiday hiring isn't just for holiday hiring, because it definitely leads to being hired. It's a great opportunity."

"It's definitely an employee's market," Katz adds. "Check the type of company you're going to. Give it your all." If it doesn't work out, don't panic, he says: "It's going to be the same in January, February and March -- low unemployment combined with the need for experience and good, skilled workers." In other words, don't let age or anything else stand in the way of developing opportunities for yourself.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Copyright 2006 Passage Media.)



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Needed for group homes. MUST BE trained with valid driver's license. Afternoons Call 734-722-7890 between 10 & 3

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Work in a children's respite home in Westland. High School diploma/GED. Call Misty: 734-721-9072

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\$22.10-\$26.00 per hr. & benefits. Qualifications: Bachelors & 1 yr exp. or Associates/2 years college & 2 yrs exp. Degree s/b in Education, History, Museum Studies, Recreation or closely related field. Exp. Includes working at historical facilities, coordinating educational, cultural, recreational programming, special events, creating marketing plans, public speaking, coordinating volunteers. Computer proficiency. Valid driver license with acceptable driving record. Application Process: Submit portfolio & City of Rochester Hills Employment Application to Human Resources, City of Rochester Hills 1000 Rochester Hills Drive Rochester Hills, MI 48309 Applications are available on-line at: www.rochesterhills.org or in Human Resources. A resume alone is not considered an application for employment. Portfolio should include examples/evidence of exp. in the following: educational programs, exhibits, writing, desktop publishing, etc. Apply by 12/18/06; 5PM E.O.E.

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- The award-winning Observer & Eccentric Newspapers has a full-time opening for a Credit Specialist in its Livonia office. The Credit Specialist is responsible for contacting and collecting on delinquent accounts, researching customer payments and invoicing, and other related tasks.
- Our Credit Specialist will need two years of previous commercial collection experience; should be able to reconcile advertiser account balances; will exhibit top-notch written and organizational skills; and be proficient in a Microsoft Office environment. The successful candidate will also have a general understanding of collections and credit principles, and will possess an excellent phone manner. This is a multi-tasking position that requires the ability to work independently and will interface with all levels of management.
- Previous experience working with PBS accounting databases and a bachelor's degree in business or a related field are preferred, but not required.
- Interested applicants may submit their resume and salary requirements (referencing Job Code CS) by:
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 - Mail: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Human Resources Department 36251 Schoolcraft Road Livonia, Michigan 48150 734.953.2057
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SEE OUR AD ON CAREER MARKET PLACE on the front of the Employment Section, American Laser Centers</p> <p>TEACHER & TEACHERS' ASSISTANT- Exp Necessary 11th Childrens Hour Day Care Now Hiring. Call Mon-Fri before 6pm. 734-459-9920</p> <p>TELEMARKETERS \$8-\$12 p/hour Exp a plus. Fun atmosphere. Plymouth area. 734-415-0800</p> <p>TELEMARKETERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY Open 7 days! Flexible scheduling! Email resume to asteele@strategiccenters.com Or call Amy at 734-521-0198</p> <p>VALET ATTENDANTS NEEDED Holiday help part time in Novi & Southfield locations. Call 586-484-9998.</p> <p>WAREHOUSE HELP Starting wage depending on exp. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. Email Resume to: bmeah@homedward.com or Fax: 734-591-9881</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 6020</p> <p>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Wixom based sales company looking for an Automotive-based sales Administrative Assistant. Salaried position, part time. 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Please fax resume: (248) 642-9001 E.O.E.</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 6020</p> <p>CLERICAL FULL TIME Cash balancing, billing, and reception work. Includes benefits. Novi location. Phone 586-843-2303</p> <p>LEGAL SECRETARY-PT Word Perfect. General practice, probate exp. Livonia area. Fax resume: 734-782-0707</p> <p>OFFICE HELP-PT Diamond Tool Co in Livonia seeking qualified individual for Part-time Office Help. M-F 12-5p. Call 734-591-1044 M-F, 8-12</p> <p>OFFICE MANAGER / BOOKKEEPER 40 hrs. Small business. Great phone skills. Accounting. Quickbooks a must. A/P, A/R, MS Word/Excel. Fax resume: 248-358-5678 or Email: arthinc@aol.com</p> <p>RECEPTIONIST-Fulltime For small professional office in W. Bloomfield. Basic computer skills req. Light bookkeeping preferred. Fax resume to Richard Green 248-851-8949</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 6020</p> <p>RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY Busy psychiatrists office in Livonia. PT 30-33 hrs p/week. 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Requires Bachelor's in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering; 1 yr experience in programming or software development in the Progress programming language with Progress databases in connection with loan origination system applications; Progress Software Certificates in Developing Character Applications, Developing WebSpeed Applications 3.1 & Advanced Programming in Progress. Send resume, copies of diploma & certificates, experience letters, and salary requirements to Nicole Carl, Quicken Loans Inc., 20555 Victor Parkway, Livonia, MI 48152. No phone calls.</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Dental 6040</p> <p>DENTAL ASSISTANT Full time, experienced assistant needed for busy, friendly Farmington Hills office. Exc. compensation. 248-553-4660</p> <p>CLASSIFIEDS WORK! 1-800-579-7355</p> <p>DENTAL ASSISTANT Needed for family practice in W. Dearborn. FT position with benefits. Call 313-563-2400 or fax 313-563-4608.</p> <p>DENTAL ASSISTANT Exp. Full-Time. Plymouth/Canton area. 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CAREER MARKETPLACE

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Our Credit Specialist will need two years of previous commercial collection experience; should be able to reconcile advertiser account balances; will exhibit top-notch written and organizational skills; and be proficient in a Microsoft Office environment. The successful candidate will also have a general understanding of collections and credit principles, and will possess an excellent phone manner. This is a multi-tasking position that requires the ability to work independently and will interface with all levels of management.

Previous experience working with PBS accounting databases and a bachelor's degree in business or a related field are preferred, but not required.

Interested applicants may submit their resume and salary requirements (referencing Job Code CS) by:

E-mail (preferred): employment@hometownlife.com
Mail: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Human Resources Department 36251 Schoolcraft Road Livonia, Michigan 48150
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| <p>Help Wanted-Medical 5080</p> <p>AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST Ophthalmologic ASC seeks part-time Medical Receptionist to work limited hours. Phone: (248) 584-4602 Fax: (248) 584-4630</p> <p>BILLING MANAGER Medical office seeks experienced Biller. Full-time with exc. pay & benefits. Fax resume: 734-995-8767</p> <p>CONTINGENT X-RAY TECH Livonia Orthopedic practice. Must have exp. Email to: oaresume@hometownlife.com Ref Box# 1457</p> <p>MASSAGE THERAPIST Experienced & Certified for chiropractic office in Commerce Twp. Please fax resume to: 248-960-7229 Attn: Cindy</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Medical 5080</p> <p>MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST Full-time for OBGYN office in Farmington Hills. Experience Absolutely Necessary! Call Elaine: (248) 489-1070</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT Experienced, full time w/x-ray exp. Busy medical practice in Farmington. Email resume to: Medexcel@sbglobal.net</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT With experience in both front & back office. Part time for busy pro-choice physicians office. (248) 443-0239</p> <p>SURGICAL BOARDER Livonia Orthopedic practice. Must be an experienced surgical boarder. Email to: oaresume@hometownlife.com Ref Box #1457</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Medical 5080</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT Southfield busy G.I. office, exp. required. Please email: ammthis@comcast.net or Fax 248-746-9588 Attn: Ana</p> <p>PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION Classes begin in Jan. 1 day a week. 5 weeks. Cost \$850 at local hospital. (313) 392-3857</p> <p>PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH Part time leading to fulltime. Exp preferred. Call 313-541-2886 Ask for Julie</p> <p>RECEPTIONIST Westland Urologists Well Established/ Expanding practice FT w/Benefits. 2 yrs Medical Office Exp. Req'd Fax Resume 248-788-0011</p> <p>Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Medical 5080</p> <p>RECEPTIONIST Part-Time, 4-7pm, Mon-Fri. Alternating Saturday's 7:30-11:30am. Plymouth. Please fax resume: (734) 416-3903</p> <p>RECEPTIONIST Experienced. Needed for doctors office in Livonia. Please email resume to: dmc18@comcast.net</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT for pulmonary office. MA/Front office duties. Exp. preferred. Part time, 32 hr./wk. Fax resume to 734-542-4475.</p> <p>X-RAY TECH, Registered Full-Time for Doctor's office in Farmington Hills. Interested fax resume: 734-261-0775 for questions call 734-261-3290, 586-504-6681</p> <p>Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080</p> <p>COOK-PART TIME Available Immediately Apply in person at: Wynwood of Northville, an assisted living community. 40405 Six Mile Road or fax resume 734-420-6173</p> <p>RESTAURANT POSITIONS Seeking professional line cooks, waitresses, hostesses, bussers, dishwashers & bartenders. Competitive pay. Southfield, 12 Mile & Northwestern Highway. Please inquire at: 248-358-3355.</p> <p>WAITSTAFF Priya Indian Restaurant is looking for friendly Waitstaff for lunch & Dinner shifts. Call Manager 248-615-7700; 36500 Grand River, Farmington Hills, 48335</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080</p> <p>WAITRESS'S & HOSTESSES DLGAS KITCHEN NOW HIRING in West Bloomfield. Apply in person at 6655 Orchard Lake Rd or Call 248-855-3630</p> <p>Sell it all with Observer & Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL</p> <p>SHORT ORDER COOK, WAITSTAFF & DISHWASHER Apply in person: Koney Island Inn, Livonia Mall, 7 Mile & Middlebelt. (248) 476-7870</p> | <p>Help Wanted-Sales 5120</p> <p>SALES PROFESSIONAL No exp. necessary. Must be mature, responsible & motivated. Top compensation. Good professional work environment. For used car lot in Garden City. Apply to Jim Daniel 734-427-1550 or Fax 734-427-7006</p> <p>AVON NEEDS Representatives Now! Call 734-425-1947</p> <p>Job Opportunities 5310</p> <p>ANNOUNCEMENT** 2006 POSTAL JOBS! \$14.80 to \$59.00 hour. PLUS full federal benefits. NOW HIRING!! No experience required. Green Card OK. Call today! 1-866-297-7126 ext 42. 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Work available in areas like Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife and more! 1-800-320-9353 x. 2002</p> <p>Help wanted earn extra income, assembling CD cases from home. Start immediately, no experience necessary. 1-800-341-6573 ext 1395. www.easywork-greatpay.com</p> <p>MOVIE EXTRAS Make up to \$250/day. All locks and ages. 1-800-714-7341</p> <p>Post office now hiring. Average pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including federal benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations, PT/FT. 1-800-584-1775 USWA Reference #P3801</p> <p>SECRET SHOPPERS NEEDED for store evaluations. Get paid to shop. Local stores, restaurants & theaters. Training provided. Flexible hours. Email required. 1-800-585-9024 ext 6600.</p> | <p>Position Wanted 5340</p> <p>NEED A PERSONAL ASSISTANT? Shopping, errands, house-sitting, cooking, baking, etc... Anne 734-626-0356</p> <p>Childcare Needed 5380</p> <p>CHILD CARE POSITION For exp & honest caregiver. Min. 15+ hrs., afternoons/eves. Commerce Area. Non smoker. 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NOVI 41651 Mitchell - 13/Meadow- brook, furn., accessories, antiques, home gym, treadmill, Weber, Dec. 9th, 9-4pm.

PLYMOUTH (SUPERIOR TWP.) Estate/ Moving Sale of local glass artist. 9885 W. Ann Arbor Rd., across from Plymouth Nursery, adjacent to Gear School, btwn Coffield-son & Curtis. Home, pole barn, & storage container. Art, antiques, glass, neon signs, photographic equip., tools, books records fishing. Sat. Dec. 9, 10-6; Sun, Dec. 10, 12-5.

REFORD - Sun, 12/3 12-5 & Thurs, 12/7, 12-8. 24476 Schoolcraft. Violin, power tools, 10spd Ross, r/c airplanes/model railroad, fishing & camping gear, chemical glassware, kitchenware, etc.

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7100
7100 Estate Sales

ESTATE FURNITURE LIQUIDATION SALE! By: Everything Goes Fri.-Sat., Dec. 8-9, 10-4 Moving - selling to the walls, no offer refused! Antiques, custom dining & bdrm sets, sofas, tables, chairs, artwork, china, silver, crystal, jewelry, electronics, displays, & shelving. All must go now! 973 Orchard Lake Rd, Orchard Lake & Telegraph, across from Pontiac Home Depo. OFFICE: 248-855-0063

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PLYMOUTH WAREHOUSE! Sat., Dec. 9, 9am-14975 Cleat, btwn Sheldon & Beck, off 5 Mile. NEW ITEMS from store closing - ornaments, snowmen, toys. Also misc. garage sale items.

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BLOOMFIELD Complete household. Must go! A real treasure hunt. 40+ yrs. Lots of books, pottery, furniture, household misc., dishes, rugs, pictures. 582 Spinning Wheel, take Fox River at 19 1/2 Mile E. off Opydke Rd. Friday, 12-6pm. Sat. 9-4pm.

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COMMERCIAL TWP - Fantastic garage sale! Sat. & Sun only. 1060 Welch Rd., Kitchen & bath cabinets, displays, plumbing fixtures, counter-tops and appliances at unbelievable prices. We are moving locations and all items must go! 248-668-5180

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NOVI ESTATE SALE - Whole Home Filled! Dec. 7, 8, 9, 10 (9am-6pm). 26893 Roric, Novi off Haggerty, between 12 Mile and Grand River.

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NOVI 41651 Mitchell - 13/Meadow- brook, furn., accessories, antiques, home gym, treadmill, Weber, Dec. 9th, 9-4pm.

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Troy Estate Sale Dec. 8-9, Fri. 9am-4pm, Sat. 10am-4pm. 2966 Pine Hill Dr, off Adams, between Long Lake and Wattles. Photos/info 586-344-2048 or liuvantiques.com

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REFORD - Sun, 12/3 12-5 & Thurs, 12/7, 12-8. 24476 Schoolcraft. Violin, power tools, 10spd Ross, r/c airplanes/model railroad, fishing & camping gear, chemical glassware, kitchenware, etc.

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ESTATE SALE BY NANCY 20029 Stamford btwn 7 & 8 Mile W. of Farmington Rd, enter on Nortork. Fri-Sun. Dec 8-10th, 10-4pm. Home & contents: furniture, collectible glassware, Precious Moments, jewelry, household, misc. 734-525-4603

7100
7100 Estate Sales

PRESTIGE ESTATE SALE Fri. & Sat., Dec 8-9, 10-4 The Heathers, 545 Newburne, Bloomfield, N. off Square Lake Rd., btwn Opydke & Adams, left at entrance on Newburne. Traditional furniture, exc cond. Living room, dining set, bdrms sets, H. Miller grandfather clock, pictures, silk plants, clothes, exercise equip. More! 248-338-3123

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Call 1-800-510-4786, and use a major credit or debit card
3. Follow the instructions to listen to the advertiser's voicemail greeting
4. Leave a personal message for the advertiser

Place your own ad:

1. Call 1-800-506-5115
2. Answer some simple questions to create your ad
3. Record a voicemail greeting
4. Learn how to pick up your messages - we'll let you know when new ones have arrived!

Get more:

- ❖ Chat with local singles right now.
Call 248-397-0123 to learn more
- ❖ Need help? Some Tips?
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Free Ads: Free ads placed in this section are not guaranteed to run every week. Be sure to renew your ad frequently to keep it fresh.

Guidelines: Personals are for adults 18 or over seeking monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses and have first meetings occur in a public place. This publication reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any advertisement at any time at its sole discretion and assumes no responsibility for the content of or replies to any ad. Not all ads have corresponding voice messages. To review our complete guidelines, call (617) 425-2636

a service of **people2people**

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

LET'S TALK SOMETIME
SWF, 38, mother, enjoys Harleys, rock-n-roll, good talks, classic cars, sports, amusement parks, casinos, meeting new people. Seeking outgoing, sweet, fun man w/spontaneous streak to share new adventures with. ☎962910

FIND ME
Attractive SAF, 49, N/S, 5'3", 110lbs, slim build, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S, for friendship, and more. ☎113901

UPSCALE, GRASS ROOTS
Ebony woman, 43, emotionally available, 5'5", HW proportionate, seeks strong, emotionally grounded, open and fun gentleman, to share deep romance. ☎147056

TAKE ME GOLFING
Tidy SWF, 60, enjoys fine dining, traveling. Seeking golfer, best friend, confidante, 58-70, widower a plus. Honesty, trust, a must to make a relationship work. ☎976914

HI
Honest, independent, separated WF, 47, 5'7", mother, voluptuous, N/S, N/D, D/D-free, enjoys coffee shops, reading, walks, dining, movie nights, etc. ISO stable, secure, sociable, sweet man to share special times. ☎147676

LOOKING FOR YOU
Attractive SWF, Catholic, 59, N/S, 5'6", good shape, seeks WM, 53-70, N/S, who enjoys golf, movies, theater, dining, long walks, church, and much more. ☎124235

IS IT YOU?
SWF, 56, tall, trim, seeks hard-working or retired, conservative SWM, 5'11", 58-65, with good values, educated, no tattoos, drugs, or games please. ☎136981

JOIN ME
Assertive, feminine, active SBF, 33, outgoing, classy, seeks same, someone not afraid to live life. No drama no games. Possible LTR. ☎147376

IN SEARCH OF
Optimistic, healthy W/WF, 68, sense of humor, healthy, honest, N/S, great listener, loves to travel. Seeking special man, healthy, N/S, N/D, with a sense of humor. ☎765933

SINGLE PROFESSIONAL WOMAN
SWPF, 45, 5'9", average build, educated, Capricorn, N/S, loves golf, reading, gardening, dining out, movies, seeks SWPM, 38-55, N/S, similar interests, for LTR. ☎983176

SOMEONE SPECIAL
Fun-loving, attractive SWF, 70, 5'5", 135lbs, blonde, retired, N/S, seeks well-groomed WM, 65-72, N/S, to share life, romance, and possible relationship. ☎91247

MAYBE US?
SF, 42, blonde/blue, leggy, loves all types of music, dancing, movies, nature road trips, dining and simple fun. ISO easygoing, loving guy to share talks, good times, friendship and more. ☎132593

SEEKING MR. RIGHT
Classy SBF, hoping to meet mature SBM, 45-60, I'm a very passionate, affectionate, loving person, who enjoys a variety of activities. If you're seeking your soulmate, why not try me? ☎985794

LOOKING FOR ME?
Hard-working, affectionate SAF, 47, 5'11", 95lbs, very clean, N/S, N/D, loving and fun, seeks independent, responsible, respectful, secure man, 45-50, to share the special times in life. ☎113534

CHRISTIAN LOVER
SWF, 48, Christian, enjoys traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking a N/D, N/S, independent, outgoing, considerate, respectful, no head games, Christian a +. ☎142751

AWAITING YOUR CALL
Caring, considerate W/WF, 55, blonde/blue, wears glasses, enjoys reading, music, movies, travel, museums, animals, quiet evenings home. Seeking animal-friendly, good-hearted, affectionate guy to share special times. ☎137067

GIVE ME A CALL
SBF, 39, 5'3", average build, marriage-minded, smoker, seeks WF, for friendship, maybe more. ☎140881

FRIENDS FIRST
SBF, 37, 5'6", black/brown, easygoing, Aries, N/S, enjoys bike riding, long walks, travel, and cooking. Seeking WM, 30-50, N/S, for fun. ☎933970

WHERE ARE YOU?
Very attractive, sexy SBPF, 35, 5'2", medium build, enjoys dining out, jazz, plays. ISO SBM, 40-52, commitment-minded and sincere, for LTR. ☎950732

LOVES BOATING
SWF, 65, 5'6", Aries, N/S, loves dancing and dining out. Seeking WM, 60-71, N/S, with sense of humor, for friendship, possible romance. ☎890004

ISO CHIVALROUS MAN
SBFC, 35, attractive, plus-sized, Capricorn, single mom, marriage-minded, N/S, seeks man, 40-55, family-oriented, old-fashioned, possible romance. ☎112291

MR. RIGHT, ARE YOU THERE?
SWF, 55, 5'11", HW, easygoing, dependable, reliable, Taurus, N/S, social drinker, likes computers, nascar, casinos, sports, seeks WM, 46-56, for friendship, and more. ☎112612

SEEKING SOMETHING NEW
Down to earth, attractive SBF, 36, N/S, 5'7", professional, enjoys movies, dining out, shopping, traveling, seeks WM, 35-55, N/S, for friendship first, possibly more. ☎123659

ARE YOU THE ONE?
SBF, 56, BW, loves jazz, concerts, movies, travel, walks, great conversation. Seeking commitment-minded, mature, loving man with similar interests for possible LTR. ☎140023

HI EVERYONE
SF, 18, seeks nice, easygoing guy who knows how to have fun, and knows how to treat a lady. Friendship first. ☎142588

VERY CUTE
SBF, 56, 5'3", 122lbs, interested in fit, good-looking, confident male, 45-58, N/S, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special. ☎113199

SOMEONE SPECIAL
SBF, N/S, 18, 5'9", thick, seeks sweet, outgoing, honest, respectful, open-minded man, 18-28, for friendship, and more. ☎140694

WAITING FOR YOU
SBF, 19, 5'11", full figured, beautiful smile. Enjoys comedy and horror films, jokes and enjoying life. Seeking someone with same interest. ☎142407

SEARCHING FOR FRIENDS
SF, 24, out-going, student. In search of a respectful SM, who knows how to treat a real woman, if this is you call me. ☎146309

ALL OF ME
SWF, 50, 5'10", big beautiful woman, 300+ pounds, easygoing, N/S, light drinker, enjoys nights out or in. ISO loving, happy, commitment-minded man to share a happy, lasting, loving relationship. ☎956929

MADE TO ORDER
SWF, 52, attractive, Pisces, N/S, nice, educated, secure, fun, enjoys sporting events, movies, camping, travel, theater, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S, possible romance. ☎993487

FORMER MODEL
SWF, 50, 5'6", slender, intelligent, creativity, passion for music and dancing. Seeks partner 38-50, who is attractive and fit, to share this interests and more. ☎600106

TRUE FRIENDSHIP
WIAF, 62, 5', 100lbs, enjoys gardening, dogs, cats, cooking, dining out, travel. Seeking kind, caring, honest, SW/AM, 55-70, slim, with understanding of asian culture, for friendship first, maybe more later. ☎139934

FRIENDS FIRST
W/WF, 68, 5'6", 145lbs, healthy, honest, happy, likes comedy films, country cooking. Looking for outdoorsy, active man affectionate and warm-hearted, to share the good things in life. ☎139719

ARE YOU THE ONE 4 ME?
SF, 29, loves family, the outdoors, cooking, people, more. Looking for bright, level-headed, goal oriented, family-oriented man w/good heart and open mind to share life and all it's little adventures. ☎139414

BIG GIRLS NEED LUV
SBF, 31, marriage-minded, N/S, romantic, seeks man, 25-38, likes children, having fun, for friendship, maybe more. ☎140252

REFINED AND FULL OF LIFE
Very attractive blonde, fit, energetic and happy, professionally employed, very youthful 60s, 5'3", trim and shapely enjoys dining, travel, dancing, theater, family and friends. Seeking honest, handsome, fit, 55+, college grad, N/S, with youthful passion for life. Serious replies only. ☎652360

PETITE & SEXY...
SBF, sensitive, affectionate, loving, 51, looks 35, 5'1", 105lbs, NS, Seeking healthy SBM, 5'10"-6'1", to work out with. ☎912553

ARE YOU THE ONE?
SF, 25, 5'7", shoulder-length medium blonde hair, bright green eyes, outgoing, fun, loves fitness, outdoors, boating, cycling, camping, concerts, auto racing. Seeking active, fit, caring man who appreciates the same. ☎953694

LOOKING 4 GENTLEMAN
Attractive, professional, educated WF, 55, 5'2", slim, N/S. Interest include movies, concerts, comedy clubs, jazz, dancing, dining out, family ties. Seeking WM, 48-55, HWF, for lasting, loving LTR. ☎973365

POSSIBLE LTR
SWPF, 57, 5'5", attractive, slender, athletic, Scorpio, N/S, enjoys dining, concerts, dining out, seeks WPM, 55-61, N/S, educated, healthy, humorous, possible LTR. ☎993381

59 YEARS OLD ENTREPRENEUR
Pretty, charming SWF, successful, kind, compassionate, lots of fun, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any sincere, caucasian gentlemen, 55-80, please respond. Hopefully we'll be each others soul mates. ☎592074

SEEKING A LADY?
SBF, 56, 5'4", 110lbs, slim build, Sagittarius, smoker, honest, sincere, retired, enjoys movies, concerts, travel, park walks, seeks man, 45-70, similar, for friendship, possible romance. ☎118410

FAMILY-ORIENTED
Beautiful, shapely SBF, 34, 5'4", likes reading, long walks, working out, movies, plays, concerts, spontaneous trips, traveling, seeks patient, understanding BM, 34-46, N/S, with similar interests. ☎123905

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
Easygoing SWF, 57, CNA, N/S, N/D, enjoys talks, togetherness, day trips, soft rock. ISO loving Christian man, N/S, N/D, w/children ok, to share talks, dates, simple times, then who knows? ☎126925

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?
Loving, youthful SBF, 57, trim, shapely, very attractive, energetic, happy, enjoys dining, travel, amusement parks, the outdoors, festivals, nature, family-friends, theater, more. Seeking like-minded gentleman to share these. ☎121528

SOULMATE SEARCH
Slim, attractive, 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM, between the ages of 54-64, please respond. ☎598975

LOVELY AND LOVING
Attractive 52-year-old, blonde/green, 5'5", nice figure, romantic, wanting to meet a very romantic, affectionate SM, 42-52, who will treat her like a queen. ☎617628

SEEKS SILVER FOX
Loving, lady, 77, seeks charming, healthy, happy gentleman, D/D-free, humorous with a kid disposition, years of wisdom and an interest in life. ☎145778

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP
SBF, young 60s, w/good morals, caring, nice-looking, 5'3", 156lbs, N/S, N/D, N/S, DW, clean, honest living, party retired, enjoys art, card playing, casinos, and movies. Seeking honest man 50-80, race open. ☎134425

I LISTEN WITH MY HEART
Attractive DWF, late 40s, Cancer, N/S, seeks special, no games WM, 45+, N/S, for caring, quality committed relationship. Let's create sparks and watch them fly. ☎639272

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

NEW TO AREA
SWM, 36, 6'5", athletic build, dark blond/blue, enjoys sports, outdoors, music, movies, cooking and more. Seeking creative, fun lady with an open mind and heart to share friendship and fun. ☎140690

WHAT R U WAITING 4?
Very good-looking SBM, 42, 6'4", medium brown complexion, enjoys sports watching/playing, togetherness, nice dinners, good talks, romance and affection. Seeking special lady to share the good things in life. ☎144729

A SPECIAL GUY
DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest S/DWF, w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. ☎269646

GOT WIT?
DBM, late 40s, homeowner, N/S, loves traveling, taking part in community events, jazz and comedy clubs. Seeking WF, 42-52, smoker, responsible drinker ok, not afraid to take a chance. ☎143658

HEY LADIES
SM, 22, brown/green, 185lbs, student, employed, looking to meet a nice, fun-loving SF for friendship, dates, talks, and then who knows? ☎147388

CALL ME SOMETIME
Self-employed SM, 51, 5'11", 177lbs, blue eyes, loves enjoys motorcycles, the outdoors, travel, cooking, music from modern rock to motown, and much more. ISO, affectionate, honest SF, slim-medium build. Friendship/LTR? ☎148467

TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME
Sexy SBM, 6'1", 198lbs, enjoys soul food, R&B/rap music. Seeking attractive, mature SF who is goal-oriented, D/D-free, for friendship maybe more. No head games. ☎146128

ROMANTIC & ATTRACTIVE
DWM, 60, 5'11", 190lbs, seeks nice-looking lady to help share each others heart, and lives daily adventures. ☎146279

TRUE GENTLEMAN
SBM, 52, 5'8", 185lbs, looking for a medium to full-figured SBF, 46-54. Someone who is worldly, nice, loves to laugh and just enjoying life to the fullest. ☎912726

SWEET GUY
Good-looking SWM, 52, 6'1", 197lbs, college graduate, financially secure, homeowner, bodybuilder, seeks petite SWF, 35-50, sexy, attractive, to enjoy dining out, movies, for serious relationship, maybe marriage. ☎255073

GOOD CATCH
SM, 36 enjoys shopping, traveling. Seeking someone who likes to have fun for friendship and LTR. ☎142878

A GOOD CATCH
SBM, 35, 5'8", 220lbs, dark complexion, shaved head, mustache, correctional officer, father, looking for a loving, good-hearted, child-friendly lady with whom to share life and all it offers. ☎144595

ARE U THE ONE?
SM, 6'1", red/blue, independent, enjoys the outdoors, gardening. Seeks SF, 18-65, for dinner dates possibly LTR. ☎145379

DO YOU LIKE ROMANCE?
DWPM, 60's, N/S, D/D-free, honest, caring, humorous and romantic, in search of SF, 50-70, with same qualities, for conversation, friendship or romance. ☎146036

CALL ME
SM, 23, 5'7", 190lbs, black/brown, looking to meet a cool, easygoing, real lady to get to know, share good times. ☎147347

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
Affectionate DWM, 64, brown hair, N/S, D/D-free, enjoys craft shows, flea markets, movies, dining, camping, The Red Wings. ISO a special lady, 48-59, to share friendship, dates, possible LTR. ☎920968

WHY WAIT?
SM, 54, 5'8", 155lbs, outgoing, spontaneous, enjoys car shows, motorcycles, fishing, time with someone special. Looking for a good-hearted, active, happy lady to share talks, dates, friendship, more. ☎147806

TALL, MUSCULAR SWM
47, 6'2", 205lbs, athletic, part time personal trainer, brown/blue, degreed, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, working out, new activities, seeking friendly SF, age/location open. ☎531308

SERIOUS
SWM, 71, N/S, widowed, 5'8", 150lbs, young at heart, enjoys outdoors, cooking, dining out, traveling, seeks slim, petite female, 62-70, N/S. ☎118483

LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER
SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. ☎114846

SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED
SBM, 46, looking for that special persona for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. ☎692418

LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER
SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. ☎992943

SEARCHING FOR LADY LOVE
SM, 51, 5'11", 185lbs, enjoys the outdoors, boating, dining out, music long walks, etc. Seeking honest, caring SF who enjoys same activities, for companionship, friendship and romance. ☎146012

NICE GUY
SWM, 66, 5'6", 150lbs, manufacturers representative, Libra, N/S, works out, enjoys movies, restaurants, and summer festivals. Seeking SWF, 50-65, N/S, Shirley, please call back. ☎708126

WORTH A CALL
SWM, 48, 6', 175lbs, N/S, homeowner, hard-working, easygoing, honest, secure, enjoys motorcycling, hunting, the outdoors. Seeking honest, secure, attractive slim/fit woman, 25-50, N/S, D/D-free. ☎956910

WILL IT BE YOU?
SBM, 48, light complexion, 5'7", 192lbs, likes sports, shows, cycling, music, more. Seeking loving, sweet lady to be my special someone. ☎128421

THE FINER THINGS
SBM, 40, 5'11", average build, likes sports, theater, movies, parks, seeks energetic, open-minded, sincere woman, 25-65, for friendship, possible romance. ☎141614

HANDSOME MALE
SBM, 33, 5'8", 165lbs, handsome, independent. Seeking full figured female with good conversation for friendship possibly LTR. ☎143029

COME OUT WITH ME
SM, 6'0", 197lbs, brown complexion, enjoys shopping, going out dancing and having fun. Seeking female companion-ship who likes same. ☎142274

UNUSUAL REQUEST
Nice-looking, extremely busy, Grosse Pt. SWPM, 6'3", 228lbs, N/S, N/Drugs, ISO over 45 also extremely busy SWPF, pretty lady, for great friendship and special times. I know how to treat a lady and practice the golden rule. ☎143494

SOUND LIKE YOU?
SBM, 27, 185lbs, dark complexion, handsome, carpenter by trade, enjoys sports, good company, good talks. Seeking a sweet lady to share a little happiness and romance. ☎143607

HANDSOME PRINCE
SM, 5'5", 135lbs, brown complexion, independent, easy-going. Seeks independent, easy-going SF, for friendship first and maybe more. ☎144436

HERE IS PRINCE CHARMING
SPM, athletic fit, humorous, enjoys meeting new people, brunch, wine tasting and being romantic. Seeking intelligent, active, honest SF, for companionship, casual fun or LTR. ☎145078

FRIEND AND CONFIDANT
SWM, 74, active, educated, financially-secure, seeking a nice woman and join me for dining, dancing, and classical music. I'm a good listener, and would love to hear from you! ☎139382

A NICE GUY
SM, 24, black/blue, 5'7", 120lbs, looking for a nice, non-judgmental SF, loving and fun, to share the good times in life. Friendship first, possibly more later on. ☎127134

LET'S TALK
Laid-back SWM, 52, smoker, brown/brown, likes riding Harley's, the country, seeks open, honest WF, 35-54, for possible LTR. ☎124193

LOVELY & READY
SWM, 49, average build, Italian, heart of gold, Virgo, N/S, seeks WF, 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. Redford Area. ☎860305

LET'S BE FREE TOGETHER
SBM, 6', 220lbs, physically fit, retired, well-educated, I would like to meet a single female 52-62, who is understanding, loving and caring, for a LTR. ☎869189

ECONOMICALLY VIABLE
SWPM, 54, 5'11", 170lbs, trim, Aquarius, N/S, likes music, art, golf, landscapes, architecture seeks WPF, 44-60, attractive, fit, active, financially secure, intelligent, possible LTR. ☎984220

THAT'S ALL
SWM, 66, tall, thin, Scorpio, N/S, seeks WF, 60-68, N/S, old-fashioned, slim, fit, humorous, possible romance. ☎116761

SOUND LIKE YOU?
SBM, 25, 5'8", 190lbs, dark complexion, long hair, no kids, looking for fun, energetic lady affectionate and, who knows how to have fun in life. ☎122364

CUT TO THE CHASE
SBM, 51, 6'3", 250lbs, N/S, enjoys plays, concerts, country drives. ISO SWF, for friendship and much, much more. Age open. ☎121414

VANILLA SEEKING CHOCOLATE
Call me if you desire a nice shape, SWM, blue-eyed blonde, 50-year-old, 180lbs, desires SBF for friendship and definitely romance. ☎672855

SHARE GOOD TIMES
SBM, 27, 6', 173lbs, N/D, N/Kids, slim build, brown complexion, glasses, likes movies, long walks, Jesus, cooking, music, bowling, Mexican food, shyness, seeks SB/HF, 25-28, N/S, for friendship, possible romance. ☎980453

WHY WAIT CALL FOR A DATE
SWM, 55, happy, healthy, Cancer, N/S, enjoys reading, cooking, home life, rodeo trips, seeks WF, 40-60, for companionship, maybe more. ☎992956

TIED OF THE BAR SCENE
SWM, 34, active, healthy, 5'11", dark/green, 175lbs, clean-cut, dog owner, animal lover, enjoys biking, rollerblading, fitness, running, martial arts, nature. Seeking athletic, like-minded SF, 18-35, to share friendship, maybe more. ☎145703

LET'S GET TOGETHER
SWM, 22, 5'11", 255lbs, w/iter eyes, outgoing, romantic, very active and athletic. Looking for outgoing, independent, and open-minded SF who prefer African-Americans/minorities, for dating and possibly more. ☎142270

IVORY SEEKS EBONY
Italian male, 47, 5'9", 165lbs, fit seeks petite, pretty black female, with slender build, to share time with. Let's get to know each other. ☎142383

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Cadillac (8380)

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CHEVY SUBURBAN LT 2003 4x4 Z71, black, leather, moon, low miles. \$23,750.
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FORD EXPLORER XLT 2004 4x4, black, \$12,995.
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FORD ESCAPE LIMITED 2004 4x4, loaded, low miles, \$16,495.
Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

FORD FREESTYLE 2005, black, 22K, front wheel drive, \$17,495.
Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

FORD FREESTYLE SE 2006 AWD, 15K miles, \$19,995.
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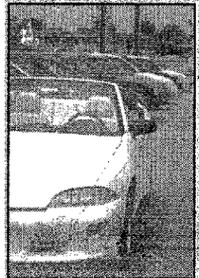
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Saab 97X SUV poised for takeoff

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Wendy Clem
Avanti News Features

It's jet fast. It's eye-catching on the freeway. And this truck will be the talk of any town.

It's the 2007 Saab 97X SUV, billed under the General Motors Corp. umbrella as "born from jets," and it's zooming into showrooms now.

Proffering a 5.3-liter V8 engine as standard in its 5.3i model, the 97X has a 4-speed transmission with 300 horsepower and 330 foot pounds of torque - a definite assist for towing and hauling.

Designed by a company founded by 16 aircraft engineers whose spirits continue in automotive composition 60 years after joining the industry, the 2007 97X appears poised for takeoff while it sports the unmistakable classic lines of a Saab, with an impressive base price of \$41,000.

And, for an even more attractive price, you can opt to pick up your vehicle in Saab's home city of Trollhattan, Sweden, or one of 15 other European cities. By rolling your vacation and car purchase into one adventure, Saab will throw in \$2,000 for your travel expenses.

Credited with sumptuous materials, ample cargo space and versatility in weather conditions, the 97X is an in-demand truck because it offers luxury and perks like an unlimited rust warranty. Plus, there are not a lot of these SUVs on the road yet, so there is that rarity factor.

Besides comfort and well-appointed detail, safety is a key function of the 97X. Competent automatic 97X all-wheel drive traction combines with the StabiliTrac system and an automatic braking system for road steadiness and quick reaction during slippery conditions. Rear suspension is live, with the front offering independent suspension.

This will ensure its rightful place among steadier SUVs in inclement weather conditions. The Saab drive train moves with little effort, and at no time are you not aware of the power beneath your feet and seat.

A large wheelbase and long vehicle length add to the 97X's essence, as well as roomy head space in both the front and rear, and more shoulder and leg room in each of the front and back areas.

Nicely rounded curves on both vehicle ends extend to functional lines along the body, into which the door handles have been neatly folded.

Headlight washers are standard. The grill resembles a cheery smile accented with large eyes.

The front end has a Scandinavian influence, although



2007 Saab 97X. Vehicle class: Sport utility vehicle. Power: 5.3-liter V8 engine. Mileage: 15 city 21 highway. Where built: Moraine, Ohio. Base price: \$40,990.

the overall design reminds us of the Chevrolet TrailBlazer - only better.

The powertrain warranty is GM's applaudable 100,000 miles or five years. The OnStar navigation system provides peace of mind, with stolen vehicle tracking, roadside assistance and hands-free/voice-activated phone use.

Dual-stage airbags in the front have the Passenger Sensing System, a set-up with side-curtain airbags that kicks into gear during a rollover. In the event of airbag deployment, the OnStar system can notify emergency contacts to send them to an accident quickly.

Being able to corner well for an SUV, as well as receiving recognition for unobstructed view with its higher driver's vantage point, add to the pluses. This 97X seems like a pretty good family vehicle, with equal painstaking attention paid by Saab to its interior and exterior quality.

Classy leather seats provide exceptional comfort and then extend to other interior surfaces, in a luxurious immersion in natural substance. Faux wood accents appear demurely throughout the dash and console.

One unique feature is the placement of the ignition between the seats, accompanied by front vents that can be efficiently directed to deliver refreshing environment with a simple move of a middle lever.

The dual-zone climate control and radio mechanisms are easily accessible and clearly visible, while the steering

wheel allows enough flexibility to be duly comfortable for the long haul. The pedals can be modified, as can the two front seats, which allow for eight-way positioning of varying sized people cargo simultaneously.

A bonus is the heated driver's seat and its positional memory. Lumbar support is standard on this vehicle, as opposed to the competition, which either doesn't offer it or charges extra for it.

Additions like a Bose sound system with a six-disc CD player or entertainment packages with DVD player round out the elegance for 97X travelers. There are numerous extras included with the standard 97X, many of which are either not offered or charged more for in comparable SUVs.

The challenges faced by the 97X include lackluster fuel economy and ordinary acceleration. It's more American than Euro but continues to impress consumers everywhere.

Mileage is debatable, but here is where the 97X may benefit: Official numbers place it at 15 miles per gallon in the city and 21 mpg on the highway. But some test drives report improved results for both numbers.

Of course, there's still no getting past the fact that this IS a truck, but it is a fancy one at that.

Wendy Clem covers the automotive beat for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write her at wendyclem@gmail.com. <mailto:wendyclem@gmail.com> @2006. Fracassa Communications.

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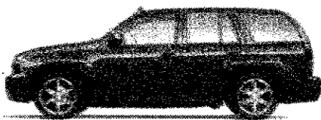


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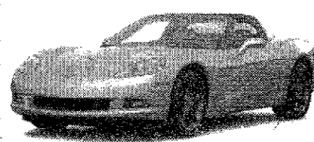
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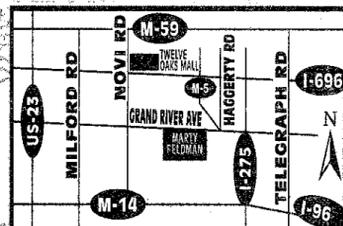


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Check these lists

Gift ideas for the chef

It can be a challenge to holiday gift shop for the chef in your life, especially if you aren't handy in the kitchen.

From bigger gifts to stocking stuffers, here are some items:

The Roasted Garlic Express roasts garlic and vegetables in less than 30 minutes - one-third less time than in the oven or other type of roaster.

The express comes in three trendy colors: black, white and terra-cotta.

It retails for \$30 and is available at major stores or at www.roastedgarlicexpress.com.

This is one of those items that actually can change the way a person cooks because it really does save time.

The **Spin'nStor** is more handy than it is pretty, but it will make life easier in the kitchen.

It's the alternative to the bulky salad spinner.

The Spin'nStor Reusable Salad Spinning Bag removes extra water from freshly washed veggies and also serves as a storage container.

Wash the greens, place them in the bag, hold the top closed and spin the bag in a circular motion. The water collects in the bag's "reservoir" and is poured out. After that, the bag becomes a produce container.

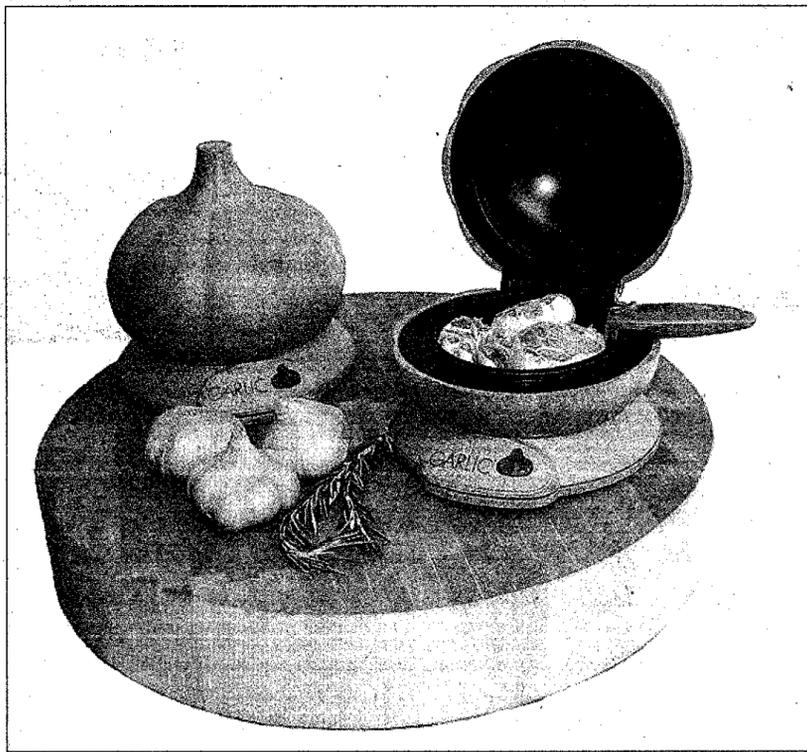
Check out the video: <http://www.argecorp.com/HTML/spinnstor.htm>.

Cost is \$11.75 for 12 bags online at www.argecorp.com.

An **edible snow globe** is a new spin on the traditional gingerbread house.

It's a gift and activity in one. The whole family can make an edible snow globe featuring snowmen, Santa's helpers, reindeer, Christmas gifts and more. Snow Globe kits are cookie

PLEASE SEE CHEF GIFTS, D2



The Roasted Garlic Express roasts garlic and vegetables in less than 30 minutes.



The Bella Cabosse chocolate bar will delight food connoisseurs.



COURTESY OF ENGLISH GARDENS

Checker-playing gnomes are among solar-powered garden decor items at English Gardens. Other gift ideas for the gardener abound.

10 gifts for the gardener

The weather outside may be frightful, but planning next year's garden is always delightful.

Here are some gift ideas for the gardener, whether novice or supreme green thumb.

The Practical Gardening Institute has a wide range of

gifts at its online Gardeners' Market. Visit practicalgardeninstitute.com.

For example, check out the boxed set of **note cards** that feature beautiful photos of plants, by professional horticultural

PLEASE SEE GARDEN GIFTS, D2

Tools for the do-it-yourselfer

Maybe you know someone who likes to tackle a building repair or remodeling project.

With help from licensed builder and building trades instructor Harry Jachym, who also writes Ask Dad for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, staff writer Ken Abramczyk has compiled a list of suggested tools for the DIY-er:

Impact drivers: They work similar to cordless drivers but automatically switch to impact driving mode when the driver meets resistance, like the

DeWalt 36-volt cordless impact wrench.

Cordless finish nailers: Such as the XRP 18-volt model, also by DeWalt, which applies 1-1/4-inch to 2-1/2-inch 16 gauge nails for any project.

Laser measuring tools: They come in handy for installing a drop ceiling, lining up cabinets or wall art. Some models even measure and others combine Laser level and stud finder.

Halogen flood lights or work lights: These powerful lights are often used by contractors on drywall or tile projects in

basements. They come in handy in dark areas that need a lot of light.

LED flashlights: These look like conventional flashlights, but use white LEDs rather than bulbs. The lights are very bright and battery consumption is far less than conventional flashlights.

Pink tool kits for women. Check out

www.pinktoolbelts.com. **The Be Jane Tips and Tricks CD.** Be Jane (www.bejane.com)

PLEASE SEE DIY GIFTS, D2

10 gifts for the tech-savvy

For sound to share, grab a set of Sony SRS P11Q personal speakers. The circular 1/4-inch set fits as easily in a backpack as on a bookshelf and accommodates any MP3 player. For \$29 it's a steal on Apple.com.

Apple's MagSafe Airline adapter keeps your laptop fully charged in flight. At \$59 it's a great gift for the tech-dependent traveler. Available on Apple.com.

Hit the road safely while chatting away on your cell phone.

Motorola H500 wireless headset for Bluetooth-enabled cell phones makes it possible to have a hands-free conversation anytime. Costs \$72.99 at Bestbuy.com.

Cell phone style and technology combine in Motorola's KRZR

PLEASE SEE TECH GIFTS, D2

Hanukkah settings celebrate holiday

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

At Hanukkah, the table itself is a celebration, as suggested by elegant and cheery objects for the holiday offered at area businesses.

Handpainted ceramic serving pieces, hostess gifts and other items feature rich, warm colors and festive designs.

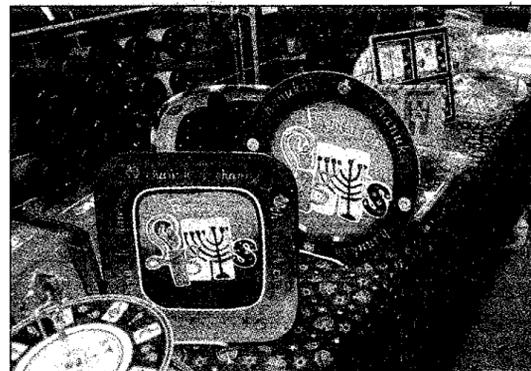
"When I was growing up in Israel, the candle was the only light (for Hanukkah). Now there's all this," said Coby Goutkovitch, owner of Esthers Judaica Giftworld in West Bloomfield, gesturing in a corner of the store.

Included here is an electric menorah, and a string of dreidel-shaped lights.

This year, Hanukkah begins at sundown Friday, Dec. 15.

Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in the second century B.C.E.

Only one jar of oil could be found to light the menorah for the rededication and purification of the temple.



Hand-painted ceramic serving pieces, such as these at Spitzer's Hebrew Book and Gift Center in Southfield, enhance the Hanukkah celebration.

Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days.

Today, menorahs are available in a wide variety of styles, including "create your own" kits. Such crafts are popular at Spitzer's Hebrew Book and Gift Center Inc. in Southfield, said Avrohom Plotnik, owner.

"They're doing very well," he said.

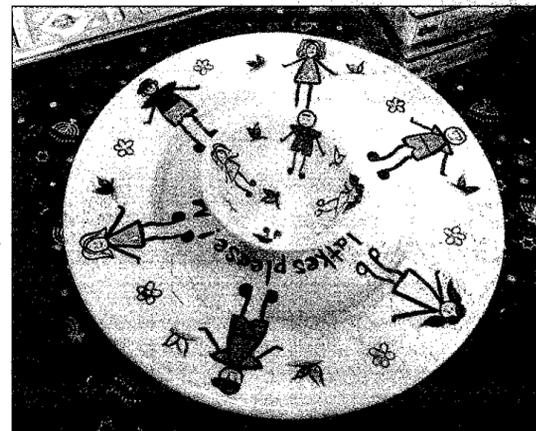
All Things Jewish, based in Southfield, offers menorahs

made by artists working in glass, said owner Alicia Nelson.

Among its other selections - and a new turn on tradition - is a menorah with vials of oil, the tops of which can be easily broken off for lighting.

Menorahs at Esthers include those made of stone and marble from Jerusalem.

Menorah candles are works of art. Some selections are



This latke plate comes with a dish for applesauce or sour cream. The combination is at Spitzer's in Southfield.

multicolored; designed to resemble the flag of Israel; and in sets of silver, blue and white.

A Hanukkah tradition is the game involving a dreidel, a four-sided spinning top.

Dreidels are popular pieces, Nelson said.

"There are people collecting them," she said.

A Chagall dreidel, and a Zavurov octagonal dreidel, are among those offered by All Things Jewish.

Hand towels bearing a Hanukkah design were another favorite item at Spitzer's, Plotnik said.

Holiday patterns also adorn hostess gift sets of oven mitts

and towels, and serving platters and dishes.

Because of the significance of oil in the Hanukkah celebration, the use of oil is a theme in cooking dishes for the holiday, such as latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyots (doughnuts).

Some divided dishes at Spitzer's contain arrangements of candy, dried fruit and nuts by Got Nosh?

Other items in the area include a latke plate that comes with a dish for applesauce or sour cream, and spreaders standing in a dreidel-shaped holder.

Salt and pepper shakers, and chip and dip sets, also have the dreidel form.

Cookie cutters and confetti have Hanukkah-themed shapes.

Esthers Judaica Giftworld: 6245 Orchard Lake Road, (248) 932-3377

Spitzer's Hebrew Book and Gift Center Inc.: 21790 W. 11 Mile, (248) 356-6080

All Things Jewish: (877) 613-5454, (800) 579-6340, allthingsjewish.com

mklemic@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2569



Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

Put your best Web forward by switching browsers

With the amount of time most of us spend on the Web these days, it stands to reason we should use the best available Web browser.

That means Mozilla Firefox 2.0. It's free, easy, and light years ahead of the browser most people use: Internet Explorer.

Let me qualify that. Internet Explorer 7, which was recently "pushed out" by Microsoft to Windows XP users (and is available for download if you didn't receive it automatically), offers some improvements over its predecessor.

However, I'm not a fan of IE7 because it changes many fundamental aspects of the inter-

face for no good reason.

Like the pull-down menus: They're gone. And the Refresh button: It has been relocated to the right of the address bar, far from where I'm accustomed to it being.

I don't want to waste time learning to use a new browser. I just want it to work better, faster and smarter. That's Firefox in a nutshell.

Before I explain what makes it so great, let me address a few common concerns.

For starters, Firefox is just a program, and

PLEASE SEE BROIDA, D2

OFF THE AIR WITH DICK PURTAN & PURTAN'S PEOPLE

Shoppers shove their way to savings



Dick Purtan

Did I miss a memo? When did shopping become a full-contact sport?

I was amazed by the stories I heard and read about this year's post-Thanksgiving shopping competition.

A mall in Utah actually opened its doors at midnight on Thanksgiving. Literally, thousands of Utahans were lined up for the door opening.

I don't know about you, but by midnight on Thanksgiving

PLEASE SEE PURTAN, D2

It's time to get to winter checklist of appliance maintenance

Never mind what the calendar says. It's winter. Everything outside says so, and so do your appliances.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon
If the flapper on the outside vent isn't closing tight, the cold outside air is being drawn into the dryer. As a result, the dryer is taking much longer to dry a load of clothes and you definitely are

spending more on energy. While on the subject of dryers, how about taking a few minutes to take off the vent line and clean it? Remember, it is against the State Codes Construction law to use plastic or tin foil vent line on your clothes dryer. If you are using these products and your vent line is plugged up, expect a house fire at any time. Most homeowners use the warm water setting on their clothes washer. This means that on the warm water setting, you should have 100-degree temperature wash water once it fills up to the desired level. If you set the water inlet valves that the hoses connect to last spring or summer, you must

do it again. The outside water coming from the main water supply is now much colder and will get colder as the winter temperatures keep dipping. You may find the warm wash selection on the washer will give you temperatures of only 80 degrees. This won't give you the clean wash that you desire. I suggest that you close off the cold water faucet and reopen it just enough to get a mixture of 100-degree water coming into the washing machine. Speaking of water, my friends in the plumbing industry asked me to tell you an important plumbing tip: Make sure you shut off the water valves inside the house that lead to the faucets on the outside where

you hook up your garden hoses. These are a big source of income for plumbers who must come out to a home after a real cold winter snap. These frozen broken copper lines are also a big expense to insurance companies that must pay out millions in claims for serious damage to a home's interior. How about the gutters around the house? Did you get those all cleaned out after the trees lost all their leaves? Water that turns to ice dams causes roof damage and water flowing down the inside walls of a house. Now let's go to the product that creates a ton of questions during the winter months: the garage refrigerator. When the temperature in the

garage drops to less than 55 degrees, either the refrigerator out there isn't going to work at all or its freezer items will begin to defrost. The cold control will sense this temperature, think that it is cold enough inside the refrigerator and shut off the compressor. During these longer periods of shutdown, the oil in the compressor will congeal and it is possible to cause damage to the inside valves of the compressor. This is very true when it comes to the newer refrigerators made in the past 10 years. My old 1948 Philco refrigerator has no problems during the winter months because the compressor can take the brunt of cold weather.

Next time I will repeat a column on the subject of your dishwasher. Until then, here is something for you to think about: Is the back of your dishwasher placed along an outside wall? Does this make any difference on how well it washes dishes? Stay tuned.
Joe Gagnon can be heard on Talk Radio WAAM 1600 at 8 a.m. Saturdays. He is a board member of Spectrum Human Services and the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals (SOCAP). His phone number is (734) 971-1600, Ext. 28. Do you have a question about an appliance or a problem you have with an appliance? E-mail your question to mkleimc@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.

CHEF GIFTS

FROM PAGE D1
gingerbread houses, inside a waterless globe, that you assemble. It comes with pre-baked cookies and icing. You do the fun part. Cost is \$19.99. Visit www.cookieconstructionco.com. Here is another interesting gift idea: a day at the Chop Shop in Birmingham. The Chop Shop is a gourmet kitchen that you can use to

make a lot of freezable meals, instead of making a mess in your own kitchen. Visit the Chop Shop and they will help you prepare meals that you can freeze. You bring the cooler. Average price is about \$150 and up. Guests can choose from a choice of meals to prepare, such as pasta ricotta pie or a huge batch of homemade minestrone. During the holidays, go there to make cookies, crab cakes or an array of party appetizers.

Gift certificates also can go toward ready-made entrees. The newly expanded Chop Shop is at 2219 Cole in Birmingham's Rail District. For details, call (248) 594-2210. See the menu choices at www.chopshopkitchens.com. Remember in the Johnny Depp film *Chocolat* when his lover created special spicy chocolates to help stimulate her customers? Well, here's a real peppery chocolate bar that will tickle food connoisseurs. The *Bella Cabosse choco-*

late bar features exotic masala (Indian) spices. It's called Dolfin Chocolat Au Lait Hot Masala - a milk chocolate bar with a mixture including cardamom, cloves, ginger, cinnamon and black pepper. Among other flavors are Earl Grey Tea and Pink Peppercorn - all in chocolate and new in the United States. Cost is \$3.89. The chocolate bar can be found at www.BellaCabosse.com. - Compiled by Lana Mini

BROIDA

FROM PAGE D1
installing it won't mess up, remove or prevent you from using Internet Explorer. In fact, the two can co-exist without a problem, which is a good thing: Firefox does have trouble with a handful of Web sites (mostly when there's streaming video involved), so you'll occasionally have cause to return to IE. OK, so why bother with the 5.6-megabyte download (mozilla.com) that is Firefox? Short answer: features, security and expandability. In the features department, Firefox offers such amenities as tabbed browsing (multiple Web pages appear as tabs rather than separate windows), numerous built-in search engines (including Amazon, eBay and Google), a spell-checker and a pop-up blocker. Admittedly, Internet Explorer 7, resulting from a flurry of recent catch-up development by Microsoft, offers many of these same features. But as noted previously, you have to tackle the newly awkward interface to get at them. Next, there's the matter of security. Without delving into the technical details, Firefox offers better resistance to spyware - the kind that can invade your PC just from visiting certain Web sites. Again, IE7 is more secure than its predecessor, but because it's still so new, no one knows

exactly how secure. I'm hedging my bets and sticking with Firefox. Security is a huge selling point, but I have a different reason for adoring Firefox: add-ons. These tiny programs add all kinds of cool capabilities to the browser, some of which quickly prove indispensable. For instance, there's Foxmarks Bookmark Synchronizer, which automatically keeps your Firefox bookmarks in sync on multiple PCs - great for users who work on a desktop at home and a notebook on the road. I'm also partial to Auto Copy, which automatically copies selected text to the clipboard for easy pasting. It's a small time-saver, but one that I've quickly grown accustomed to. Then there's Book Burro, which quickly looks up prices at other online stores when you're shopping for books at Amazon. Another gem, Cooliris Previews, pops up a preview of a Web link or image when you mouse over it - no clicking required. All these are just the tip of the Firefox add-on iceberg. And they're a key reason why I think once you make the move from Internet Explorer, you'll never look back. Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books, including *How to Do Everything with Your Palm Powered Device*, Sixth Edition. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

DIY GIFTS

FROM PAGE D1
is a Web site dedicated to the female DIY-er. (Visit [http://www.bejane.com/prod-](http://www.bejane.com/prod-uct_tips_n_tricks_cd)

[uct_tips_n_tricks_cd](http://www.bejane.com/prod-uct_tips_n_tricks_cd) for the CD.) Construction calculators: Calculated Industries has several specialty calculators available. Many are related to the construction field, but they also have some available for home

and kitchen use. See <http://www.calculated.com/default.asp>. Enroll the DIY-er in (or let him or her choose) a class on home repair or remodeling offered through community education programs at high

schools or community colleges. Try a magazine subscription. *Fine Homebuilding*, *Family Handyman* and *This Old House* offer great tips for homeowners, and for woodworkers, *Wood* magazine makes a great read.

GARDEN GIFTS

FROM PAGE D1
photographer Steven Nikkila. The special holiday price is \$18, with free shipping in the United States. Quantities are limited. Working outdoors is helped by garden grips from the Gardeners' Market, sturdy shoes that easily clip on and off. Cost is \$79.95. The hip holster and belt by Woman's Work, also from the Gardeners' Market, holds tools in a handy place. Cost is \$22.50. A gift certificate for classes by the Michigan School of Gardening is a terrific idea. The practical classes, taught by professionals at locations in

Livonia, Ann Arbor and Royal Oak, are for everyone. Certificates are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$150 and \$250, and can be used for any class. Call (248) 4-GARDEN. Gardeners can reap a rich harvest of information - and get discounts on books, merchandise and events - through the online Practical Gardening Institute. For the holidays, one-year gift memberships for the Practical Gardening Institute (a \$50 value) are \$35. Visit practicalgardeninginstitute.com. You don't have to wait until spring if you have bulb kits from Smith & Hawken and English Gardens. The kits feature bulbs primed for forcing, soil and instructions,

and are attractively packaged in silk boxes or plaid bags. Selections include amaryllis and paperwhites. Prices range from around \$6.99 to \$26. A 2007 wall calendar featuring vintage seed catalog illustrations from 1896 to 1929 is a beautiful way to keep track of the days. Cost is \$15.95 at Smith & Hawken. Wood plaques by Danielson Designs express pleasant thoughts. Cost is \$26 at English Gardens. Garden decor items from English Gardens include solar-powered statuary. Among the designs are sleeping or kissing fairies (\$39.99), and gnomes playing checkers (\$39.99). Ornaments make nice keepsakes as well as decoration. Examples are the handpainted,

mouth-blown glass items shaped like a pair of gardening boots (\$28) and a watering can (\$18). At Smith & Hawken. Smith & Hawken stores are in Birmingham (phone (248) 593-6010) and Rochester Hills (phone (248) 375-1976). Among authorized retailers are Plymouth Nursery in Plymouth (phone (734) 453-0155) and English Gardens. Visit www.smithandhawken.com. English Gardens' six locations include West Bloomfield (phone (248) 851-7506), Dearborn Heights (phone (313) 278-4433), Royal Oak/Troy (phone (248) 280-9500) and Ann Arbor (phone (734) 332-7900). Call (800) 335-GROW. Visit www.englishgardens.com. - Compiled by Mary Kleimc

TECH GIFTS

FROM PAGE D1
K1. Its sleek design includes a 1.3 Megapixel camera, media and music streaming, and GPS support for turn-by-turn directions. Costs \$99.99 at Wirefly.com.

The special edition iPod Nano, in red of course, comes in two capacities. Store 1,000 songs in the 4 GB model for \$199, or 2,000 songs in the 8 GB model for \$249 on Apple.com. Sony's latest digital camera, the Cyber-shot DSC-T50 in red, silver or black, boasts a large LCD display and touch-screen

operation for capturing those fleeting holiday moments. Costs \$449.95 on Sonystyle.com. The LaCie Carte Orange USB flash drive allows you to store thousands of files - including photos, music and video - or transfer files from one computer to another. The sleek 8 GB design is comparable in size to a credit card and costs \$149.96 at radioshack.com. Put a personal entertainment center in your pocket, with Sony's PlayStation Portable. For gaming, movies and music, the

PSP CORE costs \$199 is ready to travel. Visit Sonystyle.com. The Sirius Stiletto 100 gives you satellite radio-to-go. Listen to a live program, record it or play MP3s in the car, office or home. Costs \$349.99 at radioshack.com. Have the power to stop TV time with the new TiVo Series 2 dual tuner digital video recorder. Record up to 300 hours of digital programming, even record two live channels at a time. Costs \$799.99 at Bestbuy.com. - Compiled by Stephanie A. Casola

PURTAN

FROM PAGE D1
I had so overdosed on turkey that I could barely move. Aw, who am I kidding? I was sound asleep dreaming of sugar plump fairies and Peppid AC. (That is the last time I load up on yams and stuffing before bedtime!) Anyway, I wasn't dreaming of hot bargains like they must have been in Utah. When the doors opened, the mall resembled the running of the bulls at Pamplona. The video was amazing. I've seen less contact under the boards at a Pistons game. I think the term Black Friday needs to be updated to Black-and-blue Friday. This phenomenon was repeated over and over across the country. It was so bad (*How bad was it?*) that ESPN and QVC merged their coverage for the day. It was so bad that Vegas had an over/under line for shopping injuries. It was so bad FEMA considered doing something about it - but showed up four hours too late. Locally, I had a friend who actually braved these lines early on that Friday morning. Figuring she could get a jump on the savings, she showed up at a Best Buy at about 5:30 a.m. She was number 300 in line. That is where she learned the true meaning of the fine print statement "limited quantities." True, some of the bargains were quite amazing. Computers

for less than \$200, digital cameras for a song and other bargains designed to surprise, tantalize and otherwise boost the profits of the retail world. And nothing quite excites the senses as a too-good-to-be-true bargain. I understand, the opportunity to save big bucks is worth giving up a good night's sleep and a possible broken bone or two. But I have to be honest. I'm a man. To me shopping isn't an event, it's a mission - something to be accomplished as quickly and cleanly as possible with a minimum of collateral damage. Most of us guys have a clear agenda when it comes to shopping. We get in, we get out. We know what we need and we don't waste time looking at stuff we don't. Wait. I think I'm on to something here. We have approached this whole Iraq conflict all wrong. Instead of trying to contain the insurgents and police the area, we should build one giant mall in Baghdad and have an unbelievable sale! Even enemy combatants can't resist a good bargain. Then, we bring in an elite team of American shoppers and have them go at it in the electronics department. When the dust has settled we will have neutralized the opposition, secured the country - and saved a few bucks to boot. Can't resist shopping? Tune in to win a \$1,000 shopping spree Friday morning and all next week when you listen to Dick Purtan & Purtan's People on your FM radio, from 5-10 every morning, on The Motor City's 104.3 WOMC.

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Finding value among Napa Valley cabernets

Although the price for Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon grapes reported a decline in the 2006 harvest, a winemaker told us recently that the going price for top Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon is \$6,000 per ton.

To estimate a suggested retail price for a bottle of cabernet made from such costly grapes, the winemaker said to move the decimal point two places to the left. Thus, \$60 per bottle.

If you've shopped for Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon, you know that there are many cabs selling for much more than that.

Thus it was with great pleasure and palate delight that we tasted the 2003 Burgess Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon \$30. It's marked by a mix of red and black fruit aromas. Similar fruit flavors fill the palate from front to back, creating a seamless, layered impression, spiked with anise spice notes lasting long into the finish.

This wine is a blend of 79 percent cabernet sauvignon, 8 percent merlot, 7 percent cabernet franc, 4 percent petit verdot and 2 percent malbec — all five Bordeaux varieties. It was crafted by veteran winemaker Bill Sorenson, who has been making Burgess wines from day one.

Napa Valley is touted worldwide as the best place on the planet to grow cabernet sauvignon, so what gives with discrepant pricing?

ALL THE VINEYARDS ARE ESTATE

"Our first vineyards, with a history to the 1880s, were purchased and planted in the 1970s," said 34-year-old Steve Burgess, whose father Tom is Burgess Cellars founder. "All our vineyards are estate and we're not subject to soaring grape prices."

That's the key. Owing vineyards for a long time. Yet we know other Napa Valley wineries that also own vineyards and the price for their cabernets is three and four times that of Burgess. But when did they buy their vineyards and what did they pay?

Burgess asked: "When, over the last several years, did the cost of making wine determine the bottle cost? It hasn't, but it does for Burgess."

The more he talked, the more we realized that Steve has the values of his father. It's easy to see why in 2005, Tom persuaded his son, who has wine marketing experience, to join the family winery to spread the word about how Burgess is different in today's competitive wine market.

MOUNTAIN GRAPEGROWING

Not only do the Burgess' estate hillside vineyards on Howell Mountain afford a splendid view of Napa Valley, but they produce cabernet grapes that make wine of

exceptional character, body and length.

Western exposure and scarcity of ground water stress the vines so that they produce smaller berries with intense color, aroma and flavors.

Until a few years ago, Burgess also produced zinfandel from this vineyard. "So much of today's zinfandel tastes like blueberry syrup with vodka," Burgess said. "That's not a style we wished to follow, so we've changed our focus. We've dropped zinfandel and chardonnay and now our production is 60 percent cabernet sauvignon, 20 percent merlot and 20 percent syrah — only red wines."

The latter two wines are made from grapes grown in the Burgess Triere Estate Vineyard, located south of the town of Yountville, on the western side of Napa Valley.

BURGESS CABERNET AND FOOD

"What do you like to eat with Burgess Cabernet Sauvignon?" we asked Burgess. "On the way to meet you, I spotted a Penzeys spice outlet," he said. "I use Penzeys Barbecue of the Americas seasoning for grilling."

"I don't know what it is about this spice blend but it's phenomenal with beef, lamb or ribs and Burgess Cabernet Sauvignon." (Penzeys is located at 17712 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, (248) 647-6177. Spices can be ordered at www.penzeys.com.)

In marketing efforts, Burgess has sought ways to dif-

WINE PICKS

If you're looking for a holiday gift for a wine aficionado, here's a grand selection of Cabernet Sauvignon wines that received high marks in our recent tasting. Don't believe what you may have read elsewhere about the 2003 vintage being only average throughout below are far from average.

PICK OF THE PACK

2002 Ferrari-Carano Trésor, Alexander Valley \$48. At 73 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, here's a cab-based red that matches as well with halibut, salmon and tuna as lamb, beef and veal dishes. It's also great with blue cheese.

NEW AND NOTABLE

2002 Ridgeline Alexander Valley \$40 is the first wine from a new boutique producer of ultra-premium cabernet. It's owned by Codorniu of Spain and made by winemaker Dave Dobson, who also makes Artesa wines.

2003 Prevali West Face \$50 (22 months in French oak)

2003 Prevali Back Forty \$80 (22 months in French oak) - big, chocolaty and almost Port like.

2004 Parallel \$49 - on the second vin-

tage of this outstanding wine.

PEERLESS

2003 Beaulieu Georges de Latour Private Reserve \$95 - one of the most collectible wines in America. 2003 Joseph Phelps Insignia, Napa Valley \$165 (30th Anniversary Vintage). Bottled unfiltered and will benefit from decanting before serving.

OUTSTANDING

2003 Robert Mondavi Napa Valley \$125 (75 percent new French oak for 17.5 months).

2003 Pine Ridge Howell Mountain \$80 - cellar it!

2002 Oakville Ranch Napa Valley Robert's Blend \$80 (78 percent Cabernet Franc)

2003 Pine Ridge Oakville \$70 2003 Chimney Rock Stags Leap District Napa Valley \$52

2002 Trinchero Napa Reserve Lewelling Vineyard \$50 2003 Raymond Napa Valley Reserve \$35

2003 Frei Brothers Reserve Alexander Valley \$24 - extraordinary value for an under \$25 cab.

EXCELLENT

2002 St. Supery Elu \$69 2003 Swanson Alexis \$64 2003 Oakville Ranch Napa Valley (100 percent cabernet) \$60

2003 Eponymous, Napa Valley, \$58 2003 Beaulieu Vineyard Tapestry Reserve \$50

2002 Trinchero Napa Reserve Main Street Vineyard \$45 2003 Franciscan Magnificat \$45

2002 Benziger Sonoma County Reserve \$45 2003 Pine Ridge Rutherford \$40

2003 Louis Martini Alexander Valley \$35 2003 Ferrari-Carano Alexander Valley \$30

2004 Kendall Jackson Grand Reserve \$26 2004 Alexander Valley Vineyards \$20.

WALLET FRIENDLY

2005 MAN Cabernet Sauvignon (South Africa) \$10

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, ask that it be ordered from the distributor or order it direct from the winery.

ferentiate Burgess cabernet sauvignon from others in Napa Valley. Price is one way when the wine is excellent as the 2003 Burgess Cabernet

Sauvignon at \$30 illustrates.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally respected *Quarterly Review of Wines*

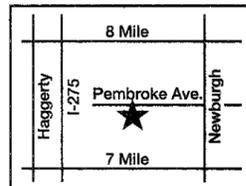
and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Contact them by e-mail at focuson-wine@aol.com.

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PHOTOS BY STEVE CURRY / ASHKA SALON

Makeup Artist Adrea Orzel of Ashka Salon beautifies Teri Zeches after she donated her hair. The Canton salon gave Zeches a complimentary haircut and makeover.

A Giving Spirit

Local woman makes donation of beauty

BY WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL

On November 1, Teri Zeches took it all off. Well, most of it, anyway. Her hair that is.

Thanks to Ashka salon in Canton, the Livonia resident received the works while donating her hair to Locks of Love, a charity organization which provides real-hair wigs for children.

Steve Curry, co-owner of Ashka salon with wife Lisa, says he sees a few people a month coming in for a cut to donate hair for a good cause. And he's all for it.

"Philosophically... (the salon) is committed to the betterment of our community," Curry says. "And Locks of Love means a lot personally for my wife and I. We have relatives who are cancer survivors."

Teri lopped off 10 inches and received a trendy new cut and style from Katie Lewanowski, semi permanent color (so she can donate again!), and make-up from Adrea Orzel (because she's worth it.) PINK caught up with Teri while she was in the chair:

How many times have you donated your hair?

This will be the third time. Six years ago, two years ago and now.

What is your motivation?

The first time a salon asked me if I wanted to donate it and I said yes. I wanted to because God forbid if I ever needed a wig myself, I would want someone to do that for me.

How long does it take to grow out again to donate?

About two years.

Many people can't stand to wait that long to get a haircut. What's your secret?

There's not enough time in my day to get it done anyway. That, and a ponytail!

Now that it's cut off, how do you feel?

Light!

Will you miss it?

Especially now because it's wintertime!

What do you think your boys Nick and Nathan will say?

Nathan's a comedian. He'll say "Did you pay for that?" My friend Linda will say it looks good.

So what do you think?

I was nervous. But the end result I like and the people here were great.

Thank you.



Teri Zeches before she donates her hair.



Zeches after her haircut and Ashka Salon makeover.

SPA PARTIES WITH PURPOSE

Ashka Salon & Spa is offering an innovative approach to fund raising – the Spa Party. What better way to raise money for an organization or favorite cause than to get together with friends and enjoy relaxing spa services? Hosts simply designate a charity, then sell tickets for decadent spa packages.

The Plymouth High School Wildcats Sports League recently hosted a fund raiser where donors received five mini-spa services, a healthy spa meal and special discounts.

For more information, visit Ashka Salon & Spa, 6529 Canton Center Road; call (734) 414-9980 or click on www.ashkasalon.com.

The Mane Details: How to Donate

Want to donate your mane? Here are two organizations that accept hair for charity:

Beautiful Lengths

Celebrities and Pantene have recently teamed up to create Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a campaign that creates wigs for women who've lost their hair to cancer. Donated hair must meet these requirements:

- Hair must be a minimum of 8 inches long (measured from just above the elastic band of the ponytail to the ends).

- Hair must be unprocessed; it cannot have been bleached, permanently colored, relaxed, permed or otherwise chemically treated.

- Hair can be colored with vegetable dyes, rinses and semi-permanent dyes and still be eligible.

- Hair cannot have more than a few strands of gray.

- Send hair donations in a plastic bag to:

Pantene Beautiful Lengths
511 Wisconsin Drive,
New Richmond, WI 54017-2613

A real hair wig requires at least four ponytails and three to four months to create. For more information, call 1-877-227-1596; or visit www.beautifullengths.com or www.cancer.org.



PHOTOS BY STEVE CURRY / ASHKA SALON

Stylist Katie Lewanowski of Ashka Salon combs Teri Zeches' hair after trimming off 10 inches for a donation to Locks of Love.

Locks of Love

Locks of Love provides hair prosthetics to children under 18 who suffer from long-term medical hair loss. While some of the wigs go to children who've lost their hair to cancer, most are provided to children with alopecia areata, an autoimmune disease in which the body mistakenly treats hair as foreign tissue and suppresses or stops its growth.

Donated hair is evaluated according to the following guidelines:

- Hair must be at least 10 inches (preferably 12") in length
- It must be bundled in a ponytail or braid

- It must be free of damage from chemical processing

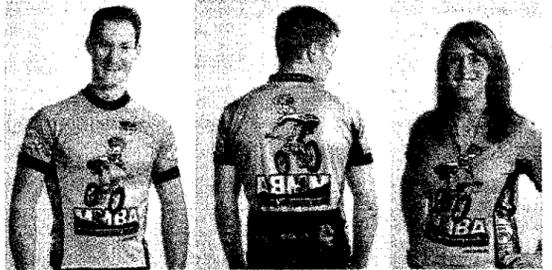
- The hair must be clean and dry, placed in a plastic bag, and mailed in a padded envelope to:

Locks of Love
2925 10th Avenue N., Suite 102
Lake Worth, FL 33461

Monetary donations to Locks of Love are tax deductible. Donated hair less than 10 inches is accepted and is sold at fair market value to offset the cost of manufacturing. For more information go to www.locksoflove.org

— Wendy Pierman Mitzel

pink picks



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Hear It!

"Too Hot to Handel" at the Detroit Opera House on Dec. 9

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Dinner at Lot 1210 in Detroit, opening Dec. 10

Drink It!

Hennessy VSOP

pinklist

Rock Out with Detroit Heardwear

Celebrate the launch of Detroit Heardwear, a new clothing and accessory line, as WCSX hosts a free rock art and fashion show 7-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8 at Oakland Mall in Troy. Local Detroit musicians will model the clothing, which highlights the blue-collar ethic of a city built on creativity and hard-work. Detroit Heardwear gear will be on sale at Oakland Mall through Dec. 17, along with a variety of rock-inspired artwork, including handwritten lyrics and photographs of classic bands and local artists provided by WCSX. Ten percent of proceeds will benefit the Make A Wish Foundation. Visit www.detroitheardwear.com.

Botox with a Bow

Sunset Cosmetic Surgery announces the holiday gift for this season: Botox with a bow and other cosmetic treatments. From Botox to Restylane, plastic surgery gift certificates available during the holidays cover procedures performed by plastic surgeons Dr. Daniel Yamini and Dr. Steven Svehiak. Visit www.sunsetcosmeticsurgery.com.

Stay Body Beautiful

Body Beautiful Boot Camp is celebrating its first anniversary with new classes and locations. Since starting her fitness camps in January Jennifer Gray has trained about 1,000 women and helped them trim some 10,000 pounds. Stay fit through the holidays with 4-week "Buckle Down" sessions starting Dec. 11, or visit www.bodybyjenn.com for more sessions.

Orlane GWP

While supplies last, Neiman Marcus is offering a great Orlane GWP. With a purchase of \$300, you will receive a fabulous pewter handbag with five travel size Orlane skin care products. With a purchase of \$500 or more, you'll receive the bag, along with an eyeshadow and lip gloss kit with everything a gal needs to put her best face forward. Call (248) 643-3300.

A Westland Holiday

Westland Shopping Center will host extended holiday shopping hours through Christmas. Visit Santa and enjoy evening entertainment on select nights. Westland will host a Holiday Mocktail Mixer 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, where MADD, SEMCA and local dignitaries will present creative non-alcoholic drinks for the season. Visit www.westlandcenter.com for a complete listing of events.

BBAC Shop & Champagne

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center will host its 26th annual Holiday Shop through Dec. 17 at its location, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road in Birmingham. The show features unique and inspired gift items from traditional to trendy, created by more than 150 artists. Call (248) 644-0866 or visit www.BBArtCenter.org.

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