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Events canceled at contaminated park

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

A small group of children, who used a popular Wayne County-owned park in Westland, tested positive for exposure to lead, officials said Tuesday.

However, preliminary results indicated that only a couple of youngsters who used Central City Park may have been exposed to potentially harmful levels of lead, according to county officials and residents.

In another development, the controversy has scuttled plans to use the park next summer for events that draw hundreds of people, including Little League baseball, the Western Wayne County Senior Olympics and the cancer-fighting fund-raiser Relay for Life.

Moreover, city leaders will work with organizers of the Westland Summer Festival to determine what to do about the Fourth of July fireworks display, which typically is set off in Central City Park.

Alan Helmkamp, assistant Wayne County executive, confirmed Tuesday that a "small group" of children tested positive for lead exposure based on blood samples taken Dec. 6 at the Westland Bailey Recreation Center. Results from a second round of tests Dec. 13 weren't yet available.

Helmkamp knew of only one child whose blood work showed lead levels above the 10 micrograms per deciliter that officials say could place a child at risk. Helmkamp said previous tests on that youngster had yielded similar results even before Dec. 6.

Officials can't say with certainty whether the exposure occurred in the park, located south of Westland City Hall on Ford Road east of Newburgh. Health experts have said that lead paint also can pose a threat, particularly for children 6 years old and younger. Lead can cause problems such as learning disabilities in children.

Westland resident Georgia Becker said her 12-year-old Garden City grandson — tested for lead for the first time Dec. 6 - showed levels of 16 micrograms per deciliter, above what's considered possibly harmful.

"This just sickens me," she said Tuesday. "I was hoping this wouldn't happen to anybody. He played baseball (on a league) in that park,

PLEASE SEE PARK, A4



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Megan Buford, 7, and her brother, Jason, 5, of Westland stand in line with their grandmother Kathy Dobbelstein for the lead testing done earlier this month at the Bailey

Many happy returns

Sale shoppers want gifts for themselves

BY REBECCA JONES STAFF WRITER

A sweater that was too small had Westland resident Pamela Wood standing in the "returns" line that wound around the Westland Kohl's on Tuesday. But she planned to make her trip worthwhile.

"We're going to get socks and the essentials now that we have everything else," said Wood, who had a coupon for an extra 15 percent savings. "Now is the time, when you can get something for 50 percent off, as long as you can find the size."

Wood called her 13-year-old son, Alex, from another part of the store to hold her spot in line while she shopped for more deals. He came to Westland mall to exchange a duplicate GameBoy cartridge.

Christmas cast a new calm on local

PLEASE SEE SHOPPERS, A5



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michelle Carrico of Canton wrestles with a large return at Toys R Us in Westland. The Blue Thunder Monster Truck for daughters Monique and Alexis was supposed to be a Barbie Hawaiian Jeep. Shoppers headed for local stores on the day after Christmas for returns and sweet deals.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lillian Easterly of Livonia, care ministries pastor for NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township, is driven by her own life experiences with addiction to help others in support groups at the church.

A ministry of caring grows out of misery

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

Even at the height of her despair, it was tough to tell Lillian Easterly was in trouble.

Easterly dealt with issues created by growing up in a dysfunctional family where her father was an alcoholic - "One of my primary sources of pain," Easterly says now - by following his example and getting involved with drugs and alcohol

As a high functioning alcoholic, Easterly could handle work, appeared to be handling her relationships and hid fairly well her addic-

As is the case with many alcoholics, that was all a facade. The realization she was going in the wrong direction and change was needed all came crashing in on Easterly during a suicide attempt 21 years ago. ..

After swallowing who knows how many pills with who knows how much alcohol, the revelation came suddenly for Easterly.

"I started using when I was about 14, and continued down that path for many years, Easterly said. "After that suicide attempt, God got my attention.

"What came to my heart, which I now know was God, told me, 'You don't want to die, you just don't want to hurt anymore."

The hurt came from the way she dealt with her issues, getting into the same problems her father had. Not long after the suicide attempt, she said, she found her way to a Christ-cen-

PLEASE SEE MINISTRY, A5

Warming center needs volunteers

STAFF WRITER

Lighthouse Home Mission is looking for volunteers to help work at its warming center beginning Jan. 1.

Housed at the Full Gospel Temple on Palmer east of Wayne Road in Westland, the warming center will provide overnight accommodations for the homeless through March 31.

"This is our fourth year of reaching out, not only to provide a cot to sleep on, showers and food, but to help them start a better life." said Thelma Ivey, a volunteer with Lighthouse Home Mission. "The most important thing is to let them know we care for them.

Seven churches in Westland, Garden City, Wayne and Canton, support the shelter which can sleep up to 50° individuals between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. seven days a week. Volunteers are needed to work 7-11 p.m. or 11 p.m. to 8

a.m. on the days of their choice. Help also is needed 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through

Friday to help sort clothing, work in the mission's food pantry and serve food at its soup kitchen. "There's no state funding for the shelter, so we go to the

people for help," said Ivey, a Garden City resident. The shelter became embroiled in controversy in 2004 after the Westland Zoning Board of Appeals failed to grant a zoning variance. The decision closed the shelter, but also forced the Full Gospel to close the soup kitchen

which had been in operation for many years. Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, however, ordered the kitchen to reopen and late last year let the warming center open with a change in hours and a promise to move people out of the area during the day.

The closing stemmed from concerns expressed by residents in the area about children heading to Adams Middle School about a half mile east at the same time people were leaving the facility.

"We don't want have anyone leaving until the children are in school," said Ivey. "We want to open and have no complaints. We'll make sure to instruct them to go west toward Wayne Road, not toward the school."

The soup kitchen serves meals to the needy in the area 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

But the mission's work doesn't end there. It also handles referrals for assistance 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and opens the clothing and food bank by appointment 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. Referrals can be faxed to Ivey's attention at (734) 721-

"The Lord never ceases to amaze me," said Ivey. "We take people from all over, and on nights when we say we're full, we make room for more."

The Lighthouse Warming Center is based at the full Gospel Temple, 34033 Palmer, Westland. People interested in volunteering at the warming center can call (734) 326-3885.

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Livonia motorist killed in crash

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 28, 2006

An 84-year-old man from Livonia was killed in Southfield early Tuesday after he left his stalled car on Eight Mile Road and was struck by another vehi-

("The crash remains under investigation," police spokesman Sgt. Michael R. Kuzila said Tuesday. "Right now, we're not releasing any names, and we don't have much to release."

The crash occurred about 4:40 a.m., east of Evergreen, the sergeant said.

The Livonia man's westbound car was stalled without lights in an active lane of traffic, Kuzila said. Another westbound motorist, identified as a 49-yearold man from Ferndale, swerved to avoid the stalled car and hit the driver, said Kuzila.

The victim was also in an active lane of traffic, said Kuzila who declined to comment about any possible traffic citations.

Canton

Police arrested a state employee Dec. 21 at Meijer in Canton after she attempted to steal three music CDs and a package of cotton swabs.

The woman, an employee of the state's Civil Rights Division, denied stealing the merchandise but later said she didn't have enough money to make the purchases. She expressed concern that she didn't want to lose her

According to Canton Police reports, a Meijer security guard spotted the woman concealing the CDs in a baby seat, and then followed her until she reached the checkout lanes. Although she purchased 10 energy drinks, she had placed two of the CDs in her purse and another in her umbrella. The box of cotton swabs were in a bag.

The woman was ticketed and given an early January court

A Canton woman has fingered her ex-boyfriend in stealing her Vicodin prescription from Walgreen's.

The woman, 26, said she called the Ford Road store on Dec. 22 to find out the price of her prescription but was told that it had been picked up Dec. 10.

For cash purchases of prescriptions that aren't covered by insurance, Walgreen's only requires

that the buyer confirm the address of the person listed on the prescription.

The bottle of 20 pills cost \$18. After recovering surveillance film from the store, police spotted a man who fit the description of the woman's 28-year-old exbovfriend.

The man, who lives in Garden City, had allegedly stole other prescription drugs from the woman.

Farmington Hills

Farmington Hills police are asking for the public's help in finding the driver and car involved in a hit and run accident at about 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20, on Haggerty Road, north of Nine Mile in Farmington Hills.

A 16-year-old female Novi resident was crossing Haggerty Road at about 9 p.m. when she was struck by a newer model, dark colored 4-door vehicle, possibly Ford Taurus, which was traveling northbound.

The vehicle continued north on Haggerty without stopping, according to police. The pedestrian suffered broken bones in one

hip, arm and leg, and was transferred to Children's Hospital in Detroit, where she is currently being treated for her injuries.

The Farmington Hills Police Traffic Safety Section is investigating the incident. Chief William Dwyer requests that any witnesses or persons with knowledge of the incident contact the Farmington Hills Police Department's Command Desk at (248) 871-2610 and reference police report No. 06-10531.

A 17-year-old student is suspended indefinitely from Harrison High School after he reportedly brought a Daisy BB gun to school on Dec. 15. The student had been suspended for being involved in a fight the day prior, but was at the school with his step-father to pick up an assignment when the gun was discovered. The boy reportedly bent down to pick up a piece of paper when the gun fell out of his sweatshirt pocket.

A 17-year-old North Farmington High School student reported her purse was stolen sometime during the morning of Dec. 15. The purse was found in a boy's restroom and was turned in to the office. The wallet was reportedly missing from the purse.

Livonia

A store employee was robbed and sexually assaulted Saturday, Dec. 23 at Fanatic U, 29243 Six Mile, according to Livonia police.

Two men walked into the store at about 8:15 p.m.

"(One of them) stuck a gun in the victim's back as she tried to help them with some merchandise and physically manhandled her to get her to give the money up," said Sgt. Cory Williams. The victim did not see a gun.

The robbers took money from the store's cash register and from the victim. One of the men took the employee to a bathroom and sexually assaulted her.

"He told her he would shoot her if she came out of the bathroom," Williams said. The victim waited for five to eight minutes after he left. She ran to a nearby business to call police because the robbers also took her cell phone and store's cordless phone

The case is similar to another Livonia robbery a month earlier, Williams said.

The suspects are described as black men in their mid-20s. One is about 5 feet, 4 inches tall, 140

pounds. The other is about 6 feet tall, 250 pounds.

Redford

Redford police have a suspect in the shooting death of a 46-year-old Detroit man on Dec. 20, but no charges have been

The victim was found at the Coach & Lantern Motel on Grand River at about 2 p.m. He died at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Capt. Kraig Brueck said other details were being withheld because the case is still under investigation. "We're working with the prosecutor's office. We expect to request charges soon."

A shooting spree overnight Friday, Dec. 22 left at least 20 vehicles with broken windows in Redford, police said.

Shots were fired from a BB or pellet gun into cars parked near Seven Mile between Inkster and Beech Daly, police said. Nothing was taken from the vehicles.

A witness reported seeing a white man with a shaved head hanging out the passenger side of a small white car.

Anyone with information can call the Redford police detective bureau at (313) 387-2570.

A man waited in a long line to rob a Charter One bank branch inside the Kroger store at 9369 Telegraph shortly before 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, according to Redford police.

The man reportedly told the teller, "This is a hold-up. Give me all your big bills." He then asked for the \$20 bills as well.

None of the other bank employees saw the robbery because they were busy helping other customers, police said. The suspect is a black man,

between 35 and 45 years old, standing at least 6 feet, 4 inches tall, weighing between 220 and 250 pounds. His hair was shaved along the sides and he wore black sunglasses, a black and gray running suit and black knit gloves. The FBI is investigating.

After Christmas shopping Dec. 23, a Redford woman

returned home to the 24000 block of Lyndon to find her side door kicked in and home ran-About \$2,000 in jewels were

taken from the master bedroom, along with a fur coat and a purse. The burglary occurred

between 11:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Police do not have a suspect. More than \$4,000 worth of

drills and tools were stolen from

seven vans parked in a SBC telephone company parking lot at 25195 Glendale, according to

Redford police. Sometime between 5 p.m. Dec. 22 ad 7:30 a.m. Dec. 26, a thief cut a hole to get into the fenced lot and broke the van windows.

Westland

Two drivers and a passenger were being treated for injuries received Wednesday morning during a two-car accident on Warren west of Middlebelt.

A Jeep Liberty being driving west on Warren by a 51-year-old man was struck by an eastbound Dodge Neon when the Neon's 19vear-old driver crossed the center line, police Sgt. Rob Collier said.

The Neon then struck a tree, Collier said. A 47-year-old passenger in the Jeep also was being treated.

The Neon was traveling at a high rate of speed during the 7:18 a.m. accident, and Collier said possible charges are pending against the driver.

A 52-year-old Brighton man was arrested in Westland early Christmas morning on charges of impersonating a police officer and carrying a concealed weapon, police Sgt. Steve Borisch said. The suspect was arrested when real-life Westland police Sgt. Jeff Jedrusik saw him activate police emergency lights on an unmarked police car described as a 2005 Ford Crown Victoria, Borisch said.

The Brighton man apparently operates a Detroit company that contracts with Ford Motor Co. to test vehicles, Borisch said.

The incident happened just after midnight on Christmas Day on Ford Road east of Hix, on Westland's west side. Jedrusik initially believed he

was coming to the aid of a police officer from another community who was making a legitimate traffic stop, Borisch said. He was going to offer back-up.

Instead, the suspect turned off the emergency lights and started driving away, prompting Jedrusik to stop him. A .380-caliber pistol was found in the car, Borisch said. The suspect told police the

emergency lights came on by accident. The man posted \$5,000 of a \$50,000 bond and is awaiting a Jan. 4 preliminary hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial. If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to five years in prison.



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Fast-thinking kids help their diabetic mom

BY REBECCA JONES STAFF WRITER

If mommy ever acts goofy, bring her a juice box. That's the advice Marcy Janes gave to her kids. On Dec. 11, she was glad she did.

Janes has Type 1 diabetes. That Monday morning, she didn't wake up to get her sons, Brendan and Jake, ready for school. The boys knew some-

"Mom was having a diabetic emergency," said Tom Kiurski, training coordinator for the Livonia Fire Department. Her blood sugar level dropped to a dangerous level.

Brendan and Jake knew what to do.

"I gave her a juice box," said Jake, a first-grader at Randolph Elementary in Livonia.

"She needed sugar," said Brendan, 9.

But they couldn't get her to take a sip. "She was too far gone to even drink the juice

box," Kiurski said. The kids tried to give her a candy cane instead. They also called their aunts.

Aunt Jane Slipek of Westland came over immediately and called 9-1-1. Paramedics delivered glu-

"(Patients with this condition) generally come back pretty quickly after that," Kiurski said. "She didn't even go to the hospital."

"And then we fixed her a peanut butter and jelly sandwich," Brendan said.

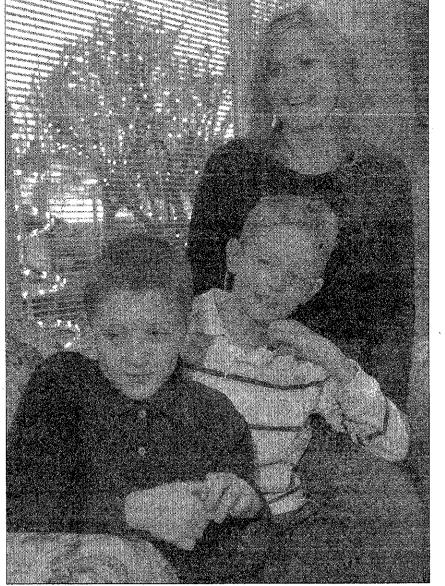
Marcy Janes, a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, hasn't had a diabetic emergency like that in many years, but she trained her sons what to do just in

On Dec. 21, Kiurski, the fire chief, and three paramedics from Station 6 who responded to the medical call, visited the Janes family to congratulate Brendan and Jake.

"You guys did the right thing when you were supposed to," Kiurski said. The boys got certificates, stuffed animals, firemen's helmets and stickers.

"I'm very proud. They did exactly what they've been told to do," Janes said. She also commended the fire department for the way they praised her

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

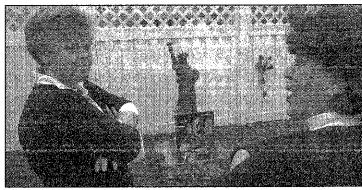
Marcy Janes and sons Jake and Brendan.



Jake and Brendan Janes watch the firefighters gathering for their visit to the Janes family.



Brendan and Jake Janes got to meet with John McKee, Matt Niemczewski, and David Bostater. Jerry Eizen, who is also on the crew, is not pictured.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton resident Maureen Hassien, here with niece Sheri Barber of Westland, is happy that her late husband Bud's Statue of Liberty was returned.

Return of 'Lady Liberty' brightens widow's Christmas

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

She left with a thief in the night and was returned by an angel in the morning.

The cherished Statue of Liberty replica stolen from a Canton woman's garden in late November was returned during the early hours of Christmas.

"That just made my day," said Maureen Hassien, whose plea to get the statue back was highlighted in the Dec. 21 Canton Observer. "In less than a week, all the (media attention) brought her home."

The 30-inch tall replica was a gift to Hassien's deceased husband, Assim "Bud" Hassien.

"This was our first Christmas without him so it had been a very hard week for me," said Maureen, who was married to Bud for 32 years. "It seems like him and God brought her back on what they knew would be our worst day."

Known for his longtime fondness of Lady Liberty, Bud Hassien planned to visit the national monument in October, but died of a heart attack just weeks before the scheduled trip.

The statue's theft only worsened the family's grieving process.

"I was so angry that someone had taken her but when she came back, I couldn't stop crying tears

Barber of Westland. "This changed the whole spirit of our Christmas."

The 50-pound statue, affectionately referred to as "The Lady," was placed on Maureen's doorstep between 2-7 a.m.

"I could see something out there and when I opened the door, my legs just started shaking," Maureen said. "I just picked her up and brought her in the house. I couldn't believe she had come home."

Besides a small nick at the hemline of her robe and another near her seven-point crown, the cement replica is in good condi-tion. The family plans to permanently attach it to the pedestal still standing in Hassien's garden.

"If someone tries to take it again, they're going to get a major backache," Maureen chuckled, glancing at the statue sitting near her fireplace.

Barber, who attended midnight Mass with Hassien, said she asked God to give her aunt strength to make it through her first Christmas as a widow.

"I said a prayer and I had hope," she said. "There's no excuse for stealing, but I'm glad whoever took it had a change of heart,"

Maureen said she has no hard feelings toward the statue's thief. "Thank you for bringing her back but please don't do it again

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 28, 2006

Late President Ford remembered fondly

STAFF WRITER

Bill Broomfield has a lot of good memories of President Gerald Ford from their years representing Michigan in Congress together.

"I served with him all through his congressional career," said the retired congressman, reached Wednesday morning at his suburban Washington, D.C., home. Ford, who died Tuesday night in Rancho Mirage, Calif., at age 93, came to Congress in 1948.

"He was a very decent and honorable man," said Broomfield, a Republican. "He was just a great person. Everybody liked him.

Broomfield believes-Ford's legacy will be restoring decency and honesty to the presidency following the Watergate scandal. "Our country needed that kind of leadership," said Broomfield, who approved of the pardoning of President Richard Nixon. "It was a healing process and I think most people understood that."

Broomfield advocated for Ford to be

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injuries such as a patello-femoral believe that is just the first step.

pain syndrome ("runner's knee") Modifying running mechanics

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Former President Gerald Ford at an appearance at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

House minority leader and later vice president when Spiro Agnew resigned. He and his wife, Jane, just got their annual Christmas card from the Fords.

"Betty Ford and my wife are very close." "I think he did an awful lot for Michigan, too," Broomfield added. "Michigan really benefited a great deal." He recalled being with Ford, Jimmy Carter and Henry Kissinger on a delegation to represent the U.S. when Egypt's Anwar Sadat was assassinated.

"I was deeply saddened by his passing,"

Broomfield said of Ford. "I feel I've lost a great friend."

Democratic Congressman John Dingell said in a statement, "Gerald Ford and I came from different sides of the aisle, but we forged a wonderful friendship as we served Michigan together in the House of Representatives. When his nation called on him to serve this country in the most difficult of times, he rose up and held the country together. It will certainly be his

"I will remember him fondly and I will miss him dearly," Dingell concluded.

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm has directed all U.S flags to fly at half staff to comply with federal law, and encourages residents and nongovernmental entities to

"The nation has lost a president, but Michigan has lost a native son who honored us with his service to our state and nation," she said in a statement. Granholm praised Ford's leadership and decency from his days at the University of Michigan on to Congress and the presi-

FROM PAGE AT

and we've always had birthday parties in the park."

Becker said her grandson, along with other family members, also helped build a children's playscape and attended some Relay for Life activities in Central City Park.

Becker said her grandson, who spent his early years growing up in a mobile home built in 1985, has no other known exposure to lead, such as lead-based paint. She said the boy has an appointment Friday with his pediatrician for further examination.

On Tuesday, Helmkamp said it is his understanding that the Dec. 6 blood tests found no elevated levels of lead in any adults. Most Wayne County officials weren't available for comment this holiday week.

In all, nearly 100 children and adults showed up Dec. 6 for the free blood tests. A much smaller number got tested a week later.

In yet another development, Helmkamp confirmed Tuesday that water samples taken from Friendship Lake in the park showed no problem with lead.

The controversy over Central City Park erupted in early November as Mayor Sandra Cicirelli moved to close the park until cleanup efforts can be approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Only a paved walking path around the perimeter has remained

Park users became angry after learning that city, county and MDEQ officials had known about elevated levels of lead for several years, based on soil samples from several

Soil tests also found other contaminants, including arsenic, cyanide, mercury, PCBs and pesticides, but officials said those weren't in elevated levels considered potentially harmful.

Officials have said they didn't believe the lead contamination posed a serious health threat. They have said most of the elevated levels of over 400 parts per million were found on the western ball diamonds and, to a lesser extent, the soccer fields.

Officials have said the park was used as a former dump site by county road workers from the 1930s to the 1970s.

Meanwhile, Westland's plans to host the 2007 Western Wayne County Senior Olympics have been postponed a year. Instead, Canton, which was supposed to host the 2008 Olympics, will switch with Westland.

"We've already arranged to switch with Canton," said Cicirelli, who will leave her mayoral job Jan. 1 to become a Westland district judge.

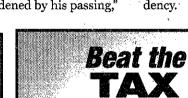
The 2007 Relay for Life event is expected to be moved from Central City Park to Jaycee Park in Westland. Local and county officials also will try to find alternate sites for Little League baseball.

"My gut feeling is that we're not going to get this (park remediation) wrapped up in time for the baseball season," Westland City Council President William Wild said.

Helmkamp pledged that county officials will help the city in the event that cleanup efforts can move forward quickly.

"We're hoping for the best but planning for the worst,"

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MINISTRY

tered 12-step program at a church that taught her to be completely honest about everything.

"I'm so grateful for that," she said. "That's what drives me today, getting more people to realize that kind of honesty is the only way to have joy. You have to stop being fake."

DOESN'T HURT

She doesn't hurt anymore, at least not that way, and now she dedicates her life to helping others escape the same kinds of pain. Easterly, a Livonia resident, found her way to NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township after attending one of its "Glory of Christmas" productions and hearing senior pastor Brad Powell speak.

"It was clearly a God thing," she said. "He spoke to me very clearly about making that change."

She left the church she'd been attending for 10 years and is now happily ensconced at NorthRidge. Starting as a volunteer, she began the "Life Share" ministry and attending Bible college. When she graduated, she said, she sought advice from Powell about a life direction and pitched him the idea about her ministry.

Now she's been on staff for six years and serves as the care ministries pastor, coordinating the activities of some 67 support groups for everything from divorce to addiction. "Out of your misery comes your ministry," Easterly said, smiling.

Easterly's honesty and openness is one of the things that attracted Beth (the Observer is withholding her last name at her request), a Canton woman who leads the ministry's Women of Serenity addictions support group.

Beth, who acknowledges "I was a mess" before being saved, said Easterly's attitude was "refreshing."

"When I first went there, Lillian was real open about it," Beth said. "It wasn't church-ish. It wasn't, 'here's what you did wrong,' it was more 'I know

what you're feeling, and I know a way out."

'AWESOME PROGRAM'

SHOPPERS

stores. Shelves that had been

new sale signs Dec. 26.

the calendar kiosk.

picked over and in disarray days earlier were in neat order with

At Westland mall, shoppers

leather coats for \$85 and half off

everything from the toy store to

Macy's and J.C. Penney both

offered extra savings until noon,

"I'm going to have lunch and

which helped draw shoppers.

could find sweaters for \$15,

FROM PAGE A1

Like Beth, Mike Smith of Westland is a recovering alcoholic. Smith, a musician who plays at the church, is a member of the church's Celebrate Recovery group for people with alcohol addictions.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lillian Easterly of Livonia, the care ministries pastor at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township, helps coordinate the activities of some 67 support groups at the church, which draws membership from all over Wayne County.

"It's really an awesome program," Smith said. "It's a place you can go where you don't have to be afraid of who you are, you don't have to put on any masks. You're not judged; there's just a lot of help."

Smith attributes much of that to Easterly, who he said has "tremendous compassion for people."

"Lillian has taken that program to unbelievable levels; in my opinion, it's the most important part of the church," he said. "She has caring and compassion for those who are in need. God works through her really well, and she really has a passion for that ministry."

Easterly shrugs off the praise with the air of someone who's simply doing what she loves. The church is getting ready for an increase in need after the first of the year, when people start taking stock of their lives and vowing changes.

"There's a contemplation that always comes after New Year, people start looking at their lives," Easterly said. "If people coming through our doors aren't in a state of crisis now, they will be. It's inevitable, it's just reality. Our doors are open to

Helping people sort out their problems is something Easterly, who got so much help with her own,

"I have the privilege of entering into people's pain with them and then seeing God show up and do a miracle," she said. "I think I get more out of it than they do, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Cyndy Masciulli of Canton and

her two eager children filled their

cart in the toy department.

"They just got money for

Christmas so we figured we'd

shop," said Masciulli. Her son,

who gave his age as 4.2 years old,

found good deals, like a Spider-

Man Adventure Zone tent

\$30.

marked down to \$7.48, from

Outside, Shannon Larson

rearranged the contents of her

room for three cartfuls of mer-

chandise — including stocking

Jeep Laredo, trying to make

stuffers for next year.

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energy lasts," said Detroit resi-

tained on Christmas. "It's fun for

"So far, so good. No returns,"

said Susan Mullen of Westland,

with Boxing Day gifts for her in-

The parking lot at Target on

Ford Road in Canton was full,

but there was no waiting at the

aisles at the back of the store

Everyone shuffled through the

where Christmas decorations had

who came to the mall empty-

handed and planned to leave

laws in Windsor.

returns counter.

dent Molly Thiry, who enter-

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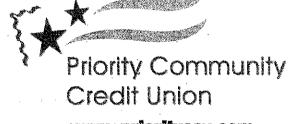


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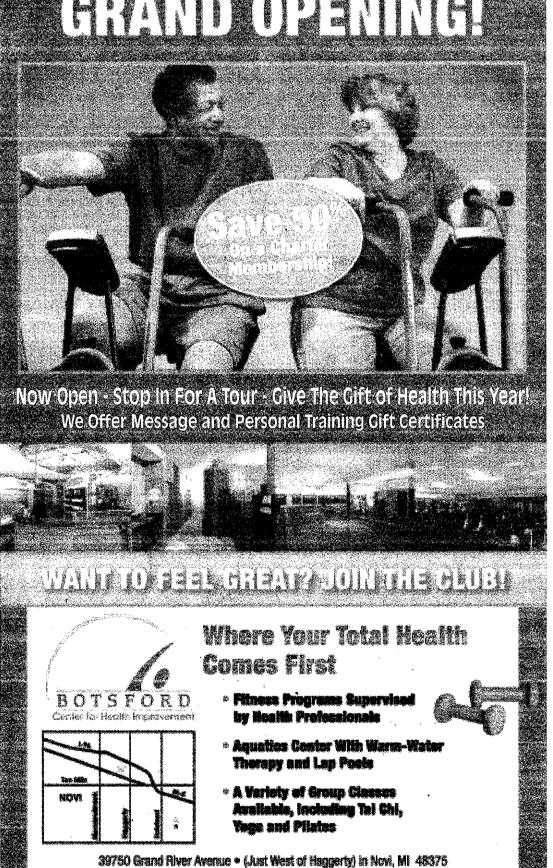
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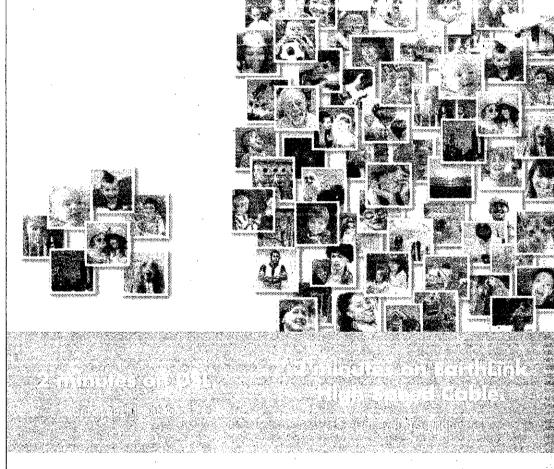
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OUR VIEWS

Help put an end to drunken driving

Despite years of public education by law enforcement agencies and groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving, people continue to die on our highways in alcohol-related accidents.

continue to die on our highways in alcohol-related accidents.

Last year, 16,885 lives were lost — almost one every half hour, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

That's only a slight improvement from 2004 when 16,919 people died in drunken-driving accidents nationwide.

The New Year's holiday period continues to be one of the deadliest times of year, with 67 percent of all fatal crashes in

Michigan involving alcohol.

Michelle Compton, director of MADD's Oakland County chapter, calls drunken driving the "public health equivalent of polio in the 1950s," with 3 out of every 10 Americans being involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their

The national organization recently announced a four-point campaign aimed at wiping out drunken driving in the next 10 years

The campaign calls for having:

Interlock ignition devices installed for a probationary

period in the vehicles of first-time drunken drivers;

A higher visibility of law enforcement including roadside sobriety checks.

A partnership of insurance companies, automobile makers and governmental agencies marketing a device for the inside of vehicles to deter drunken driving and be as revolutionary as seat belts and;

■ A stronger network of agencies to fight drunken driving.

But no campaign will be 100-percent effective until everyone takes personal responsibility for his or her behavior.

If you drink and drive, pledge now to stop.

Even a small amount of alcohol — depending on your mood, how much you've eaten, any medications you're taking and how fast you drink — can affect your driving abilities.

If you drink, stay put or ask a designated driver to take you home.

The life you save may be your own or that of a loved one. If you don't drink and drive, continue to be a good example to those around you and share with others the sobering statistics you've just read.

Michigan remains a great place to live

It seems in recent years that Michigan bashing has become a bit of an art.

That was especially the case during the last election when some politicians chose to paint a very bleak picture about our state. Some television campaign ads were particularly troubling, showing empty stadiums, empty cities and portraying a state in utter decline.

You would have thought that everyone had left the state and just forgot to turn off the lights.

That just isn't the case, however. New population estimates that came out this week from the U.S. Census Bureau show the state's population has remained steady, and is practically unchanged over the last two years. Our population is 10,095,643, which is down only 5,000 from last year. We actually had an increase of 7,000 people in 2005, so we're actually up 2,000 people over 2004.

And while there has been some out-migration as people go elsewhere to find work (115,000 people between 2000 and July of this year), the new census numbers show there was worse out-migration in the early 1960s, mid-1970s and especially in the early 1980s.

especially in the early 1980s.

Despite the economy, which is struggling because of radical changes in the manufacturing sector, Michigan is still a great place to live. Most of us know that.

Just think of all the great things our state has to offer. We have one of the world's largest concentrations of fresh water, which provides us with an unparalleled source of recreation, from boating to fishing to thousands and thousands of miles for walks on the beach. It also provides us with wonderful drinking water, something that is becom-

ing more and more scarce in some parts of the nation. The overall quality of life is still pretty decent in Michigan. We have good hospitals, good schools, and a relatively clean environment. Our natural resources are plentiful, and have been a driving force of our economy since the state was first populated. And despite some funding challenges, public education is still a priority in this state.

We are still home to the automobile, and as such, have attracted some of the most talented engineers in the world. The rise of Automation Alley is a testament to the fact that Southeast Michigan is home to one of the nation's most important high-tech centers. It is clear Michigan has more to offer than just manufacturing jobs.

In fact, we have the tools in place here in Michigan to be a leader in the development of alternative energy sources, something many pundits believe will be critical to the future survival of our nation and our planet.

Perhaps, as we enter a new year, we — especially our leaders — should begin to celebrate our wonderful state. Being a Michigander is something to be proud of.



Published Thursday and Sunday

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





LETTERS

Lightfest wonderful

As a Livonia resident who lives near Hines Park, I never took the time to actually visit the Wayne County Lightfest until 2004, when I was pregnant with my first child.

I was very impressed then and I was even more impressed again tonight, as my husband and I took our now 21-month-old daughter to the very park where we ride our bikes all summer long and I have to say I was proud to be a Wayne County resident!

For a donation of a mere \$5, visitors can choose two lanes to drive along the approximately 7-mile stretch and see the many eyecatching displays of color and light.

It was so exciting to watch the displays through the eyes of our daughter, who is now only starting to "get" Santa. Various religions were represented and I'm sure as we drive through the display a couple of years from now, my husband and I will have a great opportunity to describe the different religions to our daughter.

But for now, there were plenty of displays of snowmen, Santa's sleighs, reindeer, gingerbread houses and Nutcrackers and even a patriotic flag, complete with fireworks to bring smiles and wide eyes to the eyes of toddlers, as well as small kids and big kids alike!

The North Pole is represented and so is Santa's Flight School, where you can watch baby deer take off on practice leaps.

If you haven't driven through the Wayne County Lightfest with your family, I strongly recommend you pop in a Christmas CD, sit back, relax and enjoy the beauty of the season. And if you have a child, try remembering the excitement of this time of year through their eyes.

Congratulations to Wayne County for hosting such a wonderful family event that gets better each year!

Happy holidays to all!

Janice Fritz Ryken Livonia

Park horror stories

This letter is about the lead levels in Central City Park. I was truly hoping that no one would have positive findings of lead. Well, how wrong I was. My 12-year-old grandson has elevated levels of lead. He will be going to his doctor this week to have a full metal testing. The rest of this family seems to have tested normal, whatever that means.

Ms. (Mayor Sandra) Cicirelli, you may be a judge, not with my help, but I still hold you responsible for this not being brought to our attention a long time ago. We will see where this goes after my grandson has further testing.

I have also heard some other horror stories. One example: a group of women have played softball on our diamonds for a number of years. So far one had a full metal test and they have found arsenic and a number of other metals. Hopefully the others will have this testing done too.

Not surprised.

Georgia Becker

Westland

Pipe dream

The rationale behind government's latest proposed welfare scheme, Granholm's Promise Scholarship is "a more educated work force will draw more businesses to Michigan." I guess if you repeat enough times a statement with some surface plausibility, it becomes the incontestable truth. Scratch an inch below the surface with a minimum of critical thinking, however, and economic reality will show that this is just another pipe dream of professional bureaucrats.

For one (as Steve Sutton noted in an earlier letter), a subsidized increase in demand without a market-driven increase in supply will result in higher prices, making the subsidy irrelevant while pricing some current, unsubsidized customers out of the market. Secondly, employees are much more

mobile than businesses. It is much easier for an educated work force to move toward opportunity than for a business to set up shop in a state where an increasing tax grab will be required to "educate" the work force. Michigan's brain drain will only be exacerbated by this latest gimmick from the taxand-spenders in Lansing.

Third, all the pink slipped automotive professionals in this state already provide a pool of available talent for entrepreneurs who *really* thought Michigan was a good place to do business. Why aren't those new businesses flocking to this state if, as Granholm says, the only thing stopping them is an uneducated work force?

While most Michigan residents will suffer because of this latest proposed outrage, there are always some winners. And the winners are the government schools and their unionized and tenured staff, the ultimate recipient of this taxpayer-funded largesse. Other Michigan residents, not the privileged members of this pampered oligarchy, are going to foot the bill. Should we really be surprised?

Jerry Smith Farmington

Loyal to Farmington

We lived in the City of Farmington the last time merger was an issue. Residents compared our lower taxes and better services and saw no advantage to being absorbed into a bigger government.

Politicians speak of cutting costs and improving efficiency, promises that are quickly forgotten. We already share schools and libraries. The city has excellent police and public works departments and small-town friendliness. When or if it comes to a vote, nothing will change. Farmington residents are loyal.

Hank Borgman Farmington

No more

No more troops for Iraq, period. We have to find a way to pull our troops out Iraq without the country falling in to total chaos. Sending in more troops will not achieve anything but adding to the total number of deaths.

> Clayton Scott Farmington

Can't stop McCotter

As time goes by, the impact of decisions made becomes apparent and amplified. The decision by some in our community to send Thaddeus McCotter back to Washington, D.C., is one of those. McCotter was an original co-sponsor of HR-5193, the Iran

Freedom Support Act, which was introduced in the 108th Congress by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. In 2005, Rep. Ros-Lehtinen reintroduced

the legislation amending the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to eliminate mandatory sanction provisions respecting Libya. Libya has for a long time been led by a dictator and has a government and court system based on fancy and whim. It is a cruel place.

Just recently that nation, which McCotter feels should be spared sanctions, condemned five nurses and a doctor to death. The nurses traveled from Bulgaria and the doctor from Palestine. Libya claims that they infected 400 children with a genetically modified virus causing them to have AIDS. An organization representing the children claimed it was done on behalf of foreign intelligence agencies.

It is said that cries of "God is great!" and "Long live the Libyan judiciary!" were heard as the verdict of death was read by the judge.

Scientific evidence proving that the hospital is filthy and harbored AIDS before the nurses arrived was, incredibly, "too late to be submitted in court."

It's too late to pull McCotter back. He's back in Washington again.

His message is amplified too — he is part of a rock and roll band called The Second Amendments.

Al Brock Canton

Stop wasting money

Once again, Canton feels the need to spend money on items that provide very little return.

Each day, I drive north and south on Sheldon Road and Lilley Road and get my teeth rattled. It is so reassuring to know that there is a \$57,000 piece of art gracing Ford Road and Canton Center. Each day, as people try to get through the intersection, I am sure they will thoughtfully gaze at the sculpture and measure its finer qualities.

Hopefully Supervisor Tom Yack will once again pick up his telephone and call me at 10 p.m. to tell me how little my opinion counts, as he did when I expressed my displeasure at the millions of dollars spent on the Ford Road beautification project. I look around each day in utter amazement at the lack of foresight in the planning of Canton Township.

Albert D. De Grazia

Canton

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

'This is our fourth year of reaching out, not only to provide a cot to sleep on, showers and food, but to help them start a better life.'

— Thelma Ivey, a volunteer with Lighthouse Home Mission

Making China's economic rise work for Michigan's future

uick, name three things that Michigan has that China does not.

No, the correct answer is not the "trinity" of Oakland County Executive Brooks Patterson, Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano and the larger than life Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. Nor is it the lousy Detroit Lions, potted roads or the almost-World Champion Detroit Tigers.

It is clean air, clean water and a pristine envi-

ronment. Those who have lived in Michigan for a num-



Watkins

ber of years know that this was not always the case. The early days of our industrial strength witnessed the pollution of our air, our rivers, streams and lakes. Yet, as kids will say, "that was then and this is now. Certainly, we have yet to reach any "environmental nirvana," as any Michigan environmental group will be quick to point out. However, by nearly any meas-

ure, we have come a long way. If you have traveled in China recently, your burning eyes will testify that along with their economic boom over the past quarter of a century, with double-digit economic increases on an annual basis, has come with a stiff environmental price — polluted air, rivers, streams and

China's environmental problems are not just limited to their political borders. Air and water pollution do not stop at the artificial boundaries marked on world maps. When we talk about "China's rise," it is more than just their economic mass, it is also pollution that is rising

Clearly China's economic rise has come with a heavy and choking toll on the environment. The factories that are producing much of what will lay under your Christmas tree this year are fueled by dirty coal spewing out soot and fouling the air and water. Further complicating the problem is growing auto pollution. It is predicted that there will be seven times the number of cars on China roadways in 2020 than there were in 2004, and the Chinese auto market is expected to surpass the U.S. market in 10 years.

China's energy needs are as great or greater than their environmental needs as they continue to emerge from the horrors of the Cultural Revolution and other ill-forgotten national policies that held the sleeping dragon back for much of the 20th century. The Chinese will need to invest in energy production in an environmentally sensible way.

According to the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, the Chinese need to invest nearly \$2 trillion in new power plants and transmission by 2030. Will the energy be clean? Can Michigan clean up by helping the Chinese meet these two

mounting demands? Many reports coming out of China point to

Clearly China's economic rise has come with a heavy and choking toll on the environment. The factories that are producing much of what will lay under your Christmas tree this year are fueled by dirty coal spewing out soot and fouling the air and water.

the fact that Chinese leaders are recognizing the huge problem of pollution and are encouraging new green technology to address these issues lest they choke off the economic dragon that is lifting many Chinese out of poverty and providing the stability the Chinese Communist Party will pay any price to maintain.

America remains number one in two categories today: economic output and the world's leading emitter of greenhouse gases. However, according to the International Monetary Fund, by 2040 or sooner, China could surpass us in both categories.

There is an economic doom and gloom hanging in the Michigan air like a smoggy day in Beijing. With the daily barrage of bad news from the auto industry and the continued loss of manufacturing jobs polluting our minds, it is easy to lose the forest for the trees.

Yet, China's problems could and should be seen by Michigan's leaders and entrepreneurs as our opportunities. China is sitting on an escalating energy and environmental crisis in addition to as much as \$1 trillion of foreign currency, much of that U.S. currency, seeking investment opportunities. Can Michigan help build environmentally friendly power plants in China, clean the air, help purify the water and put our people to work doing so?

Our state has a recent rich history of protecting our drinking water, reclaiming our rivers, streams and lakes while fueling our industrial needs. Through our creativity, innovation and can-do spirit we have the ability to take Michigan off economic life support and export our knowledge and products on the global stage.

Michigan must have the goal of becoming the brain bank of the world when it comes to auto technology, alternative energy and environmental entrépreneurship. As the state that protects our streams, air and rivers and stands tall as the protector of the Great Lakes, Michigan must seek ways to export this knowledge, technology and products to China.

How is that for clearing the air with China?

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-05 and as president and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Fla., 1996-2001. He has a long-standing interest in China and has traveled there many times. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

Change Michigan headlines to employment, economic growth

obs. Disposable income. People. What do all these things have in common? The answer is simple — out of Michigan. For many years, our state has suffered significantly due to job losses, particularly in the automotive sector, thus making our state No. 1 in unemployment in the entire nation. As unfortunate as it may seem, the realism is there and we must do something as soon as possible to restore our great state to the economy glory and boom that we once cherished.

Jobs are continuing to pour out of our great state to our neighbor-

ing states, as well as those states in warmer climates. Why is this? It's because we here in Michigan have an unfriendly business environment.

For example, we have the Single Business Tax that has been the talk of being Rogers revamped. We have school districts across the country

Mike

that are luring our teachers away because of bonuses and repayments of their educational loans, and states that are pitching big tax breaks for companies that want to do business in those states. The list goes on and on and on while Michigan's economy moves out as fast as a click of a switch.

Disposable income is such a significant economic boost to any location. For example, when Michigan was in the running for Boeing Corp. to locate the assembly plant for its new Boeing 7E7 Dreamliner in northeast lower Michigan, other states had better packages in place, therefore we lost on an opportunity for thousands of jobs directly related to Boeing, as well as spinoff jobs being located here in southeast Michigan.

The infusion of disposable income in the local and state economy would have been vital in that more businesses would have flourished near the plant, more homes would have been built, more office space, etc.

Michigan didn't win the contract! This says a lot. It says to Boeing and other companies that Michigan is not a great place to do business. However, I believe we are a great place to do business, but this greatness must be met with the support of our lawmakers in Lansing and Washington. We offered Boeing \$300 million in tax incentives over a 20-year period, whereas Washington state offered it \$3 billion over 20 years. Washington's proposal was more aggressive than Michigan's. Hopefully, we will land a Boeing contract in Michigan in the next 10-12 years, the next time that Boeing will develop a new aircraft.

Our great state of Michigan has such a skilled and talented work force. Our strong aerospace industry would have served a log-

ical fit for Boeing to locate a plant here. Boeing has failed to land in Michigan and has landed elsewhere and billions of dollars to Michigan went with it.

People are leaving Michigan at a rate as fast as those people moving into states that, offer better weather, a better business climate and jobs. That's plain and simple. We need to reverse this trend as fast as we can and not be complacent in sustaining our job losses here. It seems like that's the direction we are headed.

Our state must invest in its people, invest in its businesses, invest in education system, invest in health care. I just cannot stress how important it is to invest in Michigan. All this can take place with the strike of a 🚟 pen in Lansing, where our lawmakers have been tasked with the responsibility to look out for the best interests of our state. We have such a talented and skilled workforce here that we can diversify our economy all across the board.

The automotive industry was certainly a mi driving force of Michigan's economy and has contributed to thousands of jobs, as well as job losses. Why the job loss? Because of fierce competition, particularly amongst Asian automakers. There are so many reasons why we have suffered here in Michigan. Our state is a center for education, medicine, manufacturing, technology, aerospace, financial services, etc. We must capitalize on these sectors by supporting them.

Our great state laid the foundation that put the world on wheels, however, we must grow beyond the automotive sector, in not only supporting them, but supporting Michigan farmers who help feed America and the world, help the scientific community as they are looking to find cures to the leading diseases of the day, support industries such as alternative energy in helping to deliver new energy alternatives to our citizens rather than depending on foreign oil, help boost our tourism industry to help fill in those hotel rooms in Michigan's landmark sites such as Traverse City and Mackinac Island, etc.

I urge our top policy makers in Lansing to pass legislation that would pay dividends for job creation, family finances, small government and low taxes. We must enact tax cuts to relieve Michigan citizens and business as they are suffering. Let's cut all this government spending in Lansing and invest in Michigan people. Let's reverse the statistic as being No. 1 in unemployment and be No. 1 in job growth. And let the headlines read: "Jobs are moving into Michigan," and "Michigan is America's No. 1 economy."

Mike Rogers of Farmington Hills is an Oakland County commissioner for the 14th District, Farmington Hills.



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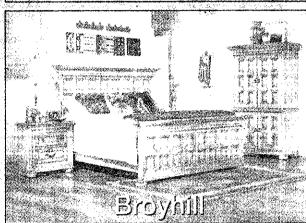
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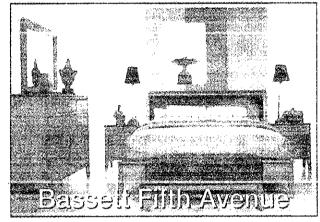
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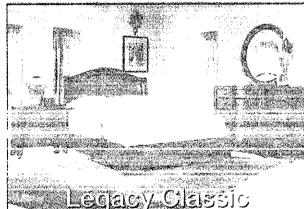


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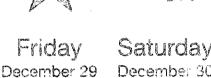






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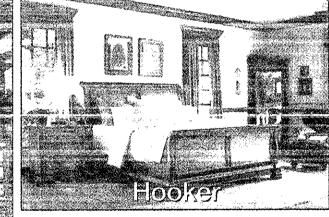




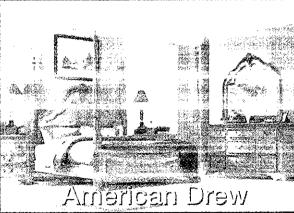


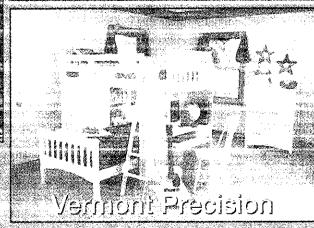














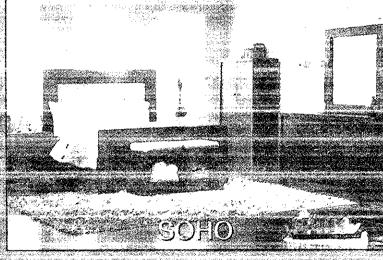
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Veteran reporter gives inside look at governor's race

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

The title of Tim Skubick's entertaining, behind-the-scenes book on the just-completed governor's race is See Dick and Jen Run. Over the last year Skubick has been doing a lot of running himself in pursuit of the two candidates, Dick DeVos and Jennifer Granholm.

In fact he's still running. Last week he was late for an interview to promote his book because the successful candidate, Gov. Granholm, was holding a dour press conference on Michigan's uncertain economic

Skubick is the dean of the Lansing press corps who seems to be everywhere at once - as a reporter for several television and radio stations, a syndicated columnist and host of Michigan Public Television's Off The Record, a must-see for state political junkies. He has covered Lansing for more than 30 years, dating back to Gov. Bill Milliken.

It's that full menu and special access to the candidates that gives his book its special appeal and immediacy.

The book itself was written on the run, in real time, as Skubick and other reporters tracked the most expensive and one of the most interesting gubernatorial campaigns in Michigan history. The format allowed Skubick to turn the book around quickly for his publishers The University of Michigan Press and The

Petoskey Publishing Company. "It may sound crass, but the book had to get out soon after the election," Skubick said. "If I had written it after the election, it would have been March or April until I finished. I finished it the day after the election. I quote Dan Mulhern (Jennifer Granholm's husband) 'brilliant marketing' end quote.

Brilliant marketing was also key to Granholm's spectacular



Veteran capital reporter Tim Skubick gives an insider's view of the recent gubernatorial campaign in 'See Dick and Jen Run.'

turnaround. Early in the campaign DeVos, a wealthy Grand Rapids businessman, began a media blitz of commercials while Granholm held back.

"We were wondering, 'When are you going to start your ads and erase his 20 point lead.' But she made the right call, preserved her stash of cash until the end. I missed that," Skubick said.

The book's real-time format allows Skubick to brag about his scoops but it also honestly portrays those times when he and other reporters "missed it."

CONTRASTING CANDIDATES

Skubick clearly likes DeVos and Granholm.

"I like them both, personally. Professionally, I could give a hoot," he said.

But to the public, DeVos seemed awkward.

"In private he was personable. People I met universally said, 'He's not what I thought he would be," Skubick said. "There is a stereotype about billionaires being aloof and above everyone."

Skubick said he tells a story about DeVos visiting a nursing home and spending time talking individually with the residents.

On the other hand, Granholm was made for the media.

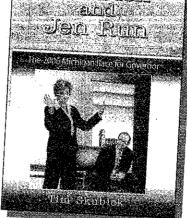
"I call it the Granholm magic," he said. "Her staff call her a rock star, I'm not ready to go there. But she lights up a

He said she has a way of making everyone she meets feel important.

She uses it in a positive way, but it didn't carry her as far this time as last time, a little of the bloom was off the rose," he said.

A weak economy, an ongoing struggle with a Republican legislature and a crisis in some government services made Granholm vulnerable. But the





first debate clearly showed the differences in the candidates.

THE FIRST DEBATE

Skubick was at the center of that pivotal event. He was originally set to be the sole moderator. But as negotiations went along, the DeVos camp was leery of Skubick's aggressive questioning style. A compromise had Skubick teamed with Detroit News political reporter Charlie Cain.

"I always prefer a single moderator, but this worked out wonderfully," he said.

Skubick said even DeVos' handlers admit that they didn't prepare him well for the debate. He was awkward, unsure of where to look and kept repeating pat phrases. Skubick said he had been ill advised to not go after Granholm.

Skubick said there were

issues on which she was vulnerable and DeVos could have scored points on content but

The debate had a no rules

"I've always felt the no rules format is the most telling for voters, to give them a better idea of what a candidate is all about," he said.

Not just for the debate but in general, Granholm had a better campaign team, Skubick said.

She had people all around her who understood the state," he said. "The people around DeVos didn't know about Michigan except for (campaign manager Greg) McNeilly and (John) Truscott and DeVos' wife Betsy, who was very important to the campaign although rarely seen."

Another factor in the campaign that Skubick followed through the summer was the incredible turnaround of the Detroit Tigers. As the Tigers prospered, so did Granholm. Early in the campaign DeVos was hauled into an interview at a Tiger game and showed he really wasn't a fan. Granholm, on the other hand, knew the players and understood the game. Skubick writes that, unfairly or not, it suggested that "DeVos wasn't one of us."

THE TURNAROUND

Skubick said that by the time of Google announced that they were bringing a facility to Ann Arbor, he felt that Granholm was going to win.

"He was getting no traction at all. They overplayed the businessman advantage. Businessmen really haven't been all that successful. They should have brought out Dick

DeVos the man first, the businessman second," he said. In the end, Skubick said, the DeVos campaign spent \$35 million and voters still didn't trust him. They did trust Jennifer

Granholm. Skubick says he thinks Granholm has had a hard time as governor because the economic slump never let up. He said she's done a good job of balancing the budget but it waits to be seen what she'll do

in the future. "Today she said being a lameduck is liberating," Skubick

And what do the subjects think about the book?

"I've not heard a word from Dick DeVos and he's had the book for two weeks," Skubick said. "The governor and I had a privileged conversation and I can't tell you what was said. She finished the book in a day. I will say this, she said it could have been a lot worse."

Skubick said he hopes the book gives people a realistic look at what goes on in a political campaign and that what they see in political ads is not a

true portrait of the candidates. See Dick and Jen Run (The University of Michigan Press and The Petoskey Publishing Co., \$29.95) is available at major book stores.



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Dorothy Wilshaw dies, longtime volunteer

Dorothy Wilshaw, a former member of the Livonia Arts Commission, Livonia Anniversary Committee and Citizen of the Year, died Tuesday, Dec. 26, from cancer. She was 66 years old.

Wilshaw is survived by her husband, Ronald; children Jeff (Christi) and Ian (Beth); grandchildren Hailey and Lindsay; and siblings, Delores (Joe) Desira, Fay (Dee) Wilshaw, and Pat Swider.

She started volunteering in the community with the school system as a parent volunteer at Clay Elementary and numerous local political campaigns. Her involvement eventually extended to the Livonia Spree where she served many years as a volunteer and was on the board of directors of the Anniversary Committee for 10 years in charge of the Spree Administrative Office during

Her love of arts led to her appointment to the Arts Commission in 1989 where she was instrumental in the booking of the regular art exhibits in city hall. While on the commission she envisioned and spearheaded the commissioning of a sculpture for the entrance of the Civic Center Library for vis-

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the result of that effort. In 1998, she **Dorothy Wilshaw**

was nominated Citizen of the Year in recognition of her contribution to the city and the community.

itors to enjoy.

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mature man

reading to a

young child is

She stepped down from the commission and other volunteer activity in 2001 shortly before her fight with cancer. She continued to pursue her passion of gardening and spending time with her family.

Mrs. Wishaw is having a direct cremation with a private inurnment at Glen Eden cemetery this weekend.

For those who wish to remember and celebrate her life, a memorial service will be at Northridge Church in Plymouth Township 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, which will be presided over by Pastor Kevin Winningham who baptized her in a joyful celebration this past June.

Instead of flowers a donation . in her name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is appreciated.

Couple to face charges in abuse case

The Canton parents of the six-week-old baby boy that had nine broken bones waived their preliminary hearings last week in 35th District Court in Plymouth.

The father, Steven Michael Szyszkowski, 26, is believed to have caused the injuries to the infant. He's being held in Wayne County Jail. The child's mother, Jayme Beth Stratton, 36, was arrested for maintaining an environment that allowed the abuse. She's been released on her own recogni-

The two will be formally charged at an arraignment on the information in early January at Wayne County-Circuit Court in Detroit. They will be given the chance to enter a plea.

The newborn has been placed in foster care by Child Protective Services. His condition, which included broken toes and a broken tibia, was discovered after police received an anonymous tip regarding the abuse.

Szyszkowski, who is unemployed, was arraigned on two charges of first degree child abuse. Each charge is punishable by up to 15 years in prison. Stratton is facing a second degree child abuse charge, a four-year felony.

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"We don't believe she assaulted the child, but she was aware of what was happening," said Canton Detective Rick Pomorski.

Pomorski said the baby is expected to make a full recov-

Council candidate field widens

Three more Westland City Council hopefuls have indicated their interest in being appointed to fill two seats that will likely become vacant Jan.

Councilman Richard LeBlanc will leave his position to serve as 18th District state representative. Also, council President William Wild is considered the likely appointee to replace Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, who will become a district

The latest three council hopefuls include Diane Fritz, a city retiree who was the longest serving Westland city clerk ever at more than 20 years; Antoinette Martin, a financial advisor for Ameriprise Financial; and Debra Winkler, former appointee to the Westland Housing Commission and the city's Community **Development Citizens** Advisory Commission.

Wild has confirmed the latest three names. Fritz, Martin

and Winkler bring to 14 the number of hopefuls who have submitted their names for consideration for the one-year council appointments.

NEWS BRIEFS

Livonia gets energy assistance grant

Livonia residents who have a hard time paying their energy bills will get some relief from a state grant.

The Michigan Public Service Commission awarded Livonia an \$18,000 grant to assist lowincome residents with their gas and electric bills through July.

Residents who have a gas, electric or fuel heating shut-off notice can apply for up to \$500 on a one-time only basis.

"This \$18,000 will go a long way toward helping people," said Jim Inglis, the city's housing director. He estimated the grant will help 40 to 50 fami-

The city applied for the grant last year but did not receive it. For the past two years, Livonia has also budgeted \$9,400 in Community Development Block Grant funds for a utility assistance program. Last year, the funds helped 22 low-income households.

Applications will be accepted by appointment from Jan. 1 to July 31. Call Sharon Sabat in community resources at (734) 466-2538 for eligibility criteria and income guidelines.

Artist to meet with Newcomers

The Canton Newcomers, a social, civic and charitable organization, will host their monthly meeting at 7:15 p.m., Jan. 3 at the Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford, west of Canton Center, in Canton. Local artist and Canton Cultural Commissioner Sharon Dillenbeck will be the guest and discuss the local arts scene. There will also be a hands-on project for guests.

The meeting is open to the public. Appetizers will be provided by Bailey's Pub and desserts by Coffee Lounge. For a complimentary Canton Newcomers newsletter, visit the group's Web site at cantonnewcomers.org or call (734) 981-1715.

Auditions for A Little Princess

Auditions for the Farmington Hills Youth Theatre production of A Little Princess will be held Jan. 14 and Jan. 18. Auditions for actors in grades 1-12 will be held 12:30-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile Road, just east of Middlebelt, in Farmington Hills. Audition schedule Sunday, Jan. 14 is as follows: Grades 1-2, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Grades 5-6, 3-4 p.m.; Grades 3-4, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Grades 7-12, 4-5 p.m. Auditions for adults (ages 19 and over) will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Costick Center.

Auditions are open to residents and non-residents of the Farmington area; there is no fee to audition. Actors should bring a recent photo to the audition.

For more information about the auditions or the Farmington Hills Youth Theatre, call (248) 473-1857.

Red Cross blood drive

Botsford General Hospital will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 29, in the Community Room, located in the hospital's Zieger Administration and Education Building on Grand River in Farmington Hills, adjacent to the hospital's main facility. Donors are urged to call Kim Renzi, Botsford's Employee Services representative at (248) 888-2610 to schedule an appointment.

For more information, call the Great Lakes Blood Services Region at (800) GIVE-LIFE or go to the American Red Cross Web site at www.givelife.org.

Schoolcraft to host forum

If you have resolved to upgrade your skills or learn a new profession in the New Year, plan to attend Schoolcraft College's Professional Development Information Showcase.

There is no charge for the event which is 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, in the DiPonio Room at the VisTaTech Center.

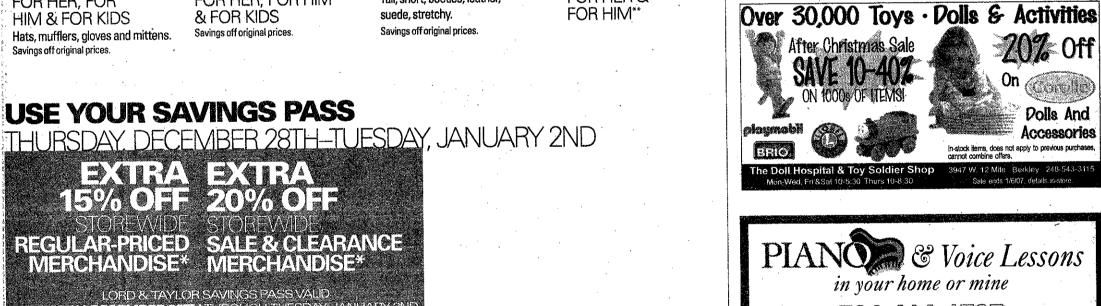
Instructors and representatives of various professional development programs from the Continuing Education and Professional Development

Department will be on hand.

They will discuss: New career opportunities as a pharmacy technician or a truck driver; added training in management, entrepreneurship for small business owners, and corporate training; *Certification and recertification in teaching, insurance, nursing, real estate and massage

therapy. There will be presentations on pharmacy technician training at 6:20 and 7:20 p.m. and on the basic truck driving program at

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Chrysler sponsors grants for science teachers Livonia 'cold case' murder

Snazzy science projects are being honored by the Chrysler Group's Closing the Technology Gap program, which has been called a critical investment in

Michigan's public schools. In only its second year, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow has endorsed the Chrysler Group's effort to increase Michigan student's interest in science, technology, engineering and mathemat-

In its second year, the Closing the Technology Gap program will bestow \$87,000 in grants to public school teachers who excel in creating innovative and motivating curricula and projects in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The awards will be used to further advance creative projects in the winning

"Education and innovation are the building blocks of a strong economy and good paying jobs for Michigan," said Stabenow. "Across our state, dedicated (STEM) teachers help our children build essential skills for the 21st century workforce. Chrysler Group's Closing the Technology Gap awards program is a critical investment in Michigan's future."

Research from the National Science Foundation found that fewer people are pursuing science, mathematics and engineering careers while employment opportunities in these fields will increase three times faster than in all

"Because of this, Closing the Technology Gap aims to increase student interest and participation in the sciences and ultimately provide companies such as ours with a viable, technology-savvy workforce in the future," said Frank Fountain, Chrysler Group Senior Vice President-External Affairs and Public Policy and President of the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund, which provides the monetary gifts.

Michigan teachers at the high school, middle school and elementary school levels have been invited to submit their applications to the New Detroit Science Center. The submissions will be judged on creativity and the uniqueness of the teaching process while also bringing passion and excitement for STEM curriculums into the classroom.

Schools that finish first through third at each academic level and in each category will receive \$15,000, \$7,500 and \$3,000, respectively. Fourth through 10th place finishers will receive \$500. An independent panel of judges from the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields will select the 30

"The children of Michigan need passionate and innovative teachers who can make science, technology, engineering and math come alive," said Kevin F. Prihod, president and CEO of the New Detroit Science Center. "That what may have been seen as boring with no relevance becomes the door to exciting and

Noble is the word that Harry Istok used to describe Chrysler Group's Closing the Technology Gap Program. "Chrysler stepped up to the plate on this," he said. "I think they hit a home run.

Istok, a 35-year teaching veteran, was a first-place finisher at the junior-high level for what he called Integration

Integration 2000, created in 1994, merges classroom projects with the real world. Another of last year's winning submissions involved transforming an old VCR player into a model boat. Students had to be creative and inventive. They had to learn about - among other things - electric motors, wiring, electricity and structural design.

All of last year's winning submissions are posted on www.chryslerteacherawards.com.

Applications should be mailed to: 2007 Closing the Technology Gap in Education Awards, c/o New Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R Street. Detroit, MI 48202. They also can be emailed to: teacherawards@sciencede-

Applications can be downloaded from www.chryslerteacherawards.com. Submissions should include the objective, the approach, the relevance, the measurement, the challenge and any support material. The deadline is Dec. 31, 2006, and winners will be announced in May 2007.

featured on television show

The long and tragic tale of a 17-year search for the killer of a Livonia man at his Seven Mile Road home will be featured at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, on an episode of Cold Case Files on the A&E cable network.

Earlier this year, a video production crew began documenting the story of the 1989 murder of businessman Exavor Giller that finally ended in April of this year when former employee Richard Lawson was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

The turning point in the case was a telephone call from a woman who had an affair with a witness to the murder, though there were many twists to the

A church volunteer, who met with inmates at a California prison, had an affair with prisoner Richard Mutica, who said he had been with Lawson and saw him shoot Giller. The woman took Mutica's information and called Giller's daughter, Bonnie Swoboda, in December 2004.

A month later, Lawson was arrested in his San Diego apartment.

The crew spent a week recording footage at the Giller home and Livonia Police Department and interviewing members of the Giller family, witnesses and police investigators who worked on the case through the years.

Those included retired Sgt. Don Vandersloot, who was the first LPD detective on the case and Sgt. Cory Williams, one of the officers who arrested Giller.

The cross-country investigation by Livonia police included trips to several states in search of evidence, including documents in Pennsylvania, key receipts in Florida and the recovery of weapons stolen from the Giller home

in a New Jersey pond. Williams said it was tough for the Giller family to talk about the ordeal again in front of a TV camera, but they hoped their story will give other grieving families hope.

For the filming, the production team also flew out to interview the dive team that recovered the weapons in Atlantic City and flew in the witness from California for an interview, Williams said.

Participants weren't paid to appear in the filming but got a Cold Case hat and T-shirt, plus a DVD of the show. "It's pretty cool," Williams said, adding that for one segment they put a camera on the floorboard of his car while he was driving.

"I think it would be a great memento for my kids to have of the work their dad did," he said.

- By Dave Varga





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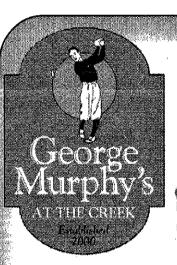
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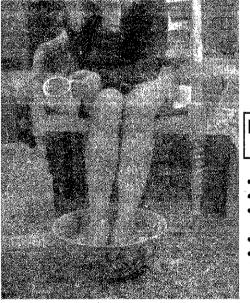
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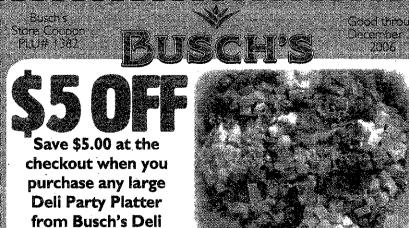
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Admiral Kirksey, Kitty Hawk captain, dies

Admiral

Kirksey was a

naval aviator. He received his

Navy Wings in

1953 and was

promoted to a

Vice Admiral Robert E. Kirksey passed away on Dec. 16 in Ft. Myers, Fla., as a result of complications from Alzheimer's Disease. He was the brother of former Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey.

Admiral Kirksey was 76 years old.

Admiral Kirksey spent his vears prior to his flight training in 1951 in Detroit and Grosse Pointe Woods. His permanent military address was his brother, Jack's, home in Livonia. In 1982, Admiral Kirksey served as the grand marshal of the

Livonia Memorial Day Parade. Jack Kirksey said he was proud of his brother.

"He was a great guy. Everyone loved him," he said.

When Admiral Kirksey served as grand marshal, Jack Kirksey said, "If I could put a billboard on Woodward Avenue in Detroit or on I-96 reading 'My brother is Bob Kirksey and he's the admiral,' I would do it because I am that proud of him."



vice admiral in 1984. Robert E. Kirksey During his 31 years of Naval service he achieved many accomplish-

Though Admiral Kirksey did not attend the Naval Academy, he rose to a three-star ranking, an unusual accomplishment without Academy credentials.

His first command of a ship was the mine sweeper, USS Cleveland, in 1972. His second command was the aircraft carrier the USS Kitty Hawk from 1973 to 1975.

Over the years he was in command of various carrier groups including the Seventh Fleet 35-Ship Battle Force in the Indian Ocean (The Iranian Hostage Crisis). He was a veteran of more than 240 combat

Over the years he was in command of various carrier groups including the **Seventh Fleet 35-Ship Battle Force in the Indian** Ocean (The Iranian Hostage Crisis). He was a veteran of more than 240 combat missions over North Vietnam.

missions over North Vietnam. Admiral Kirksey received his Silver Star medal over Hanoi, Vietnam, when he stayed with his Naval bomber after it was hit with a SAM missile. Even though his plane was badly damaged and on fire, he fought to stay in the air and complete his bombing mission at great risk to his own life. As wing commander he led the other pilots in his heavily damaged plane. The aircraft fire eventu-

ally burned out, and as he attempted a carrier landing, he discovered that the entire front of the plane had been blown away. He had to crash-land at a U.S. base in Vietnam.

Admiral Kirksey is survived by his wife, Vi, and their children, Jennifer Kirksey, Robert Kirksey Jr., Gregg Kirksey and Andrew Kirksey.

Admiral Kirksey was especially appreciative of his wife, Vi, who raised the family in his absence. She also had a lead-

ership role with the military families in the Admiral's command while he was at sea. He is also survived by his brother, Jack Kirksey and wife, Patt Kirksey, his sister, Anne

Oliver, children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews. A military funeral is planned at Arlington National

Cemetery on Jan. 29, 2007. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the Naval Aviation Museum, P.O. Box 33104, NAS Pensacola, FL 32508.

Maureen McGee, pilot and Livonia native, dies in crash

Maureen McGee, a native of Livonia and a graduate of Bentley High School, was killed Dec. 26 when the medical flight she was piloting crashed during an emergency landing attempt near Johnstown, Pa., around 3:55

A female nurse onboard also died in the crash.

The flight originated in Morgantown, W.Va., and was on its way to pick up a patient in Teterboro, N.J., according to press reports.

According to the Tribune-Democrat of Johnstown, Pa., McGee, the pilot, declared an emergency and planned to land the twin-engine Cessna 414 at the John Murtha Johnstown-Cambira County

Airport, the closest airport. An FAA spokeswoman said icing may have played a factor in the crash.

McGee, 47, is survived by her husband, Gary Grosso and their 10-year-old daughter, Ammelin of Morgantown, and stepsons Brian Grosso, 17, and Joseph Grosso, 19, of Ann Arbor.

Other survivors include brothers, Michael of Livonia, Timothy of Grand Rapids, Patrick of Detroit and Kevin of San Francisco, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Billand Marie McGee, longtime Livonia residents. Marie McGee worked at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers as a reporter, copy editor and special editor until her death in May 1990.

Both Maureen McGee and her nurse passenger were employed by Flight Source LLC, a fixed-base operator at Morgantown Municipal Airport that offers flight school, medical and charter services.

McGee and her family moved to Morgantown last year from Ann Arbor.

"Maureen enjoyed her job and they were enjoying the area," Michael McGee said.

"She was the Amelia Earhart of our family," he added. "She even bore some resemblance to her."

Flying was a lifetime love and achievement for his sister, Michael McGee said.

"She told Tim that she wanted to be a pilot since she was 9



years old," said Michael McGee, who last talked to his sister on Thanksgiving Day.

McGee graduated with honors from Maureen McGee Michigan State

University in 1983 with a bachelor's of science degree. After graduation she worked as an au pair in France and in London.

She received her pilot's license in 1998 and had dual certifications in flight and ground instruction. She obtained a Master Instructor designation from the National Association of Flight Instructors in May 2005, which allowed her to teach. The designation applies to approximately 500 of the national's 85,000 certified flight instructors. She was a flight instructor in Ann Arbor, Jackson, and Plymouth, and took a very active interest in her students. She also served as an Aviation Safety Counselor for the Detroit Flight Standards District Office.

Michael McGee said his sister had logged more than 3,500 flight hours and over 1,250 hours in multi-engine aircraft.

Until leaving for the job in Morgantown, McGee flew small planes out of airports in Livingston, Washtenaw and western Wayne counties.

She was an avid bicyclist and traveled to Montreal and back one summer. She made many cycling trips throughout Michigan.

McGee also enjoyed acting and was active in the Performance Network based in Ann Arbor. She was a Motor Meals volunteer in the Ann Arbor area. She was a lay reader and served on the social ministry committee at Trinity

Charleston, W.Va. She was a member of Women in Aviation, Detroit Aviation Safety Counselors and National Association of Flight Instructors.

Lutheran Church in

A memorial service is set for 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 2685 Packard Road, Ann Arbor.

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

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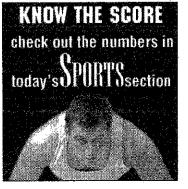
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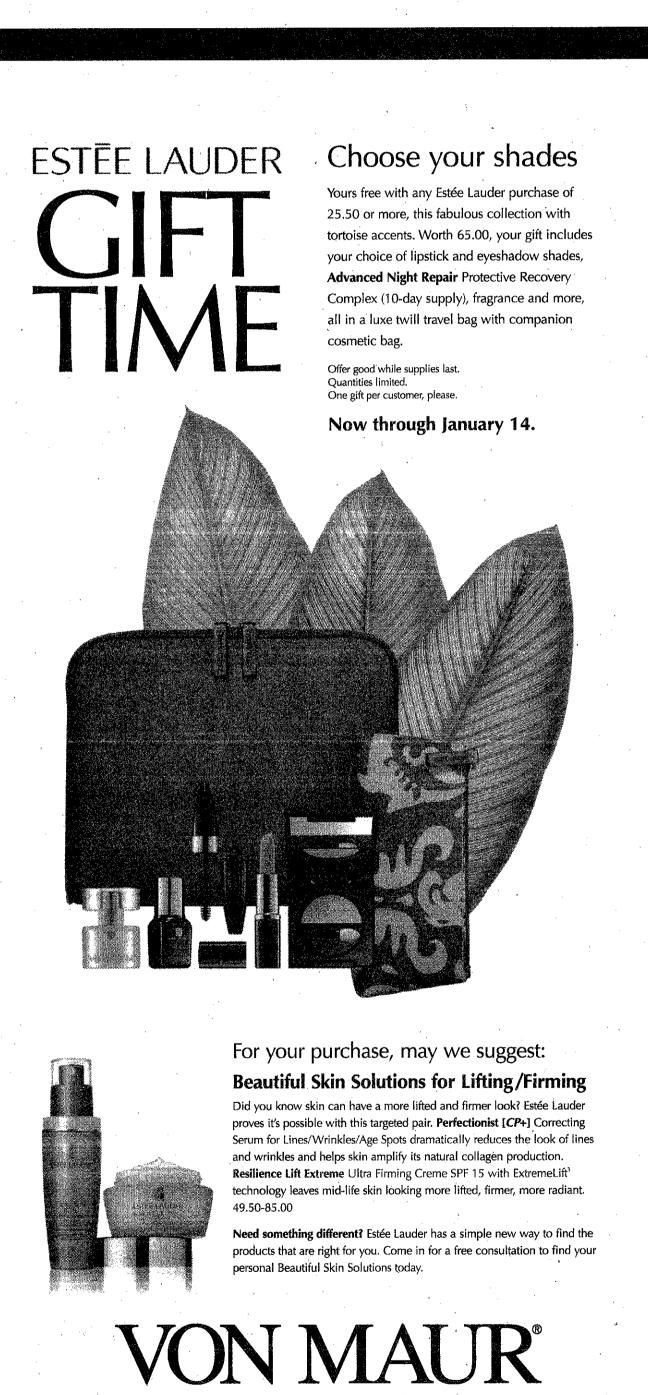


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Baseball cap wigs put lid on hair loss

STAFF WRITER

Battling cancer is one thing; dealing with the hair loss that can happen with chemotherapy is another.

Susie Lucas can't do anything about the former, but she has an answer for the latter her baseball cap wigs.

"There's such a need for them," said Lucas, the owner of Unique Hair Designs. "It's designed for everyone and anyone who has a need. It's not just patients, but for people who are having a bad hair day."

A licensed cosmetologist, Lucas recognized the need for people with hair loss to have access to a comfortable, stylish and simple hairpiece. In the late 1980s, she came up with the idea of attaching a partial hairpiece around the rim of a baseball cap. The caps are an alternative to traditional wigs, which can be irritating to the

It took her six months to figure out how to assemble the caps and especially to get the hair to fit just right. Lucas buys the hats and strips of hair separately. She uses fitted caps and custom makes the bands of hair. The finished product, she said, "looks like real hair."

Long hair, short hair, straight hair or synthetic braids, baseball caps, slouch hats, sweater caps or dressy hats — Lucas has developed a variety of looks that are stylish and comfortable, especially for cancer patients, priced at less than \$100.

"People who have talked to me about them are surprised they're so reasonably priced," she said. "I want it so that everyone will be able to afford one. I truly believe people buy them and will want to sell them."

So committed was she to her

product, Lucas obtained a patent in 1996. It was a process that reaffirmed her belief that they're needed and gave her confidence to go forward with her project.

"A friend told me about a patent attorney and when I told him what I had he told me to come in." Lucas said. "I remember him saying that he had called his wife to look at the caps and she had said she wished she had had one during the time she was going through chemo."

But even having a patent, the road to getting the caps into the hands of people who could use them has been a slow

Trained as a cosmetologist, Lucas at one point had her own shop, but closed it in 1996 because of health problems. She's been operating as a home-based business and had manufactured about 75 caps.

She has them on display at

Belleville Beauty Supply at 317 Industrial off Sumpter Road in Belleville and has even visited cancer support groups to demonstrate the caps. This summer, she donated 20 caps for cancer patients at Garden City Hospital.

Those caps are being given to women experiencing hair loss as a result of chemotherapy and conditions, such as alopecia areata, an autoimmune disease in which the immune system mistakenly attacks hair follicles.

"The caps improve selfesteem of patients," said Amy Hotycki, clinical coordinator at Garden City Hospital.

The effects were evident with Sandy Reinhardt, a patient at the hospital who received one of the first caps.

"It's great, really comfortable," Reinhardt said. "It's lifted my spirits 120 percent."

Lucas' dream is to open a shop where she is able to man-

Using real hair and hats, Susie Lucas has come up with a patented design that gives people who lose their hair to chemotherapy or alopecia areata something to wear other than a full wig.

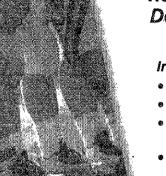
ufacture the caps and get them to market, and she has her husband and five grown children telling her to go for it.

"My husband tells me to go on, don't stop," she said. "I've put everything into these hats because I feel there's such a need for them. I wish I had the words to express how important they are to me."

For now, she takes orders and fills them as she receives them. People interested in more information can call her, at (734) 334-3491 or visit her: Web site at www.uniquehairdesign.net.

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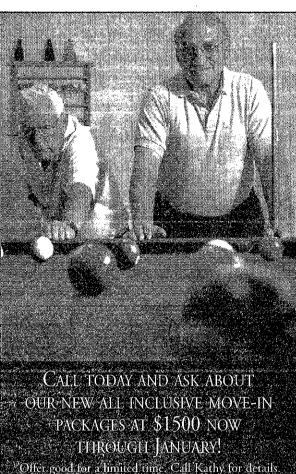
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CDad doesn't seem *like* himself lately.

Since dad moved to Grand Court retirement community he just doesn't seem like himself. He's laughing more, he's always busy and he has a bounce in his step. Isn't that great?!

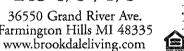
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If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

DECEMBER

Holiday services

New Year's Eve is on Sunday this year. There will be one service at 10 a.m. Dec. 31, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend!

New Year's Eve worship 10-a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. For more informa-

tion, call (734) 422-0149. Evening prayer and adoration For the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, at St. Regis Parish, 3695 Lincoln, Bloomfield Hills. All the partishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit are celebrating Masses. For more information, visit

www.AODonline.org. Blanket drive

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills, is a community site for the American Red Cross blanket drive. New twin size blankets are being collected for the homeless. This campaign runs through Jan. 1, 2007. The Red Cross would like to collect 7,000 blankets. Donations may be dropped off 9 a.m.

to 4 p.m. More information is available on Web site at www.poplcms.org or by calling (248) 553-3380.

World Peace service

6:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, guest speaker is Robert Weir, Citizens for Peace facilitator for Western Michigan and author of Star of Hope, a biography of John McConnell, the founder of Earth Day, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Call (734) 421-1760.

New Year's Eve dance

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths. Tickets \$35 and available now. First 100 ticket holders will have the chance for a cash prize, drawing will be at the dance. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call (313) 996-8644.

Singles New Year's Eve Catholic Singles New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance catering to singles in their 30s, 40s and 50s 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31. For tickets and information, visit www.CatholicSinglesNYE.com or call

UPCOMING

Kathleen at (734) 657-7750.

Grief support

Widowed friends; a peer group, is offering a six week series covering phases of grief, dealing with loneliness and coping with the loss of a spouse beginning 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at Prince of Peace Parish, 4300 Walnut Lake Road, west of Orchard Lake Road,

West Bloomfield. A \$20 fee is payable at the first meeting and covers all materials. Call (248) 681-9424 to register before Jan. 4.

Monthly dance

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 8 p.m. to midnight (doors open at 7:30 p.m.) Saturday, Jan. 6, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

Nativity ball Sponsored by St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church of Ann Arbor, the ball takes place 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, Jan. 12, at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. The evening includes cocktails, dinner with champagne toast, dancing, music, entertainment, contests, cash bar, theme is Feast in the Time of Ivan the Terrible, Historical costumes/details welcome. Tickets are \$60. For information, visit www.stvladimiraami.org or call (734) 761-7311, (734) 222-9812, or (734) 669-8712.

Chili cook-off

Zassages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, if you have a good recipe bring a pot full to be judged and shared along with the recipe 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at St. Linus Activity Center, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights. For details, call (734) 513-9479. **Christmas concert**

Amahl and the Night Visitors, a concert presentation of Gian Carlo Menotti's delightful one-act opera featuring boy

JONATHON D. CAMPBELL

Of Ortonville; age 31; December 26,

2006. Beloved son of Michael &

Carol Campbell of Ortonville; dear

brother of Josh (Aindrea) Campbell of Royal Oak and Joel (Kerry)

Campbell of Ortonville; also survived

by many nieces and nephews. Funeral

Services will be held 11 a.m. Friday

from the Sherman Wilk Funeral Home, 135 South St. Ortonville, Rev.

David Gerber officiating, interment in Ortonville Cemetery. Mr. Campbell

will lie in state at the funeral home

Thursday 5 to 8 p.m. www.sherman-

MARY WILMANSKI

Age 86, of Battle Creek, died Wednesday, December 20, 2006 at

Select Specialty Hospital in Battle Creek. She was born January 5, 1920

in Arco, Italy. On May 7, 1951 she was

married to Henry Wilmanski in Spain, whom she met while he was teaching

Polish refugees in Italy, and they later moved to Livonia, Michigan. Henry

preceded her in death on March 28

1999, and Mary then moved to Battle Creek in 2004. She was a custom

drapery designer and homemaker. In

Livonia, she was a member of St.

Genevieve Catholic Church and in

Battle Creek was a member of St.

Joseph Catholic Church. Mary attend-

ed Marian Burch Adult Day Care in

Battle Creek. Surviving is her son, Dr

Charles J. Wilmanski and daughter-in-

law Nuala (Boran) Wilmanski of

Battle Creek and three grandchildren

Mary, Michael and Kathleen. Family

will receive friends at the Richard A

Henry Funeral Home was held

Tuesday from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. where

the Rosary will be recited at 7:00 p.m. The Funeral Mass was held 1:00 p.m

Wednesday at St. Joseph Catholic

Church with Rev. Father John

Fleckenstein officiating. Interment

will be held at Memorial Park

Cemetery. Memorials may be directed

to the Battle Creek Health System.

Select

Specialty Hospital, Marian

wilkfuneralhome.com

treble Jonah Yousif in the title role, and the rest of the cast and chorus comprised of members of the Kirk Chancel, Boys and Girls Choirs 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, at Kirk in the Hills. 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. For details, call (248) 626, 2515, ext. 109. This event is of particular appeal to families.

A beautiful day

In the Neighborhood features the music of Mister Rogers 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 19-20, at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, Birmingham, Mr. McFeeley (David Newell) is joined by local vocalists Judie Cochill, Marc Meyers and Tom Trenney and the Neighborhood Jazz Combo. No tickets required, no admission, but a freewill offering will be collected. Proceeds benefit Variety FAR Conservator, a nonprofit that provides creative arts therapy and recreation services for children with autism and other disabilities. Audience members are also encouraged to bring new or gently-used sweaters to contribute to the Mister Rogers' Sweater Drive for families who need extra warmth this winter. A meet the artists reception follow the concert. For more information. call (248) 540-9124.

Education pilgrimage

The third annual education pilgrimage of faith and hope to El Salvador is being organized by Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth, assisted by CRISPAZ (Christians for Peace in El Salvador). The pilorimage will take place from Feb. 11-18, 2007. This is an intensive learning experience with special emphasis given to the voice and experience of the poor and marginalized. You will visit martyr sites, grassroots organizations, a rural community, and hear speakers on the history, politics, and economy of El-Salvador. For details, call coordinator Richard Dahlke at (734) 455-6474.

ONGOING

Worship service

All are welcome to attend 11 a.m. worship service Sundays, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne at Hunter, Westland. Join us at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in November and December as Pastor Louise Monacelli introduces The Jesus Experience, a series of videos offering insight into the people and situations God used to expand the church around the world. For more information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services

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. Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck Canton, For information, call (734) 637-8160.

Worship service

At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Peter. For more information, call (313) 255-6330.

Adult literacy classes

Available for those wishing to improve their reading and writing skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day and evening hours. Call (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will be in contact with you.

Ladies Bible studies

Began Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville. Call (248) 348-7600.

Women of the Word offer the Life Change Study of the book of Genesis by NavPress from 9:30-11:15 a.m. (\$15 registration feed includes interdenominational materials and free child care for ages through 5, and a study of the Patriarchs by Beth Moor from 6:45-8:15 p.m. (\$20 fee and no child care).

Personal ministry Due Season Christian Church is a nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or

visit www.DueSeason.org. Farmington Women Aglow

Meets from 5-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile. For more information, call Linda Boone at (248) 476-1053.

Scripture studies From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower

level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford, Call (313) 534-9000. Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly,

the group meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight sensibly and keep it off. For more information, call Mary at (734) 394-1328.

Learner's Bible study

At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville, Call (248) 374-5920. Church service

Loving God by loving people, meets at 10 a.m. Sunday at Westwood

Community Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland, Doughnuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093.

Senior activities

Gathering for seniors 50 years and older at 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and come out and meet other seniors. Lunch is served followed by fellowship with some games and stories.

Church activities

St. James Presbyterian Church offers a Thursday dinner at 6 p.m. for \$5 prepared by Susan Navarro, The Cookie Lady, followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal at 8 p.m.: Thrift store is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday; 10 a.m. women's study group second Saturday of the month, and Sunday worship at 10 a.m. (nursery available) and children's class at 10:15 a.m. at 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford: Call (313) 534-7730.

Eucharistic adoration The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until the 7 p.m. Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-5331.

Worship services

All are welcome to attend worship service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. Service is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday with an education hour all for ages at 9 a.m. Call (734) 422-1470. Unity of Livonia

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlehelt and Inkster roads, Call (734) 421-1760.

Shabbat services

The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974

Bet Chaverim

Services are open to all living in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to attend services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 for information or visit www.betchaverim.com.

Detroit World Outreach

A nondenominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high-tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, for college students, singles, married adults and seniors Services are at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 nm Call (313) 255.

Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service at 6:15 p.m., Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study at 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner and child care. Call (734) 699-

3361. **Shabbat Rocks**

A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit www.adatshalom.org.

English classes

Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the · English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-

Sunday school

Congregation Beit Kodesh, at 31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

Services

St. John Lutheran Church (23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills) invites the community to a new worship service at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Also, Sunday traditional worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; contemporary service is at 9:50 a.m.; and Sunday school hour for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584 for more information.

Single Point Ministries For ages 30 and older, join more than

350 single adults at 11:30 a.m. Sundays for fellowship and related topics in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts, conversations are present, Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues from 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4-7 p.m. weekdays any time the weather is above 45 degrees, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia. Bible talks

4 p.m. Sundays at the Friendship

Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland, Call (734) 728-9157.

Worship services

All are welcome to attend worship services 10 a.m. Sundays at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

The Gap

A new youth Sunday School (God Always Present) at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebeit. south of Ford Road. Lessons are taught using various media, computers, storytelling, games, cooking, music and art, and a small theater complete with popcorn-making machine. Adult Bible study at 8:30 a.m. with a traditional service and The Gap at 10 a.m. Child care available. Mustard Seed contemporary service at 6 p.m. with refreshments served afterward. Call (734) 421-7620.

Qigong

The ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine. A safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions. Learn the art of natural movement and breath to cultivate vital life energy. Classes at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Monday - movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday - Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday - Therapeutic Oigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org.

Worship services At 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with an

education hour from 9:30-10:40 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. Social hour follows each service. Call (734) 722-1735. Community Bible study Studying the Book of Proverbs, break-

fast at 7 a.m. or Bible studyfrom 8-9 --a.m. at the American Table, Eight Mile, Farmington. Come when you can, leave when you must. For more information, call (248) 924-2779. Contemporary service

New informal service in a casual environment 6 p.m. Sunday at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford. Fellowship hour after services including 10 a.m. traditional. Call (734) 421-7620. **Trinity Episcopal Church**

Sunday worship 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Bible studies Sundays at 8:50 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., at the church 11575 Belleville Road, four miles south of Michigan Avenue, Belleville. Call (734) 699-3361. New contemporary service

9 a.m. on the last Sunday of the month, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. A group of church members present a short drama on a theme relevant to the season, a church event, or current newsworthy situation. For more information, call (734) 422-0494.

Prayer group

Join in 7 p.m. Thursdays for music, singing, prayer and friendship at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Come to the back of the church enter entrance No. 2. For more information, call Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-

Women of the Word

Tuesday Ladies Bible Study from 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile. \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5, For more information, call (248) 348-7600.

New modern-style worship Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, just north of I-96, presents a modern-style worship service. The multimedia service is informal, using modern and praise music, led by vocalists and various instruments, Dramas, led by the members, are often a part of this service. The service is held at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday, between the traditional services at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday

School, youth and adult Bible classes.

at 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. each Sunday.

For information, call Linda Hollman,

Outreach director, at (734) 522-6830. **Adat Shalom**

Synagogue services at 6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday,; 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays; and 8:30 a.m. Sunday at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100.

Welcome to the church

Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church? Are you already baptized Catholic and have been away from the church? Now is the time to inquire about coming into the church or returning to the community of believers. Call Our Lady of Sorrows at (248) 615-5574 for more information. Self-help groups

Local church provides space for self-

help groups. Overeaters Anonymous, a 12-step program for eating disorders. meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Alcoholics Anonymous, a 12step program for alcohol-related problems, meets at 8 p.m. Wednesdays and at 7 p.m. Saturdays. Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, a 12-step program for co-dependency and destructive relationship problems, meets at 7:30 p.m. Mondays at First Baptist Church 300 Willits, one block north of Maple, one block west of Old Woodward. Parking adjacent to church's north entrance.

ELIZABETH "BETTY" SIEGLER

extended illness Friday, December 22,

2006 at Brian's House in Davison.

Rochester area. She married Thomas

gift shop manager and as a governess.

graduated from Rochester High

one brother, six sisters, and a sister-in-

aw. She was preceded in death by her

husband, Thomas, in 1983; a son,

Randel, in 1988. Funeral service were held Wed., December 27, 2006. Burial

was at Imlay Township Cemetery,

Imlay City. Funeral arrangements by

JANICE IDA OWENS

Muir Brothers Funeral Home.

1-800-579-7355 **fax:** 734-953-2232 e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

KATHLEEN J. RECLA Died December 26, 2006. Age 68 of Age 78 of Lapeer, (formerly of Imlay Livonia. Loving wife of Norman. City), Michigan, passed away after an Beloved mother of Suzanne (Steve) Upmeyer, Carolyn (Paul) Stoecker, Julie (Richard) Worden and Norman (Mary). Cherished grandmother of Nick, Jennifer, Will, Rachel, Grace, Elizabeth Ruth Marzion was born September 30, 1928 in Southern Ethan and Elizabeth. Sister of Don Oakland County. She grew up in the and Roger Bambeck. Visitation Friday Victor Siegler on December 27, 1958 3-8pm at the Harry J. Will Funera Home, 37000 Six Mile Road, Livonia. in Pontiac, Michigan. She was a homemaker. She had also worked as a Instate Saturday 9:30am until the time of funeral mass 10:00am at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Burial will be January 3, in Dover, Ohio. In lieu of flowers, the She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Imlay City. She suggests memorials to School. Surviving are three sons: Matthew Siegier of Lapeer, Alex Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit. Siegler of Lapeer, Michael (Dorothy) Siegler of Attica; four grandchildren,





MARION G. DALTON

Born on the Fourth of July, 1924 and died on Christmas Day, 2006 Age 82 of Bloomfield Hills. Wife of the late Died peacefully Christmas Eve at the home of her brother after having failing health this past year. As a lifelong resident, Janice was a well-recog-Robert G. Dear mother of Robert nized member of the Plymouth com-Charles, Kathleen Jo, Randall Lee, munity for many years. She could be Richard Scott and the late James Kevin. Grandmother of Elisabeth seen on any given day walking to town, assisting as a volunteer at the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, Sarah, Carolyn, Jon, Jessica, Katherine, Zachary and both the late visiting friends, or playing bingo. Christopher and Charles. Sister of Janice had an ever-expanding host of Harriet Rouse. Marion attended Solomon Juneau and Milwaukee family and friends, welcoming new friends wherever she went. She kept Downer Schools and graduated from in touch with her sphere of friends South Milwaukee High School. On daily through phone calls and writing July 17, 1943, Marion married Air Force Corp. Robert George Dalton, in heart-warming letters. As a member of the First United Methodist Church Belleville, Ill. While he was in the service during World War II, Mrs. Dalton worked in a defense plant in St. of Plymouth, Janice was involved in many activities including helping her father with the soup kitchen. The fam-Louis. They had five children.. They lived in Brookfield, Wis., Wilmette, Ill., and Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Mr. ily is asking that all remembrances be made to the Soup Kitchen through the church. Janice was preceded in death Dalton was the owner of an office by her father Lee A. Owens, her equipment company, Daltons Inc., and grandparents John and Ida Oldenburg was also active in Republican politics. and Alious and Pauline Owens, her Robert G. Dalton died in 1986. Mrs. Aunt Carol Vorbeck and her cousin Dalton was a great patriot and was an active member of the Birmingham and Pamela Diedrick Regan. Along with her multitude of friends, Janice leaves Bloomfield Republican Women's Clubs. She was a delegate to the Republican National Convention and behind her mother Marian Ida Oldenburg Owens of Plymouth, her brothers John and wife Theresa of was also involved in Eagle Forum. Alaska, Tim and wife Roberta of She belonged to Highland Park Troy, Tom and partner Mark Chancey Baptist Church in Southfield. Mrs. Dalton was also active in the Detroit of Saugatuck, her nephews Andrew "Sister City" Program, traveling three and Kyle Owens, her nieces Katie and times to Toyota City, Japan, as an offi-Lindsay Owens, and Beth and Alison Grabowski, her Uncle and aunt Ralph cial Detroit representative. Family will receive friends Wednesday 2:00-8:00pm at A.J. Desmond & Sons and Doris Diedrick, Uncle Cecil Owens, and numerous cousins. Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Funeral service Friday 1:00pm at the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 North Territorial Mile). Funeral service Thursday 11:00am at Highland Park Baptist Church, 28600 Lahser Rd., (south of Rd., Plymouth. Visitation Wednesday 6-9nm and Thursday 1-5pm and 6-9pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Twelve Mile). Visitation begins at Home 280 South Main,Plymouth.And church 10:00am. Memorial tributes to "Going to Help", P.O. Box 02881, Detroit, MI 48202. View obituary and at church Friday 12:00pm until time of service, Memorials may be made to the church in care of the soup share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com kitchen.Share memories at

Burch Adult Day Care or St. Genevieve Church of Livonia.

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. 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:

e-mail your obit to

or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: **Charolette Wilson** 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free

OBITUARY POLICY

You may place a picture of

Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

oeobits@hometownlife.com 866-818-7653

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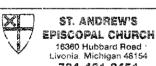
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St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison v Livonia * 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p. Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat 4 p. Sun 11a

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

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gg St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 w. Art. his Socride: 19 00 A.M. Sunday 10 15 A.M. Thirscay Dinners - 5 00 P.M. Innit Sture event 7 Sa. Tolam Zurii en. One Province - Nantucapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette

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For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121



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Plymouth hoop tournament

The second annual Plymouth High School Holiday Basketball Tournament will be held today and Friday in the school's gymnasium.

Today's opening game, which is set to tip off at 5:30 p.m., will pit Riverside (Ont.) High School against Southfield. The nightcap, which will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m., will feature the host Wildcats against Madison Heights Bishop Foley.

The two winners will battle for the championship at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The consolation game will begin at 5:30 p.m.

PCS lacrosse registration

Girls interested in playing lacrosse for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Lady Warriors are encouraged to attend a registration meeting Thursday, Jan. 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Waldorf Room of the Plymouth Library.

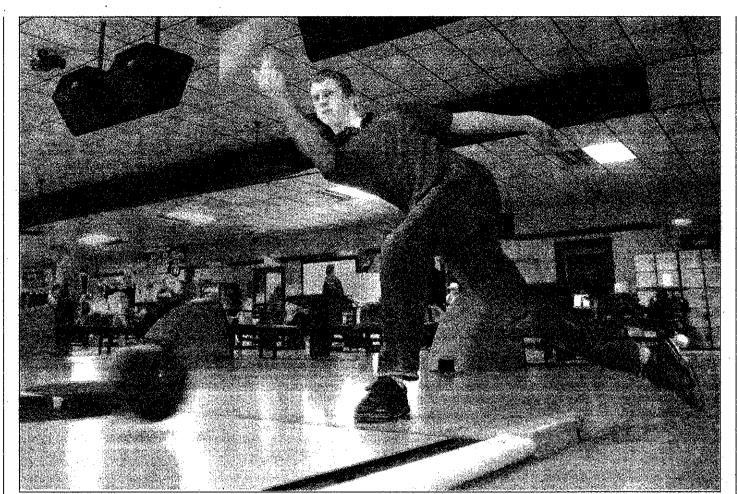
For more information, send e-mail to rrabe@comcast.net.

Pistons youth

A Detroit Pistons youth basketball clinic will be held at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville on Saturday, Jan. 27. Coach Steve Moreland will conduct the clinic for boys and girls in grades 1st through 3rd from noon to 2:30 p.m.; and for girls and boys in 4th through 6th grade from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Each participant will receive a "Pistons Basketball" T-shirt. Parents will be able to purchase Pistons tickets at a discount and they will be invited to attend a pre-game "shootaround" with their children courtside. Refreshments will be provided.

The cost is \$15 per child. Pre-registration is necessary by calling (248) 374-5932.



Canton resident Ryan Sochocki, 14, displays the form that helped him roll a 300 game Dec. 19 in a Sunday morning youth league at Wayne Bowl. The Plymouth High School student carries a 194 average in one of his leagues.

14-year-old strikes perfection with 300 game

STAFF WRITER

The bowling ball weighed just 15 pounds, but it must have seemed like the weight of the world was cradled in 14-year-old Ryan Sochocki's hands as he started his approach toward the Wayne Bowl pins on the night of Dec. 19.

With nine straight strikes already in the bag, the Plymouth High School freshman was just three pocket-finding deliveries away from a 300 game - a score many of the most-seasoned keglers never register.

"I was a little nervous, more than usual, but I just tried to focus on what I needed to do," said Sochocki (pronounced SO-hockey), recalling the moments before his epic achievement. "I had thrown nine straight strikes once before when I bowled a 278, but when I stepped up there for the 10th frame, I started to feel the pressure a little bit."

Like pieces of metal drawn to a magnet, scores of bowlers from throughout the facility dropped their own balls and hustled down to Sochocki's lanes to get a first-hand glimpse of history in the mak-

ing.
"During the eighth and ninth frames, I started to notice more people were watching," he remembered. "By the 10th, there were quite a few people crowded

Sochocki didn't disappoint them as he nailed the pocket on all three 10thframe strokes.

I was so happy because I realized that all the hard work and practice I've been putting into the sport had paid off," said Sochocki, reflecting on his emotions immediately after the 300th pin had

"My heart was beating pretty fast the last couple of frames," said Sochocki's

PLEASE SEE BOWLER, B3

'300' FACTS AND FIGURES

- The United States Bowling Congress estimates a 300 is bowled once every 11,500 games by its 4 million sanctioned bowlers. However, the odds are tougher for youths, making Ryan Sochocki's feat more amazing.
- P.J. Haggerty of Weimar, Calif., holds the record for most 300 games bowled by someone before they reached their 19th birthday - 28.
- Robert Mushtare of Fort Drum, N.Y., has bowled two 900 series, the latest on Dec. 5.

Statistics provided by www.bowl.com, the official Web site of the United States Bowling Congress.

Spartans rule at **WLAA** swim relays

The Western Lakes Activities Association Conference Relays boys swimming meet got pushed back two weeks due to a scheduling conflict.

As it turned, it only delayed Livonia Stevenson's corona-

Please see complete WLAA Relays results on Page B3.

tion. On Friday at Salem High School, the Spartans stroked their way to a third consecutive WLAA Relays title by outlasting Northville, 274-246. Walled Lake Northern (195), Salem (176), Canton

(160) and Plymouth (152) filled out the

top six spots in the standings. Displaying the depth that has led to its recent dominance at the relays, Stevenson placed first in six of the 10 events. The Spartans won the first five races before Northville ended the string by taking the top spot in diving.

Upstart Northern won two events — the 400- and 200-yard medley relays — while the Mustangs touched first in the final event, the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Among the standouts for the Spartans were Jeff Pauza, Joey Wingett, Luke Robert, Aaren Marecki, Mike Cruce, Kyle Hermann, Sam Loria, Charles Turlo, Chris Behler and Travis Hatt.

The fourth-place Rocks' earned secondplace points from their 400 medley contingent of Stan Chen, Matt Underhill, David Olson and Nick Leone, whose time of 4:04.46 was less than two seconds behind the first-place Knights.

Canton's 400 freestyle team of Robert Blaesser, Chris McGinnis, Jon Templeton and Matt Carlson placed second with a 3:29.90 clocking. Plymouth's best showing came from its fourth-place 200 breaststroke quartet of Tony McLaughlin, Frank Su, Dan Stoscup and Kyle Doll, which touched in 2:11.77.

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

Plymouth Whalers to host pair of games

The front-running Plymouth Whalers are ready to pick up where they left off before the holiday break with a pair of home games this afternoon and Saturday night.

The Whalers (22-10-1-1), who are tied for first with Saginaw in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division, host Windsor (12-19-1-1) today at 2 p.m. at the Compuware Sports Arena. The "Kids Day" matinee showdown will feature several youth-related activities, including face painting, the popular game "Whale of Fortune" and an autograph session with selected Whalers during the second intermission.

On Saturday, the Whalers will face off against Guelph (16-14-1-4) at 7:05 p.m. at Compuware. The Storm is coached by former Red Wing Dave Barr, who was named the OHL's "Coach of the Year" last season. Canton native Joey Underwood is a firstyear defenseman for the Storm.

Plymouth's recent hot surge has been led by Evan Brophey, who is tied for the league lead in assists (46) and is fifth in scoring with 60 points in just 34 games.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Churchill's Bradley Evans lays the ball over Garden City's Chris Conroy and into the basket during the Chargers' 53-48 overtime victory Dec. 21.

Late rally lifts Chargers in OT

BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER

The inability to sink free throws down the stretch kept Garden City from putting away visiting Livonia Churchill in a non-league varsity boys basketball game

last Thursday, Dec. 21. As a result, Garden City fell 53-48 in overtime to Churchill. The Cougars (1-5) made just 10 of 26 free throws, and connected on six of 14 opportunities during the fourth quarter and overtime.

"Our free throw shooting killed us," said Williamson, who was optimistic for a while Thursday that his team would

earn a second consecutive victory. Garden City led 14-10 after one quarter and 20-18 at halftime, but the Chargers took a 27-26 margin into the

fourth quarter. The teams traded leads in the fourth

quarter. With about three minutes to go, Livonia Churchill (2-2) trailed by five points, but the Cougars missed free throws that would have maintained that comfortable margin. Instead, the Chargers made a couple key baskets, forced overtime and took over from there, with a 12-7 edge in overtime.

Austher trouble spot for Garden City was abounding, said Williamson, adding at the Chargers had about twice as many rebounds as the Cougars.

For Churchill, Ryan Rosenick and Brad Evans led the attack with 17 points and 12 points, respectively.

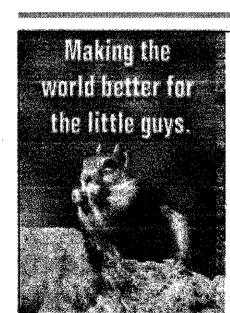
Brett Lackey added 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists for Garden City. Mark Brissette had 12 points and seven rebounds.

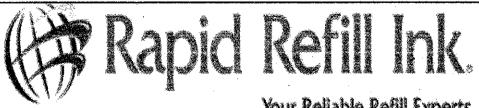
Covenant victorious

Durrell Summers scored 40 points and grabbed 15 rebounds Friday night as Redford Covenant defeated visiting Academy of Oak Park, 77-52.

Adding 12 points for the Spartans (5-1) was Jacory Morning. Stephen Chester added eight points and eight rebounds.

Scoring 16 points each for Academy of Oak Park were Troy Burns and Vincent Butts.





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Plymouth cagers nipped by last-minute basket

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's basketball team was just one in-bounds giveand-go play from pulling off its second consecutive impressive road victory on Dec. 20.

The Wildcats (1-2) were tied with Novi, 35-35, when Novi's Mike Longo scored the eventual game-winner off a set inbounds play with 20 seconds

left. Plymouth's Austin Barnett got off a potential game-tying shot with two seconds left, but it barely missed the mark.

Earlier in the season, the Wildcats recorded a huge victory at Walled Lake Central, which is expected to be one of the top teams in the Western Lakes Activities Association this season.

"We put our selves in a position to win again," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "We were up three points in the fourth quarter, but our youth and inexperience showed when we gave up that last basket. It's frustrating, too, because we run that same play ourselves."

Novi (4-1) led, 10-4, after one quarter and 17-14 at the intermission. A huge third quarter vaulted Plymouth into the lead, 28-25, with eight minutes to play. The fourth quarter proved to be a nip-and-tuck battle that

the hosts eventually won.
Junior guard Myron Puryear
made the best of his first varsity
start as he poured in a teamhigh 12 points, half of which
came from a pair of long threepoint baskets. Junior point
guard Brandon Roberts contributed eight points while junior center Jake Hager had five.
Barnett, a senior forward, led

the Wildcats with four rebounds.

Kaleb Dean, Novi's 6-foot-8 center, led the winners with 13 points.

Plymouth hit 12-of-16 free throws (75 percent) while the hosts drained 11-of-18 (61.1 percent) from the charity stripe.

The Wildcats return to action Thursday when it hosts Madison Heights Bishop Foley, Riverside (Ont.) and Southfield in The Wildcat Holiday tournament. Plymouth will open against Bishop Foley at 7:15 p.m. The night's first game will pit Riverside and Southfield at 5:30 p.m.

pit Riverside and Southfield at 5:30 p.m.

The winner of each game will tangle in Friday's 7:15 title game while the opening-round losers

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will square off at 5:30 p.m.

Taller Parkway pulls away from Agape

The Canton Agape basketball team suffered its second loss of the season Dec. 21 when it fell 65-53 to Parkway Christian.

Senior guard Jack Anleitner turned in a stellar effort in the losing cause, pouring in a team-high 19 points. Mark Mullett contributed nine points for the Wolverines while Jared Miller, Brandon Pierce and Michael Ruffin chipped in with seven points a piece.

Joel Williams led the winners with 20.

Parkway led 16-14 after one quarter, 35-27 at the half and 50-43 with eight minutes to play.

"Their length, height and speed were just too much for us," said Agape coach Keith Anleitner. "They go 6-4, 6-4 and 6-3 across the front line and they have two very quick guards. They have 12 players on their roster and they're all good."

RU cagers survive late scare, edge Pats

BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin seemingly handed a gift-wrapped victory to Redford Union three days before Christmas and the Panthers nearly handed it right back

RU led by double digits virtually the entire game until the fourth, but something that has plagued the Panthers all season happened again. A big lead all but disappeared, with the Patriots' frantic half-court trap sparking a 17-4 run that sliced RU's lead to 46-44 with just 3:15 left in the Dec. 22 non-league varsity boys basketball

Franklin's Tyler Canyock (16 points) then missed a triple try that would have finally put the Pats ahead.

That seemed to give Redford Union the break it needed to wiggle off the hook and finish strong in a 58-48 triumph. In the final three minutes, Panthers junior point guard Terrell Beard and senior guard Remmington Leverette (14 points) combined for nine

points to hold off Franklin.

"Obviously, we have to figure out a way to get our kids to not be so tentative against pressure," said Panthers coach Brett Steele, whose team (3-2) has watched big leads evaporate in every game this season.

"We've get to ottack pressure."

"We've got to attack pressure." About his team's Jekyll-and-Hyde impersonation, Patriots coach Russ Keberly said it was a case of players needing time to figure things out — which they apparently did during halftime.

"We just took a half to settle down and figure out what was working for us," Keberly said. "It was that simple."

The first half didn't work out too well for Franklin, however, as the Panthers (1-3) tallied a mix of outside jumpers and strong moves to the hole.

A 9-0 run, featuring several putbacks, lifted RU to a 20-6 margin early in the second, and the lead grew to 28-13 when junior point guard Eric Mullen dropped in a layup.

Redford Union then closed out the half nicely, on a determined individual move by senior guard Justin Floyd (eight points) with 3.1 seconds to go. Floyd took a pass from Beard, dribbled along the baseline and hit a reverse layup as well as a subsequent foul shot.

Another reason for RU's early dominance was senior forward Tyrone Temple, who scored eight of his 10 points in the first half.

Then, after both teams scored 11 points in the third quarter, with Beard (all 13 points in the second half) and Mullen connecting on triples for the Panthers, RU carried a 42-27 lead into the final stanza.

TURNAROUND

That's when the Patriots suddenly gave the home team no room to breathe — let alone move the basketball up the floor.

"Once they turned up the pressure," Steele said, "we lost all semblance of an offense."

Big reasons for that were the inspired play of Franklin 6-2 senior forward Alex Reid (10 points, 10 rebounds) and Canyock, who Keberly said might have snapped his early season slump in time for conference games next month.

"I was very happy for Tyler to have the kind of game he did," Keberly said. "He was in a slump, we talked about it. He certainly came to play and put on the kind of demonstration we knew he was capable of all year."

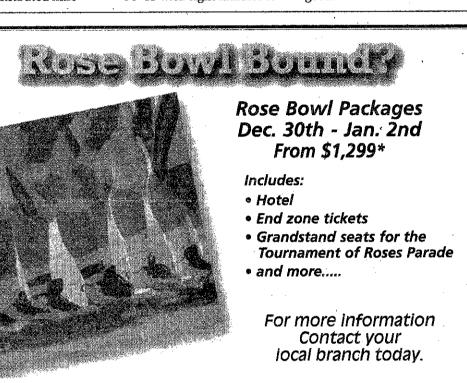
Other Patriots helping turn up the heat on RU included juniors Ryan Matthey (11 points) and Cole Kelly (nine points).

Although Franklin wasn't able to ride the late wave of momentum to a victory, Keberly said he was proud of the effort his team made to nearly come all the way back.

"I think their heart is something that is an intangible skill that may not make us successful every time on the court, but in life," he said. "These kids are good kids, they work hard."

The Panthers will host Redford Thurston at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5.

Franklin's first post-holiday action is also on Jan. 5, at Livonia Stevenson.



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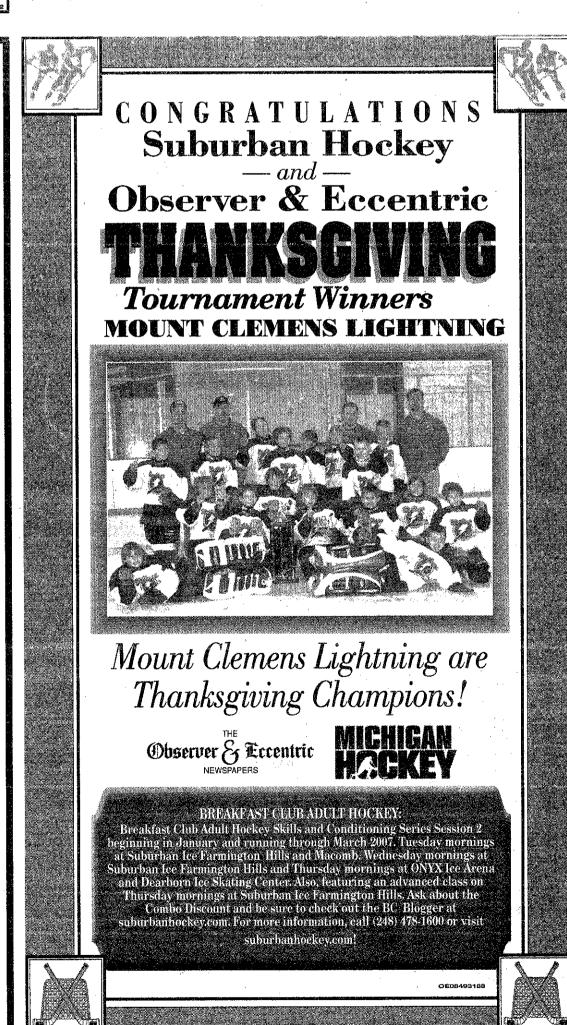
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EVENT RESULTS 400-yard medley relay: 1. Livonia Stevenson (Jeff Pauza, Joey Wingett, Luke Robert, Mike Cruce), 3:46.97; 2. Northville (John Bardsley, Chris Keady, Will Blickle, Patrick Keady), 3:52.32; 3. Salem (Matt Underhill, Stan Chen, David Olson, Nick Leone), 3:58.57; 4. Plymouth (Mike Conger, Kyle Doll, Jack Distel, Chris Wilson), 4:10.69; 5. W.L. Central (Ryan Miceli, Mike Wilson, Brad Nedrow, Sean Riley), 4:14.56; 6. Livonia Churchiil (Steve Jones, Mark Gordon, Ben Lamerand, Jake Keeler), 4:18.63; 7. W.L. Northern (Kyle Ratliff, Morgen Hummel, Riley Cole, Evan Cole), 4:20.81; 8. Livonia Franklin (Shane Shelton, Tim Tyler, Nick Anthony, Andy RossiteR), 4:22,23.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Kyle Hermann, Sam Loria, Charles Turlo, Travis Hatt), 3:27.21; 2. Canton (Robert Blaesser, Chris McGinnis, Jon Templeton, Matt Carlson), 3:29.90; 3. Northville (Kyle Adams, Jim Mammano, John Blickle, Dan O'Brien), 3:37.76; 4. W.L. Northern (Taylor Tannous, Christopher Platt, Paul Coldren, Ryan Gerber), 3:41.21; 5. Salem (Jon Babb, Nick Hoffmever, Nathan Spala, Jason Williams), 3:47.73; 6. Plymouth (Jason Oldani, Peter Nolan, Adam Wing, Joe Eudy), 3:52.47; 7. Wayne Memorial (Jacob Barnes, Jordan Holland, Mike Gabriel, Steven Ogg), 3:57.51; 8. Livonia Franklin (Joe Michniewicz, Scott Ansteth, Tyler Lee, Eric Madaj), 4:25.45.

200 breaststroke relay: 1. Stevenson (John oria, David Bladecki, Eric SChuman, Joey Wingett), 2:03.56; 2. W.L. Northern (John Shaw, Kevin Dannecker, Morgen Hummel, Brian Carter), 2:11.49; 3. Northville (Greg Sheppard, Colin Smith, Chance Miller, Erik Peterson), 2:11.51; 4. Plymouth (Tony McLaughlin, Frank Su, Dan Stoscup, Kyle Dolf), 2:11.77; 5. Franklin (Tim Tyler, Shane Shelton, Nick Anthony, Andy Rossiter), 2:20.50; 6, W.L. Central (Ben Baumgartner, John Molnar, Artur Stepanov, Mike Wilson), 2:21.78; 7. Salem (Matt Rose, Kory Dondzila, Varun Bharadwaj, Paul Cherewick), 2:32.88: 8. Canton (Mike Booker, Matt. Figlewicz, Dennis Rose, Joe Spillane), 2:35.09. 200 backstroke relay: 1. Stevenson (Brendan Schoff, Bryan Bielecki, Jimmy Vayis, Ryan Scott), 1:52.14; 2. Northville: 1. John Lubisco, John Bardsley, Anthony Adamowicz, Clay Malloure), 1:53.27; 3. W.L. Western (Shane Rauss, Steven Nielsen, Dimitry Bugrimov, Rizart Stafa), 1:56.67; 4. Plymouth (Mike Conger, Ethan Weiner, Chris Wilson, Ben Ambrose), 1:58.51; 5. Salem (Nick Hoffmeyer, Alex Suriano, Casey Olson, Jimmy Crabill), 2:06.35; 6. Livonia Churchill (Ricky Scully, Matt Castelli, Jason Young, Steve Jones), 2:09.70; 7. W.L. Northern (Christopher Platt, Brendan Clarke, Evan Gerber, Paul Coldren), 2:12.86; 8. Canton (Robert Goodwin, Jordan Gorzalski, Eddie Koelzer, Rick Peters), 2:14.62. 200 butterfly relay: 1. Stevenson (Mike Cruce, Scott Geverink, Aaren Marecki, Robert Luke), 1:46.44: 2. Northville (Will Blickle, Joe Kargula

Ben Schonek, Jake Lane), 1:46,53; 3, Canton

(Chris Marinica, Ross Schwarz, Joe Spillane,

Jon Templeton), 1:52.22; 4. W.L. Northern (Kyle

Raffiff Alexander Musto, Brendan Clarke, John Shaw), 1:55.54; 5. Plymouth (Jack Distel, Tony McLaughlin, Justin Scaparo, Frank Su), 1:57.85; 6. Salem (Cameron Dunn, Brian Fifield, Joe De Tassanyi, Chris Pavloff), 2:04.90; 7. W.L. Central (Ryan Miceli, Tyler James, John Moinar, Brad Nedrow), 2:06.95; 8. Franklin (Scott Ansteth, Danny Kosmalski, Joe Michniewicz, Eric Madaj),

1-meter diving: 1. Northville, 347.75; 2. W.L. Western, 271.40; 3. Stevenson, 253.35; 4. W.L. Central, 237.20; 5. Churchill, 226.20; 6. W.L. Northern, 169.20.

400 medley relay: 1. W.L. Northern (Riley Cole, Ryan Gerber, Matthew Zavislak, Eric Erdos), 4:02.98: 2. Salem (Stan Chen, Matt Underhill David Olson, Nick Leone), 4:04,46; 3, Northville (Greg Sheppard, Joe Kargula, Anthony Adamowicz, Ben Schonek), 4:07.76; 4. Canton (Matt Carlson, Kevin Karlinski, Russell McBain, Richard Zhang), 4:09.16; 5. Stevenson (Bryan Bielecki, Aaren Marecki, John Loria, Scott Geverink), 4:21.62; 6. Churchill (Ben Lamerand, Joey Liberati, Mark Gordon, Drew Randall), 4:34.62: 7. W.L. Central (Corey Casagrande, Matt Jannett, Tyler James, Ben Baumgartner), 4:42.38; 8. Plymouth (Jack Gruszczynski, Adam Wing, Dan Stoscup, Nick Cobane),

500 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Chris Behler, Chrales Turlo, Kyle Hermann, Jeff Pauza), 4:29.57; 2. Canton (Brandon Tolinski, Mike Booker, Robert Blaesser, Ross Schwarz). 4:47.34; 3. Northville (Nate Lunn, Patrick Keady, Clay Malloure, John Blickle), 4:49.72; 4. Churchill (Matt Castelli, Jason Young, Jake Keeler, Drew Randall), 5:03.75; 5. Plymouth (Alex Ruedger, Ryan Harrison, Jack Gruszczynski, Joe Eudy), 5:15.49; 6. W.L. Central (John Montgomery, Mac Drees, Sean Riley, Torey Tederington), 5:21.54; 7. W.L. Northern (lan Gilgallon, Regan Parmentier, Kevin Dannecker, Alexander Musto), 5:31.90; 8. Salem (Ryan Hartwig, Troy Kerchen, Daniel Kuang, Chad Newton), 5:46.45. 200 medley relay: 1. W.L. Northern (Taylor Tannous, Brian Carter, Eric Erdos, Matthew Zavislak), 1:47.29: 2. Stevenson (Brendan, Schoff, David Bladecki, Travis Hatt, Ryan Scott), 1:49.50; 3. Northville (John Lubisco, Érik Peterson, Chris Keady, Dan O'Brien), 1:53.67; 4. Salem (Jimmy Crabill, Nathan Spala, Cameron Dunn, Casey Olson), 1:56.35; 5. Wayne Memorial (Jacob Barnes, Danny Shirley, Steven Ogg, Jordan Holland), 1:59.85; 6. Plymouth (Ethan Weiner, Ben Ambrose, Justin Scaparo, Jason Oldani), 2:02.66; 7. Canton (Robert Goodwin, Matt Figlewicz, Chris Marinica, Eddie Koelzer), 2:05.82; 8, W.L. Western (Steven Nielsen, Rodrigo Andrade, Ivan Malinov, Jason Sherbel), 200 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Kyle Adams,

Jim Mammano, Jake Lane, Colin Smith), 1:37.59; 2. Stevenson (Sam Loria, Chris Behler, Adam Dabkowski, Jared Diebel), 1:39.27; 3. W.L. Western (Shane Rauss, Dimitry Bugrimov, Rizart Stafa, Josh Wood), 1:40.93; 4. Salem (Jon Babb, Joe De Tassanyi, Brian Fifield, Jason Williams), 1:44.78: 5. Canton (lan Gonzalez, Chris McGinnis, Quest Miller, Brandon Tolinski), 1:45.18; 6. Wayne Memorial (Mike Gabriel, Brandon Hicks, Josh Higgs, Jacob Schofield), 1:59.05; 7. W.L. Central (John Montgomery, Joe Nodge, Garrett Leidich, George Smorkin). 2:04.34; 8. W.L. Northern (Mark Coldren, Casey Damman, Josh Sawyer, Joseph Taylor),



Talented swimmer

Livonia Churchill captain Amanda Timson enjoyed a success-filled senior season this fall as she placed fifth in the 500-vard freestyle at the highly competitive Western Lakes Activities Association league meet. Timson was also a key member of the Chargers' 400 freestyle relay quartet that placed sixth at the WLAA league meet. Timson, who was named the team's MVP, was the lone Charger to compete in an individual event (500 freestyle) at the annual MISCA meet. Timson was inadvertently omitted from the list of All-Observerland swimmers that was published Dec. 17.

BOWLER

FROM PAGE B1

mom, Kerri. "I didn't want to talk to him because I knew he had to focus. A couple of the other bowlers' dads were talking to me right before the 10th frame, but I was so nervous, I just sat there and said, 'uhhuh, yeah, uh-huh.

When he got the last strike, I just screamed."

Judging by Sochocki's impressive bowling resume, the 300 game he registered earlier this month won't be his last. The Canton teenager carries a 194 average in one of the two youth leagues he competes in and he has been taking periodic

lessons from noted instructor Michelle Mullens since he was

"Michelle helps me with just about every part of my game, especially the mental part," said Sochocki, who has already earned more than \$1,000 in college scholarships thanks to his performances at national tournaments. "She uses video recording and she'll just watch me practice, then make suggestions.

"Probably the most important thing I've learned from her is that no matter what happens, you don't want to get mad. If you do, it only makes things worse."

A few days after his date with perfection, Sochocki's achievement scrolled across the sign that sits beside the entrance to Plymouth High School.

"That was neat," he said. "Some of my friends saw it and

congratulated me." Sochocki is the second member of his family to notch a 300. His dad, Rick, rolled the perfect score first in 2004.

The younger Sochocki's longterm goals include bowling for a college team — he mentioned powerhouse Wichita State as a preferred destination — and some day making it as a professional bowler.

On Dec. 19, he provided at least 300 reasons why those aspirations have a good chance of becoming reality.

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New Year's Eve in Texas will be

bout eight hours before we turn the calendar to 2007, the Detroit Lions will be finished with a disastrous 2006. Forget the funny hats, noisemakers and bubbly. Win or lose, this season finale will end a season to forget.

No matter what happens, the Lions will wrap with a worse record than last year. It wasn't supposed to be that way. One of the reasons Steve Mariucci was fired and Dick Jauron was not retained as head coach is because they couldn't find a way to get players to respond to their tutoring. Rod Marinelli was fresh blood with a stricter approach and all he needed to do was "coach them up."

There was certainly no country club atmosphere this time around. From the get-go, Lions players knew what they were in for and it just



never resulted in victories. "I believe in our system and I know with hard work we can get

this done," Marinelli said repeatedly during this campaign. To Marinelli's credit, he never wavered on that thinking. As he

heads into his final game of his first season, Marinelli feels that Mark Wilson what he and his assistants tried to do was the right thing. Mike Martz changed the offense, Donnie Henderson adjusted the defense and Marinelli took control

of that defensive line. There were just too many injuries and not enough talent to accomplish Bill Parcells has Dallas going to the playoffs.

Despite winning nine times in 2005, the Cowboys missed out on the postseason. Not this time. They clinched a playoff spot a couple of weeks ago. It's more amazing when you think they benched a potential Hall of Fame quarterback in Drew Bledsoe for an unproven Tony Romo. He ripped off a four-game winning streak in which he was among the best signal-callers in the NFL. Not bad for a guy who had never thrown a single pass

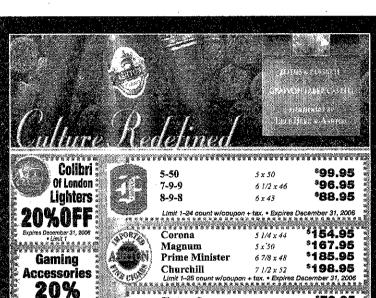
before taking over the Cowboys' offense. Romo is among the league leaders in quarterback rating and is piling up yards and touchdown passes in a big way. Last year, he was battling with former Michigan QB Drew Henson for the backup spot to Bledsoe. Romo won out and Henson was sent packing. The only thing the former Walter Payton Award winner did as a

Cowboys quarterback in 2005 was take a knee to end a game against Philadelphia in October. Other than that, he was the holder on kicks.

By the way, the Payton award is given to the best player in NCAA Division I-AA. That's small school stuff for a guy who spent his college career at Eastern Illinois University. Romo was ol' No. 17 with the Panthers down there in Charleston. If you don't know where Charleston, Ill., is, you are LA

"I don't think we can just do this and do that 💢 di whenever we want," Parcells said when commenting on his Romo-led offense. "Teams are going to adjust to that pretty quick. I am happy we are in the tournament, however."

Parcells is old school and calls making the playoffs, "being in the tournament." Dallas hasn't been a



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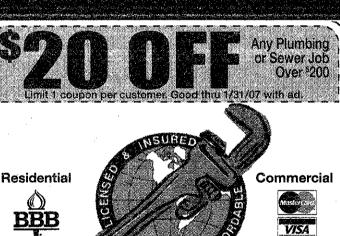
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e no champagne jam for Lions

record.

n "the tournament" since 2003. He was hired by Jerry Jones that season to do more than just make the playoffs. Parcells was hired to do what ne did twice with the New York Giants and that is

to win Super Bowls.

This season, Parcells has had to put up with the eague's biggest enigma, Terrell Owens. T.O. was fined 35-grand two weeks ago for spitting at Atlanta cornerback DeAngelo Hall. It was just another incident in a long line of incidents involving the Cowboys' All-Pro receiver. He is one of the most talented players in all of sports, but it's the stuff away from catching passes that irks Parcells.

"I try to stay away from talking about him pecause it's all you guys want to talk about," said the man known as "The Tuna." "I just try to get he player to play to his potential on the field.

That's what I told you when the player came here."

Parcells, who was once a Lions draft pick out of Wichita State, does his best to not even say Owens' name. When grilled at his Monday press conference following the spitting incident, Parcells stayed away from addressing T.O. as a distraction during a playoff year.

"I know it's a story and I am trying to be polite and answer the questions you people ask," he said. "I just try to keep balance myself."

Never a dull moment out at Valley Ranch. What would Dallas Cowboys football be without a little controversy from week to week? Owens still remains a vital cog in Parcells' offense.

The Lions have lost all three games they have played against Parcells as Cowboys coach. This

will be the third straight year they have played at Texas Stadium in Irving. Last season, Bledsoe was awful in the 20-7 win over Detroit. Marion Barber scored two rushing touchdowns and the Dallas 'D' did the job.

That game came one week before Mariucci's waterloo in the Thanksgiving contest against Atlanta. This time it ends the year, literally. "We just want to play well and finish on a

good note," Lions defensive back Dré Bly said. It's another Roy Williams vs. Roy Williams game. Cowboys star safety Roy Williams against Lions receiver Roy Williams. Too bad University of North Carolina basketball coach Roy Williams is busy. Three Roy Williams in the same building might set a new Roy Williams

An anniversary of sorts is coming up. In two weeks, it will have been 15 years since the Lions' last playoff win. It came against the Cowboys at the Silverdome in blowout fashion. The final score was 38-6 that day. Dallas and Detroit were anointed by John Madden as "the teams of the '90s." Dallas went on to win three Super Bowls, while the Lions never sniffed another postseason victory. It remains their only playoff win in the last 49 years.

Season ends Sunday in Texas. Not a moment

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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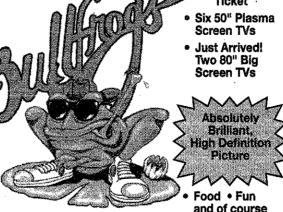
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BOYS BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 28 Wildcat Holiday Tournament at Plymouth High School First Round Riverside (Ont.) vs. Southfield, 5:30 p.m. Plymouth vs. Madison Hts. Bishop Foley, 7:15 p.

Friday, Dec. 29 Wildcat Holiday Tournament at Plymouth High School Consolation game, 5:30 p.m. Championship game, 7:15 p.m. Red. Covenant vs. Cedar Springs at MSU Breslin Center, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2 Red. Covenant at Ann Arbor Greenhills, 7:30 p.

Thursday, Jan. 4 Light & Life at Huron Valley, 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5 Canton at Salem, 7 p.m. M.H. Madison at Clarenceville, 7 p.m. Thurston at Redford Union, 7 p.m. Northville at Churchill, 7 p.m. Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Wednesday, Jan. 3 Franklin at A.A. Ploneer, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4

Ply. Christian at Clarenceville, 6:30 p.m. Light & Life at Luth. Westland, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6 Macomb CC Tournament, 8 a.m. Clawson Tournament, 8 a.m. Grand Valley Invitational, 8 a.m. W.L. Central Invitational, 9 a.m. PREP HOCKEY Friday, Dec. 29 Franklin vs. Churchill at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m. Plymouth at St. Clair Shores Tourney at St. Clair Shores Arena, TBA

Saturday, Dec. 30 Plymouth at St. Clair Shores Tourney at St. Clair Shores Arena, TBA Wednesday, Jan. 3 Chelsea at Plymouth at Compuware Sports Arena, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4 Royal Oak vs. Redford Unified at Redford Arena, 7:15 p.m. Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Detroit City Arena, 7:30 p.m. (Pioneer Tourney at A.A. ice Cube) Churchill vs. Milford, 5 p.m. Birm. Unified vs. A.A. Pioneer, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5
Pioneer Tourney at Ice Cube, 5 & 7:30 p.m.

Franklin vs. Farmington at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m. Plymouth at Woodhaven Tourney at the Icebox, TBA Saturday, Jan. 6 Plymouth at Woodhaven Tourney at the Icebox, TBA **Detroit Country Day at Salem** at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.

Stevenson vs. W.L. Central at Lakeland Ice Arena, 3:30 p.m. Redford Unified at Troy, 6:15 p.m. Ladywood vs. G.P. North at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING Thursday, Dec. 28 Salem Invitational, 9 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 30 Oxford Invitational, 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 4 Churchill at Salem, 6:30 p.m. Wayne at Franklin, 6:30 p.m. Stevenson at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m. Canton at Plymouth, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 6 Fordson Invitational, 8:45 a.m. Wyandotte Invitational, 9:30 a.m. South Lyon Invitational, 10 a.m. Troy Invitational, 10 a.m. Richmond Invitational, 9 a.m. **BOYS SWIMMING**

Thursday, Jan. 4 U-D Jesuit, Saline at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Woodhaven at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6 W. Bloomfield Invitational, 9 a.m. W.L. Northern Invitational, 1 p.m. **GIRLS GYMNASTICS**

Wednesday, Jan. 3 Liv. Red-Blue at Hartland vs. Milford-Lakeland, 7 p.m. Plymouth vs. Salem at Plymouth H.S., 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4 Canotn at Brighton, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 6 Canton at Rockford Invitational, 10 a.m. PREP BOWLING Friday, Jan. 5 Clarenceville vs. Farmington-Harrison, Ladywood vs. N. Farmington at Thunderbird Lanes, 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6 Ladywood Holiday Tournament at Westland's Oak Lanes, 10 a.m. **GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER** Saturday, Jan. 6 Berkley Invitational, TBA

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Tuesday, Jan. 2 S'craft at Scottsdale CC (Ariz.), 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3 Davenport at Madonna, 7:30 p.m. S'craft at Scottsdale CC (Ariz.), TBA. Thursday, Jan. 4 S'craft at Scottsdale CC (Ariz.), TBA.

Saturday, Jan. 6 Indiana Tech at Madonna, 3 p.m. Schoolcraft at Henry Ford CC, 3 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 29 (Univ. Nevada-Las Vegas Tournament) Madonna vs. S. Dakota Tech, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 30 Madonna vs. Campbellsville (Ky.), 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3 Davenport at Madonna, 5:30 p.m.



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 28, 2006



CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids until 2:00p.m., Tuesday January 2, 2007. The bid opening will take place at 2:00p.m., Tuesday January 2, 2007 at Plymouth City Hall 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth Michigan for the following:

Concert Production Services City of Plymouth

Plymouth, Michigan 48170

Downtown Development Authority c/o City Clerk Plymouth City Hall 201 S. Main Street

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.

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 17 and 28, 2006



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Redford has scheduled a public hearing for Thursday, January 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Redford Township Hall Board Room, 15145 Beech Daly Road, to consider the following:

A request from Jamal Beydoun to rezone the following from C-1 Local Business to C-2 General Commercial: Lots 639 to 650, NEW DETROIT SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT

RECORDED IN LIBER 61 OF PLATS, PAGE 85 WAYNE COUNTY RECORDS.

Property more commonly known as: 27131 Plymouth Rd.

THE LAW REQUIRES THAT OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS OF PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN 300 FEET OF THIS PROPERTY BE NOTIFIED OF THIS REQUEST IN WRITING. THIS IS YOUR NOTIFICATION.

The public is invited to attend. Those unable to attend may send their written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission, 1220 Beech Daly Rd., Redford, MI 48239. No written comments will be received later than 4:30 p.m., January 4, 2007. Please refer to Map No. 4-06 in all correspondence. No comments will be accepted over the

It is further given that a copy of the plan may be examined at the Public Services building; 12200 Beech Daly Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Phone (313) 387-2680.

Joseph H. Landry, Chairman Planning Commission Charter Township of Redford

The Charter Township of Redford, Township (P.C., ZBA, Board of Trustees, etc) will ne charter lownship of Redford, Iownship (P.C., ZBA, Board of Prostees, etc) whi 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 or public hearing, upon seven (7) days notice to the (PC, ZBA, Board of Trustees, etc.). Further, individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk by writing to 15145 Five Mile Road, Redford, MI 48239, or by calling (313) 387-2750.

Publish: December 24 and December 28, 2006

Saturday, Jan. 6 Madonna at Indiana Tech, 1 p.m. Schoolcraft at Henry Ford CC, 1 p.m. **ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE** Thursday, Dec. 28 Whalers vs. Windsor Spitfires at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 30 Whalers vs. Guelph Storm at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m. Monday, Jan. 1 Whalers at Owen Sound, 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5 Whalers at London Knights, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 6 Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7 Whalers at Windsor Spitfires, 2 p.m. MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE Friday, Dec. 29

Ignition at California Cougars, 10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5 Det. Ignition vs. Chicago Storm at Compuware Arena, 7:35 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6 Ignition at Baltimore Blast, 7:35 p.m. TBA - time to be announced.

SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1,574th LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL - DECEMBER 4, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Present: Gerald Taylor, Don Knapp, Brian Meakin, Terry Godfroid-Marecki, Joe Laura, Thomas Robinson, and James McCann. Absent: None.

#580-06 Resolution by Robinson and Knapp approving the minutes of the 1,573rd Regular Meeting of the Council held November 20,

2006, as submitted. A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution with the

following result: AYES: Taylor, Knapp, Meakin, Laura, Robinson, and McCann.

NAYS: None. PRESENT: Godfroid-Marecki.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION:

Taylor spoke about the passing of Stan Dobis, Cable Commission. He said that Mr. Dobis attended all the Council meetings, was very active with City Channel 8 and was a great friend to the City of Livonia. Taylor asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Dobis who will be warmly remembered by all.

Knapp also spoke of his memories of Stan Dobis and sent his condolences to the Dobis family.

Council President McCann spoke as well about his memories of Stan Dobis and how he would be missed. He also sent condolences to the

Council President McCann announced that the following two X-Items will be added to tonight's agenda:

The appointment of Linda J. Trewin, 19984 Hubbard. Livonia, Michigan 48152, to the Board of Review.

The appointment of Dan West, 33233 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154, to the Plymouth Road Development Authority as a representative of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce

Council President McCann announced that a Public Hearing for the following item will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI:

> David W. Starkie, CEO, Bodycote Thermal Processing, Inc., 5001 LBJ Freeway, Ste. 800, Dallas, TX 75244, requests approval of an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for the facility located at 31888 Glendale, Livonia, MI. 48150. (IDD #103)

The following items were received and filed:

Communication from the Department of Finance, dated November 20, 2006, re: forwarding various financial statements of the City of Livonia for the month ending October 30, 2006.

Communication from the Engineering Division, dated November 28, 2006, re: additional information on the request to extend the Design and Construction Engineering Contracts for the 2007 Concrete Pavement and Asphalt Pavement Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Programs. (CR 464-05 and CR 465-04)

Communication from the Public Service Division, dated October 12, 2006, re: status reports on services provided by Honeywell, Inc. to the Community Recreation Center for the periods April through June, 2006 and July through September, 2006. (CR 604-05)

Communication from the Public Service Division, dated November 14, 2006, re: recommendation to reduce Honeywell staff support to two days per month and to continue the existing contract with Honeywell for a one-year preventive maintenance program for the Community Recreation Center. (CR 603-05 and CR 604-05)

mmunication from the Department of Management Information Systems, dated December 1, 2006, re: a listing of the major Information Systems expenditures over the past 24 months.

Communication from David H. Johns, Schostak Brothers & Company, dated December 4, 2006, re: information on the operating hours and forwarding a traffic generation report prepared by Michael R. Cool, P.E., Reid, Cool & Michalski, Inc. pertaining to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for the proposed Del Taco Restaurant at 17001 Newburgh Road.

E-mail communication from David H. Johns, Schostak Brothers & Company, received in the Council Office on December 1, 2006, re: forwarding a rear view and drive-thru rendering for the proposed Del Taco Restaurant at 17001 Newburgh Road. (Petition 2006-08-01-07)

Communication from the Laurel Park South Community Association, dated November 30, 2006, re: forwarding petitions signed by residents in the Laurel Park South and Laurel Park II Subdivisions opposing Petition 2006-08-01-07.

E-mail from Greg and Mary Anne Ralko, 16232 Houghton Drive, received by the City Council on November 27, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco

E-mail from Kimberly A. Kehres, received by the City Council on November 27, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

E-mail from Mick and Rosanne Green, 15840 Marsha Avenue, received by the City Council on November 28, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

E-mail from Mr. and Mrs. William Ferguson, 37612 Mallory Drive, received by the City Council on November 28, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

E-mail from Curt and Carolyn McNamara, received by the City Council on November 30, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

E-mail from Kevin C. Bush, received by the City Council on November 30, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

E-mail from Craig Gauthier, 16124 Houghton, received by the City Council on December 1, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

E-mail from Thomas Ambers, 38075 Mallory Drive, received by the City Council on December 4, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

E-mail from Patricia O'Brien, 16433 Marsha, received by the City Council on December 1, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

Communication from the Department of Law, dated November 28, 2006, re: forwarding an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for accepting transfers by and between the Livonia Community Resources Department and the Detroit Department of Transportation in connection with the Livonia Community Transit Program.

The following resolutions were offered by Meakin and Knapp:

#581-06 Approving the request from Fleming's/Great Lakes-I, Limited Partnership (A Florida Limited Partnership) for the transfer of ownership of a 2006 Class C Licensed Business (in escrow) with official permit (food) from Han Dynasty International, LTD., and to transfer location from 23514 W. Seven Mile, Detroit, Michigan 48219, for the business located at 17400 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48152; FURTHER, approving the request from Fleming's/Great Lakes-I, for a new outdoor service permit (and to cancel the danceentertainment permit) to be held in conjunction for the business located at 17400 Haggerty Road.

#582-06 Accepting the unit price bid of Allie Brothers, Inc., 20295 Middlebelt, for supplying the Division of Police with police uniforms for a total estimated price of \$76,747.61, unit prices to remain in effect through January 1, 2009.

#583-06 Accepting the bid of ADS Environmental Services, Inc., 330 East Maple Road, Suite J, Troy, Michigan 48033, for installing Flow Monitors and Rain Gauges at various locations throughout the City and for providing maintenance and data processing services for a five year period beginning with the execution of the contract, at a total cost not to exceed \$209,896.00. (Ref.: 756-98)

#584-06 Approving Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Wayne and the City of Livonia for the resurfacing of Six Mile Road from Haggerty Road to Farmington Road, with the City of Livonia's participation estimated at \$209,889.00, or 7.72%, with an initial deposit of \$104,944.50 to be made by the City and further expenditures being made upon receipt of invoices from Wayne County.

#585-06 Approving an amendment to the agreement between the

Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Livonia for the reconstruction and resurfacing of Stark Road -- Plymouth Road to Eastbound Schoolcraft Road and Eastbound Schoolcraft -- Stark Road to Farmington Road, which acknowledges the grant received by the City under the State Local Jobs Today Program which reduced the City's share of the project from \$522,800.00 to \$348,800.00. (CR #586-06 Approving an amendment to the existing design and

construction engineering contract with Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment, Inc., 34000 Plymouth Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150, in an amount not to exceed \$549,000.00 for the 2007 Concrete Paving Program; FURTHER, approving an amendment to the engineering contract with Spalding DeDecker Associates, Inc., 905 South Boulevard East, Rochester Hills, Michigan 48307, in an amount not to exceed \$400,969.00 for the 2007 Asphalt Paving Program. (CR 464-05 and CR 465-04)

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolutions:

Taylor, Knapp, Meakin, Godfroid-Marecki, AYES: Laura, Robinson, and McCann. NAYS:

At the direction of the Chair, and as the Petitioner was not present, Item #7(a) regarding Site Plan Petition 2006-07-08-16 submitted by Byblos General Contracting Company in connection with a proposal to demolish and reconstruct the Mobil gas station located at 29401 Five Mile Road was removed from the agenda and will be placed on the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of January 17, 2007.

#587-06 Resolution by Taylor and Knapp, unanimously adopted, approving the renewal of the existing contract with Honeywell, Inc., 23978 Research Drive, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335, for a one year preventative maintenance program for the Community Recreation Center in an amount not to exceed \$51,240.00. (CR 603-05 and CR 604-05)

#588-06 Resolution by Taylor and Godfroid-Marecki, unanimously adopted, approving the reduction of the staff support services by a Honeywell technician from one day per week to two days per month for the annual cost of \$18,618.00. (CR 603-05 and CR 604-05)

Taylor gave FIRST READING to the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 21 OF THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA AND AMENDING ARTICLE III OF ORDINANCE NO. 543, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE CITY OF LIVONIA ZONING ORDINANCE" BY ADDING SECTION 3. THERETO. (Petition 2006-07-01-06)

The foregoing Ordinance was placed on the table for consideration.

#589-06 Resolution by Godfroid-Marecki and Taylor, approving an extension of the current lease between the City of Livonia and Solarcom, LLC (or its successors) for the IBM AS/400 (I-Series) computer for the City's New World Systems Financial Systems for a period of one year in the amount of \$4,873.00 per quarter. (CR 683-03 as amended by CR 45-04)

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution: Taylor, Knapp, Meakin, Godfroid-Marecki, AYES:

Laura, and McCann. NAYS: Robinson

#590-06 Resolution by Godfroid-Marecki and Laura, accepting a proposal submitted by BS&A Software, 14965 Abbey Lane, Bath, Michigan 48808, for the purchase of the Equalizer Miscellaneous Receivables, Tax, Special Assessment and Delinquent Property. Software Systems with data conversions, training, necessary program customizations and the first year of maintenance for a total

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:

Taylor, Knapp, Meakin, Godfroid-Marecki, Laura, and McCann. AYES:

NAYS: Robinson.

cost of \$57,580.00. (CR 165-06)

NAYS:

#591-06 Resolution by Meakin and Knapp, referring to the Committee of the Whole for its report and recommendation Petition 2006-08-01-07 submitted by Schostak Brothers, on behalf of Agree Limited Partnership, requesting to rezone property located at 17001 Newburgh Road, on the west side of Newburgh Road, between Mallory Drive and Six Mile Road, in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 18, from C-1 to C-2 (Local Business to General Business).

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution: Taylor, Knapp, Meakin, Godfroid-Marecki, Robinson, and McCann. AYES:

#592-06 Resolution by Knapp and Taylor, unanimously adopted, accepting various gifts and cash donations, in the total amount of \$970.50, from Friends of the Barn and Merri-Bowl to be used by the Department of Parks and Recreation for the purposes as designated by the donors.

#593-06 Resolution by Taylor and Laura, unanimously adopted, suspending the rules for procedure as outlined in Council Resolution 574-82 in order to permit consideration of items that do not appear on the agenda.

#594-06 Resolution by Taylor and Knapp, unanimously adopted, confirming the appointment of Linda J. Trewin, 19984 Hubbard, Livonia, Michigan 48152, to the Board of Review to fill the unexpired term of office of Mark R. Thomas, which will expire on February 16, 2007, as well as a reappointment of Ms. Trewin for a new three year term expiring February 16, 2010.

#595-06 Resolution by Laura and Robinson, unanimously adopted, confirming the appointment of Dan West, 33233 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154, to the Plymouth Road Development Authority as a representative of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce to fill the unexpired term of Wes Graff, which will expire on May 16, 2007, as well as a reappointment of Mr. West for a new four year term expiring May 16, 2011.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION:

Mayor Jack Engebretson reflected on Stan Dobis' absence at the Council meeting tonight. The Mayor also spoke about his fond memories of Mr. Dobis including how both loved Hawaii.

By Robinson and Meakin, unanimously adopted, adjourning this 1,574th Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia at 8:45 p.m., December 4, 2006.

VAL VANDERSLOOT, CITY CLERK

*The foregoing is a summary of the Council's proceedings in synopsis form as authorized by CR 1158-68. The full text of the official minutes of this meeting is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and is available to the public upon request.

Publish: December 28, 2006

Balanced scoring leads Charger icers to win

Four different players scored goals to lead Livonia Churchill to a 4-2 victory over Northville Dec. 20 in a Western Lakes Activities boys hockey game

played at Eddie Edgar Arena. The Chargers improved to 4-1:0 overall and 4-0-0 in the

"It was a great WLAA game; if had a good pace," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni. We are just trying to keep improving each week and continue to improve. We are getting different goal scorers each game. Northville is a very gritty tam that competes real hard."

Churchill led 2-1 after one period thanks to goals from Steve Greco (from Kody Stong and Kyle Burke) and Bryon Niemczak (from Tony Ross

and Scott Sundberg). The Mustangs' lone first-period lamp-lighter came off the stick of Mike Garbarz, who picked up helpers form Anthony Deneau and Ian Jezak.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 28, 2006

Garrett Miencier's goal three minutes into the third period (form Keith Yackley and Phil Wendecker) put the Chargers ahead 3-1. Northville's Kyle Ziomek and Churchill's Dustin Wischmeyer closed out the scoring late in the third.

Scott Lewan earned the victory in net for the Chargers, stopping 15 shots. Northville net-minder Ted Kiernan suffered the loss despite recording

Churchill outshot Northville,

STEVENSON 8. FRANKLIN 0: On Friday, the Spartans improved to 8-1-1 with a white-washing of the Patriots in a WLAA game played at Eddie Edgar Arena. The loss dropped Franklin to 2-4-2.

Stevenson; led 2-0 after one period and 5-0 with 15 minutes to play.

Chris Rapp paced the winners' offensive effort with two goals and an assist. Six Spartans lit the lamp once, including T.J. Gosselin and Zach Roberts, who netted their first career goals.

Other goal-scorers were Marcus Voran, John Vella, Mike Gibbons and Mark Bekkala. Vella also contributed two assists.

Drew MacEachern starred in net for the Spartans, recording 16 saves for his first shutout of the season.

"Overall, the guys played good tonight," said Stevenson coach Mike Humitz. "We moved the puck well and created a lot of opportunities off the movement."

FRANKLIN 2, SALEM 1: On Dec. 20, the Patriots rode the solid goal-tending of Austin Mesler and goals from Alex Wypch and Ben Kubiak. Jordan Short and Rob Ringe assisted on Wypch's goals while Derek Cripe and Tyler Barnes.

The Rocks' lone goal came from Nathan Werda, who was assisted by Kris Brandt and Evan Meibers.

"We beat a very good hockey team," said Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt. "Our goal-tending was superior and we had a great effort from our entire team. We were very happy with this victory as Salem played very good hockey and we continue to improve with each game."

Mesler stopped 26 shots while Salem net-minder Ralph Aspenwall re-directed 18.

CANTON 2, W.L. CENTRAL 2: On Friday in a game played at the Arctic Edge in Canton, the Chiefs (2-8-1) raced to a 2-0 lead before hanging on for the

Senior captain Brad Barath opened the scoring with 3:36 left in the opening period when he scored off assists from J.P. LaFontaine and Alex Lajoie. LaFontaine doubled the hosts' advantage less than three minutes into the second period. He was assisted by Zach Nowak and Barath.

The Vikings rebounded with

two goals (Drew Sennhenn and Deano Nicholaidis) within a three-minute span of the third period to knot the con-

"Overall, I thought we played well, but we had a couple of defensive breakdowns in the third period that cost us," said Canton coach Dan Abraham. "Hopefully, the kids learn from the mistakes and they don't repeat them in the

future. "Our goalie, Kevan Swanberg, was solid. Both goals he gave up were breakawavs."

On Saturday, the Chiefs upended Ypsilanti Lincoln, 2-1, behind strong goal-tending from Swanberg. Details of the game were not available at presstime.

Panther wrestlers pin loss on Clarenceville

Redford Union's varsity wrestling team pounded Livonia Clarenceville, 60-12, in a Dec. 20 non-conference dual meet.

For the Panthers, Trevor Gorman earned a 9-3 decision over Spencer Haworth at 285 and Matt Kibner defeated Jake Ruth 12-6 at 112.

RU also strung together several wins by fall. Sean Meixner pinned Scott Convery in 1:43 at 130, Keith Landen pinned Tony Brandt in 4:42 at 135 and Zac Goins pinned Tim Siecinski in 4:32

Capturing their weights via void were Redford Union's Michael D'Arcangelo (103), Brandon Gutierrez (119) and Adam Kibner (152).

For the Trojans, Derek Robbins pinned Matt Birbetch in 3:28 to win at 145 and Andrew Jasmer pinned

his opponent at 189 in just 59 seconds.



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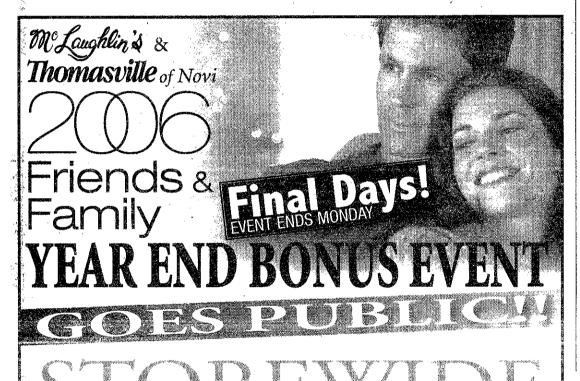
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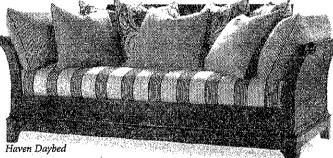
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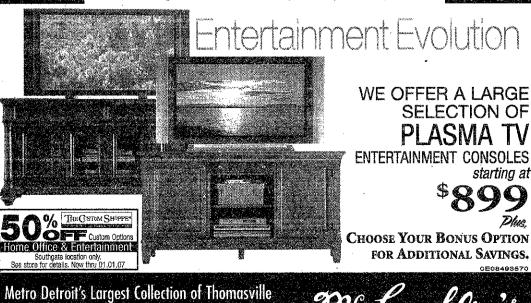
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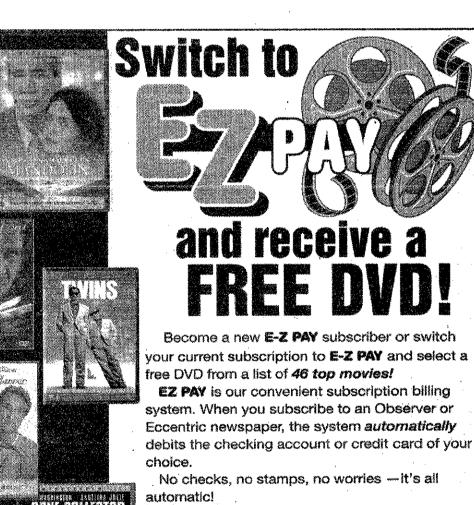
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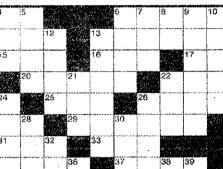
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(*)

Mildred L.

you make good decisions about whether or not to trust? An article in September's

Experimental Economics, a professional journal contradicts the assumption that people don't trust people who are unlike them. Lisa Anderson and Jennifer Mellor of the College of William and Mary, and Jeffrey Milyo of the University of Missouri-Columbia write in "Induced Heterogeneity in Trust Experiments" that they created differences among subjects by paying them different amounts of money (\$4 to \$20), paid publicly or privately. A total of 96 subjects participated in 12 sessions.

Milyo comments, "It's difficult to say whether this same principle applies to things like race, religion or even income, but it does show that the general existence of difference does not make people act mistrustful of each other." Milyo adds that information about the payment differences did not influence behavior, suggesting that "psychological factors" might well be at play.

What do these findings teach us about mistrust in the workplace, where economic factors can vary considerably? In most companies, people know who's paid more (or less), and who's at the top (or bottom) of the

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scale. Lack of specific economic information. in most cases, doesn't make much difference. The number of subjects discussed in the scholarly article is small.

If economic differences don't substantially influence behavior, what "psychological factors" influence it to create a climate of mistrust? Darren Johnson of InsideOut Learning Inc., in Nashville, is a diversity trainer and personal development coach in the area of letting go. He maintains that "the environment in which people work creates opportunities for mistrust, because organizations often send mixed messages to employees." He further states that this puts managers in a difficult position, because "no matter how great a person is, a manager is viewed as a manager (over a company's reputation), not as the person."

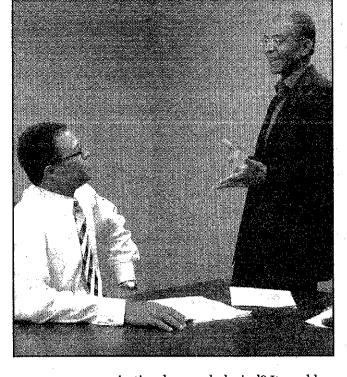
Based in Phoenix, Marcia Reynolds, an emotional intelligence trainer at Covisioning Inc., says that the tribal nature of the workplace contributes to mistrust: "It's almost as if you have to pay your dues and prove yourself before people will trust you." In other words, people want to observe behavior prior to assigning a level of trust. Rick Maurer, change management consultant at Maurer & Associates in Arlington, Va., approaches behavioral data from the other side, suggesting that mistrust based upon "direct experience with you makes sense, because it's based on data." The reverse should also be true. We're always auditioning

for the next good workplace relationship.

Revnolds remarks that we can become victims of our own brain, which "justifies and rationalizes decisions we make based upon our emotions." She encourages people to become aware of everyone's "tendency to judge and mistrust," which hinders the ability to trust. For example, she points out that if a person passes you in the hall with no greeting or doesn't look you in the eye, your brain picks up emotional signals. Instead, she advocates, "Step back and see the person without judgment. Set judgment aside." Toss in a "hello" the next time you see the person and watch the

In other words, trust requires work. Johnson says, "I think that oftentimes people surprise themselves in their ability to trust others in situations where they may perceive themselves as distrustful. The most powerful conversations we have are internal. Our actions are a reflection of them." These internal conversations make us strive to be trustworthy.

How do we combine an organizational tendency to promote mistrust with a personal tendency to judge? Is the issue economic,



organizational or psychological? It would seem that shared vision would draw people to each other, even as they disagree. Reynolds mentions a sales organization in a dispersed workplace, some, but not all, of whom knew each other and shared "great trust and respect for each other. It was more like 'we're in this together and we're trying to take this company to the next level.' It's so rare."

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Copyright 2006 Passage Media.) OE08496502

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ental, black laquer. Glass top/mother of pearl. 38"x 32"x50". \$700. 248-514-8165



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MISC - Construction tools. Drywall bench w/adj, legs, dry-wall stilts (adj.), 6ft. A-Frame ladder, Crown Stapler, cordless

auto. screw gun, nails, fasteners. \$600 all. 248-688-5065

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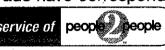
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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

IVORY SEEKS EBONY Honest, independent, separated WF, 47, 5'7", voluptuous, N/S, N/D, D/D-free, enjoys coffee shops, reading, walks, dining, movie nights, etc. ISO stable, secure, sociable, sweet SBM to share special times. 22147676

TAKE ME GOLFING Tidy SWF, 60, enjoys fine dining, traveling. eking golfer, best friend, confidante, 58-70, widower a plus. Honesty, trust, a must to make a relationship work. 2976914

JOIN ME Assertive, feminine, active SBF, 33, outgoing, classy, seeks same., someone not afraid to live life. No drama no games. Possible LTR. 20147376

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. \$2652360

UPSCALE, GRASS ROOTS Ebony woman, 43, emotionally available, 5'5", H/W proportionate, seeks strong, emotionally grounded, open and fun gentleman, to share deep romance. 22147056

SEARCHING FOR YOU SBF, 36, attractive, trust-worthy, down to earth, likes walks, movies, dinners, park, music, seeks BM, 36-70, for friendship, possible romance. 22990369

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. 23962910

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. 2132593

WANTED: TALL, CLASSY MALE I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel Seeking a companion, 60-70, and maybe a relationship. Please call. 2982305

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. 12145778

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. 25933970

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. 22950732

FIND ME Attractive SAF, 49, N/S, 5' 3", 110lbs, slim build, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S, for friendship, and more. 2113901

FORMER MODEL SWF, 50, 5'6", slender, intelligence, creativity, passion for music and dancing. Seeks partner 38-50, who is attractive and fit, to share this interests and more. 2600106

SOULMATE SEARCH Slim, attractive, 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM. between the ages of 54-64, please respond. 2589875

TRY ME SF, 20, 5'9", long black hair, tattoos, big brown eyes, dimples, sweet smile, curvy enjoys Italian food, friends, keeping active,

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. 72138981

Looking for a nice, honest guy to get to know. 22150312

LET'S TALK SOMETIME SBCF, 38, 5'6", 120lbs, smoker, loves jazz. Seeking BF, 30-45, smoker, for dining out and movies for friendship, possi-ble romance. \$\frac{152399}{2}

U WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED Good-hearted SBF, 49, loves music, travel, togetherness. Looking for a sweet, sexy SBM, respectful and easygoing, to share nice dinners, good talks, romance and affection. \$\mathbf{T}\$152214

ONE GOOD WOMAN BBW, SWF, attractive, compassionate, down-to-earth. Enjoys movies, comedies, long walks, romantic evenings and more. Seeking employed SM, 38-55, to do and share things together. Must like pets.

ISO CHIVALROUS MAN SBCF, 35, attractive, plus-sized, Capricorn, single mom, marriage-minded, N/S, seeks

man, 40-55, family-oriented, old-fashioned, possible romance. 22112291 **LOOKING FOR YOU** Attractive SWF, Catholic, 59, N/S, 5' 6", good shape, seeks WM, 53-70, N/S, who

walks, church, and much more. 2124235 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. 42123659 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.

ARE YOU THE ONE? SBF, 56, BBW, loves jazz, concerts, movies, travel, walks, great conversation. Seeking commitment-minded, mature, loving man with similar interests for possible LTR. 25140023

LOOKING FOR LIFE PARTNER Female, young 45, N/Kids, loves animals, nature, gardening, old cars, new music, and quiet nights. Seeking a man, 40-50 with a positive attitude and good SOH. Friends first, possible LTR. 27113552

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. \$2890004

HI EVERYONE SF, 18, seeks nice, easygoing guy who knows how to have fun, and knows how to treat a lady. Friendhsip first. 27142588

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. \$2891247 LOOKING FOR ME?

SOMEONE SPECIAL

Affectionate, sincere SWF, 63, 5'2", dark hair and eyes, employed part-time, enjoys travel, movies, dining out, more. ISO tall, active, open-minded, lovable man to share a little fun, possibly romance. 2959193 PETITE & SEXY.

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

23912553 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. 25953694

LOOKING 4 GENTL 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, HWP, for lasting, loving LTR. 2973365

POSSIBLE LTR SWPF, 57, 5'7", attractive, slender, athletic, Scorpio, N/S, enjoys sports, concerts, dining out, seeks WPM, 55-61, N/S, educathealthy, humorous, possible LTR. **2**993381

SWF, 52, attractive, Pisces, N/S, nice, educated, secure, fun, enjoys sporting events, movies, camping, travel, theater, seeks WM, 45 to 56, N/S, possible romance.

MADE TO ORDER

59 YEARS OLD ENTREPRENEUR Pretty, charming SWF, successful, kind, compassionate, lots of fun, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any sincere, cau-casian gentlemen, 55-80, please respond. Hopefully we'll be each others soul mates. **25**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. 22118410

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. \$2123905

COULD YOU BE THE ONE? very attractive, energetic, happy, enjoys dining, travel, amusement parks, the outdoors, festivals, nature, family-friends, theater, more. Seeking like-minded gentleman to share these. 22121526

FRIENDS FIRST
WIWF, 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. 22139719

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. 25956929 SEEKING FRIENDSHIP SBF, young 60s, w/good morals, caring, nice-looking, 5'3", 156ibs, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, clean, honest living, partly retired, enjoys art, card playing, casinos, and movies. Seeking honest man 50-60, race

open. 22134425 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.

25639272 BBW SEEKING COMPANION SBF, 27, 5'5", BBW, N/D, N/S, enjoys movies, concerts, plays. Seeking SM 27-50, with similar interests for friendship, possible LTR. 22153342

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

HUGGABLE TEDDY BEAR SWM, 6", medium built, independent, N/S seeks SF, 22-50, N/S, slim-average built d/d-free, must be trust-worthy, honest and mature, for companionship, romance and

Ready to meet great new people?

HI LADIES Sweet, genuine SBM, 38, 6', 320lbs , good-looking, warm smile, enjoys writing, reading, drawing, music and much more Seeking real, fun, open-minded lady to

share the good times. 22152105 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. 2869189

READ THIS ADI Handsome SBM, 29, seeks SW/ BF, 21-40, must be energetic, mature and kind-hearted, for dinner dates, outdoor activities, conversation, or watching a good

movie. 2152773 THE BEGINNING SWM, 54, 5'9", N/S, d/d-free, open-minded, seeks active SF, for sharing of conversations, dates, fun and more. 25154318

READTHIS AD! Handsome 5'10", BM, 23, seeks SB/WF, who knows how to treat a good man and know how to have fun, looking for friend-

ship first, maybe more. 2 154423 KING LOOKING FOR QUEEN SBM, 20s, 5'11", medium build, N/S, good sense of humor and personality. Seeks SBF, 18-24, for friendship, romance and more. 2154524

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. \$2920969 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. \$2531308

SHARP
Easygoing SBM, 39, enjoys movies, music, long drives, gourmet tea, live music, much more. Seeking spontaneous SWF, 37-50, for friendship good times, good talks and maybe more. \$\frac{1}{2}\$152047

GOTTIME? SBM, 46, 6'3", average build, seeks down-to-earth, gentle, honest SF, 35-55, for dinner dates, good conversation, walks in the park, or just hanging out watching a good movie. 22154257

LOOKING FOR A SINGLE LADY Looking for a SF 20-30, to get know and possibly lead to marriage. One who is helpful and down-to-earth, who can accept a man who may have a learning disability.

IT TAKES TWO SBM, 36, enjoys movies, reading and socializing, seeks spontaneous, articulate, attractive, open-minded SF, 45+, who know

how to enjoy life, for friendship, romance and more. 20152776 NEW TO AREA SWM, 36, 6'5", athletic build, dark blond/blue, enjoys sports, outdoors, music, movies, cooking and more. Seeking cre-

ative, fun lady with an open mind and heart to share friendship and fun. 22140690 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

ROMANTIC & ATTRACTIVE DWM. 60. 5'11", 190lbs, seeks nice-looking lady to help share each others heart, and lifes daily adventures. 2146279

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SBM, 44, 5'9", 150lbs, father, enjoys gour-met cooking, beach walks, sunshine, soft rock, much more. Seeking a loving, happy lady to share the special times in life. **23**151943

YOU INTERESTED IN ME? SBM, 50, 5'8", medium-build, N/S, funloving personality, likes dancing, movies, dining out. Seeking passionate, sexy SF, 28-50, small-to-medium build, race open, for friendship, possible LTR.

LET'S BE FRIENDS SBM, 5'10, 205ibs, N/S, enjoys riding blkes, walking in the park, rap music, sports and working-out. Seeking SW/ AF, 36-42, for companionship, romance and more.

2149349

2 15297

JUST A CALL AWAY SBM, 36, 6'1", medium build dark com-plexion, shaved head, almond shape eyes, down-to-earth. Looking to meet similar lady to share a little love and romance. 2151282

ANSWER THIS AD! SBM, 33, athletic bulld, likes being indoors watching movies, listening to music and cuddling on the couch. Seeking SW/ HF, 20+, for sharing of conversations, dates, fun and more. 22152913

PRINCE CHARMING Educated SBM, enjoys dining out, jazz music, reading and cooking. Seeking SF, 27-49, N/S, for dinner dates, recreational

activities on the weekends, good converse tion and much more, possible itr. 22153040 LET'S GET TOGETHER SM, 5'8", professional body builder, N/S, N/D, enjoys bowling, playing billiard and be adventurous. In search of a mature, confi-

dent, vibrant woman, to fill the missing plece in my heart. 27150885 TAKE A CHANCE SWM, 33, hard-worker, family-oriented, seeking SH/ WF, 24-44, for dinner dates, good conversation, walks in the park, or

just hanging out watching a good movie.

LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. compatible SWF, to have and hold

12114846 LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER

SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold

CALL ME SHM, 23, 5'7", 190lbs, black/brown, look ing to meet a cool, easygoing, real lady to get to know, share good times. 22147347

SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED SBM, 46, looking for that special personal for LTR, someone who enjoys walks movies, sporting events, cuddling at home Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. 27692418

T COULD BE YOU SWM, 42, 5'11", 185lbs, looking for fun-loving, easygoing SF to enjoys talks, casua times and then who knows. Let's talk

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/fi woman, 25-50, N/S, D/D-free. 2956910

HEY LADIES SM, 22, brown/green, 185lbs, student, employed, looking to meet a nice, fun-loving SF for friendhsip, dates, talks, and

then who knows? 22147388 CALL ME SOMETIME Self-employed SM, 51, 5'11", 177lbs, blue eyes, loves enjoys motorcycles, the out-doors, travel, cooking, music from modern rock to motown, and much more. ISO, affectionate, honest SF, slim-medium build. Friendship/LTR? 22146467

WAITING FOR YOU SBM, 5'11", cute dimples, mustache, independent. Seeking honest, slender, attractive SBF, 18-20, for friendship, romance and more. 22149097

WAITING FOR LOVE SWM, 28, 5'11", brown/hazel, honest romantic, trust-worthy and mature, seeks SF, 18-40, with same qualities, for friend

ship, possible LTR. 2149422 HERE COME LOVE SWM, 53, cheerful, loving, enjoye scenic rides, cooking, movie theaters and long walks. Seeking a loving, caring, honest SF, for companionship, romance and more \$149642

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. 22118483 **LONELY & READY**

SWM, 49, average build, Italian, heart ogold, Virgo, N/S, seeks WF, 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replied only. Redford Area. \$\infty\$860305 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. 2146012 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. 22912726 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. 2708126 **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. 2984220

YOU COULD BE MINE SBM, 56, 5'11", 200lbs, N/S, seeks SF, 25ner or good conversation, for friendship romance or casual fun. 27148705

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. **73**124193

FRIEND AND CONFIDANT SWM, 74, active, educated, financially secure, seeking a nice woman. Join me for dining, dancing, and classical music. I'm a good listener, and would love to hear from youl 2139382

THAT'S ALL SWM, 66, tall, thin, Scorpio, N/S, seeks WF, 60-68, N/S, old-fashioned, slim, fit, humorous, possible romance. 27116761

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 22980453

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

WHY WAIT? SM, 54, 5'8", 155lbs, outgoing, spontage neous, enjoys car shows, motorcycles, fishing, time with someone special. Looking for a good-hearted, active, happy lady to share talks, dates, friendship, more. 22147906

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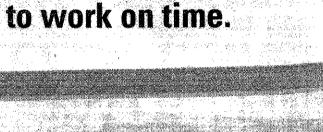
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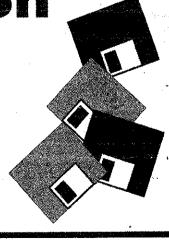
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Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Wendy Clem **Avanti News Features**



Sporting new color or trim choices and changes in wheels for two 2007 models, the GMC Envoy is a great little SUV and consistent with Envoy quality in recent

cruise along smooth pavement - in style. Don't overlook this Envoy if you need a value-packed sport-utility Reminiscent of its sister, the 2007 Chevy TrailBlazer, the

It's pretty. It's comfy. It can take the tough roads and

2007 Envoy has a new look. The arcs over the wheels have risen, and the belt line holds a new, higher position. Chrome trim is now an option, along with wheels designed with six spokes. New exteriors colors are Silvermist Metallic, Midnight Blue Metallic and Graphite Metallic.

A bigger grille, complete with a protective sheath over the front end, has also made its debut.

With its standard suspension, control is similar to that of an auto, especially on smooth roads. But even traveling bumpy surfaces and back roads is comfortable, particularly when benefiting from the optional loadleveling suspension.

Acceleration in the Envoy gets considerable applause. It has a quiet drive. The is little engine and road noise in this truck.

Respectable passing ability is achieved with the V6, but the availability of two sizes of engine kicks up the power. Research.car.com < http://research.car.com/ favorably akins its power to pass, overall handling and comfort with that of the Ford Explorer and Mercury Mountaineer.

The Envoy Denali version is equipped with a 5.3-liter V8 and 300 horsepower, and utilizes Displacement on Demand and Variable Valve Timing mechanisms. That technology, under light load use, helps to save on fuel by turning off half of the engine's cylinders, and boosts power overall.



2007 GMC Envoy Vehicle class: Sport-utility vehicle. Power: 4.2-liter V6 engine. Mileage: 16 city / 22 highway. Where built: Moraine, Ohio. Base price: \$26,560. The 2007 GMC Envoy offers improved storage, better cargo area accessibility and a plusher interior -- all starting at \$27,000.

The Denali Envoy offers cosmetic upgrades: Nuance leather interior with heated front seats and stitching accents; special air improvements for the engine; aluminum wheels; and grilles shaped like honeycombs. The standard Envoy engine size is a 4.2-liter V6, with 291 horsepower and 277 foot pounds of torque, and like the Denali, it has a 4-speed automatic transmission. Each vehicle has either Autotrac 4-wheel drive or rearwheel drive.

For greater safety, the Envoy comes with all-disc antilock brakes as well as StabiliTrak, a rapid and exact pressure that's applied through sensors to the appropriate brakes to assist in keeping the vehicle on

Also standard is a tire-pressure monitoring system. Side-curtain airbags are optional.

The 2007 Envoy has earned the highest possible National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration grade for side-impact crash tests, the 5-star rating. A Spacesaver steel rim helps to store the spare wheel securely. The front suspension is wishbone-shaped and independent with a stabilizer bar and coil springs, while the rear suspension is rigid with stabilizer bar and coil springs.

The multi-point injection fuel system gives up 22 miles to the gallon on the highway and 16 in the city, but

maintains only a 22-gallon tank - a distinct downside for travelers.

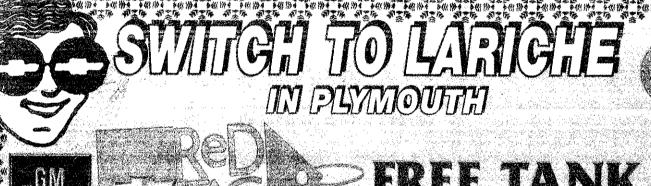
The Envoy's interior is decidedly more plush than some of the competition's, like Jeep. This can all be had for a \$27,000 price tag.

There is new respect for the design in the front seat - the dashboard, including the optional navigation system, will be far more accessible to most drivers. Also, the seats bear an upgrade in upholstery as well as include reclining front bucket seats and the ingenious split rear seat that folds down for added cargo space. XM Satellite Radio, a DVD entertainment system. adjustable pedals for variable power, and an MP3capable player are more options for the Envoy.

Add-ons include head curtain side airbags, which are mounted in the roof; and a larger DVD screen for rear passengers. Trailering equipment is another notable extra. Storage capacity has been improved on in the rear,

and can be generally more easily reached, due in large part to the new power rear liftgate.

Wendy Clem covers the automotive beat for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write her at wendyclem@gmail.com. Mail to: wendyclem@gmail.com @2006, Fracassa Communications.





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Thursday, December 28, 2006

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Try these delectable appetizers

BACON-CHILE RELLENOS

4 jalapeno chilies (about 3 inches long) /s cup Boursin cheese with garlic and herbs (from a 5.2-ounce container) 8 slices packaged precooked bacon (from 2.2-ounce package)

18-ounce can of refrigerated crescent dinner rolls, such as Pillsbury

% cup salsa (Old El Paso Thick n' Chunky)

Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Carefully remove stems from chiles; cut each in

half lengthwise and again horizontally to make 4 pieces. Remove and discard seeds. Spoon about 1 teaspoon cheese into each chile quarter. Wrap half slice of bacon around each.

On cutting board, unroll dough; separate dough into 8 triangles. From center of longest side to opposite point, cut

gles. Place chile, cheese side down, on dough triangle. Fold one point of triangle over filling; fold two remaining points over first point. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until golden

each triangle in half, making 16 trian-

Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Immediately remove from cookie sheet. Serve with salsa. Makes 16 servings.

Recipe courtesy of Pillsbury.

DOUBLE-CRUST PIZZA MELTS

2 8-ounce cans of refrigerated crescent

dinner rolls

4 cup pizza sauce or 3 tablespoons tomato paste with basil, garlic and oregano
1 3.5-ounce package of sliced pepperoni
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

1 egg, beaten
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
1 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
1 cup pizza sauce, if desired

PILLSBURY

Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Grease cookie sheet. On cookie sheet, unroll I can of dough into I large rectangle. With floured rolling pin or fingers, roll or press dough into 12-by-9-inch rectangle, firmly pressing perforations to seal.

Spread pizza sauce over dough to within inch of edges. Top with pepperoni and mozzarella cheese.

On 14-inch length of parchment paper, unroll remaining can of dough. Press to make 12-by-9-inch rectangle, firmly pressing perforations to seal. While holding paper with dough, turn dough upside down to cover cheese. Remove paper. Brush with beaten egg. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and

Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand on cooling rack 5 to 10 minutes. Move to cutting board. Using pizza cutter, cut into 16 squares. Cut. each square in half diagonally. Serve with pizza sauce, if desired. Makes 32 servings.

average. Zeefpe courtesy of Pillsbury.

SINFUL STUFFED POTATOES

12 small new potatoes 6 cups water 1½ teaspoons of kosher salt ½ cup feta ¼ cup pine nuts, toasted

2 tablespoons chopped green olives 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oll

½ teaspoon chopped lemon zest

PLEASE SEE APPETIZERS, D3

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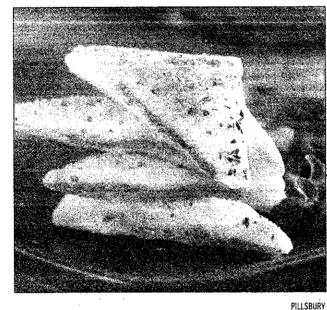


Bacon-chile rellenos make a smoky treat for holiday appetizer trays.

Mary Klemic, editor . (248) 901,2569 . mklemic@hometownlife.com

God things, small packages

Serve up bite-sized delights for a holiday bash



Get the party started with double crust pizza melts.

oliday parties seem to lend themselves to a seasonal buffet full of bite-sized eats: And when it comes to friends and relatives, each appetizer tells a tale. There's the family member who insists on bringing homemade bruschetta to the annual Christmas party, and the friend who's bacon roll-up bites are always a hit. From the elaborate appetizer to the can't miss cut-out sugar cookie, small plates shine during the holiday season. Savory or sweet, they're the perfect addition to any potluck party. And bite-size can be just right for children who are too busy daydreaming about gifts to sit still at the table and eat a proper dinner. This season we've compiled some "can't-miss" recipes to add to your

Columnists to return: Tech Savvy by Rick Broida will return next week.

Off the Air with Dick Purtan & Purtan's People will return Jan. 11.

holiday menu.

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Designing a house style for champagnes

gighty to 90 percent of a Champagne House's production is non-vintage ≋and this is where house style is set.

For non-vintage (NV) champagne, wines from several years are combined to ensure a consistent aroma and flavor profile. Many houses maintain a reserve wine stock, in tank, barrel or bottle, to add richness and interest to the NV blend. These reserve wines may not be added to a vintage champagne because a vintage must be a blend of wines from only one year.

DESIGN SCHEME

At most houses, chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier are blended in various proportions, depending on the style to be created. A rich, full-bodied wine with red fruit characters has a majority of pinot noir and pinot meunier. A lean, crisp wine with notes of apple and citrus contains a majority of chardonnay. Pinot meunier in the blend offers up-front fruit and early accessibility. It's often difficult to determine the age of a NV champagne on the retail shelf. Look for a disgorging date in fine print on the back label. Keep in mind that this is not a sell-by date. Some houses like Bollinger produce an RD (recently disgorged) which has the date on the label. As in all nine previous James Bond flicks, you see Champagne Bollinger featured in



- Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 28, 2006

Focus on Wine

Ray and Eleanor Heald.

Casino Royale, the new Bond movie. Talk about high-impact exposure! The back label of Jacquesson champagnes includes the percent of each grape variety in the blend (cuvée), the date disgorged (dégorgement) and the dosage in grams per liter. The initials D.T. on the label stand for dégorgement tardif (late disgorged) accompanied by the

SPECIFICS

Frédéric Panaïotis of Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin says, "Clicquot's house style incorporates a high percentage of pinot noir and meunier in order to achieve a full-bodied champagne with good structure, texture and definition with finesse. We want a wine with power and delicacy."

Laurent-Perrier produces a non-vintage Ultra Brut which contains zero dosage, meaning sugar is not added before the final cork is inserted. The blend is 50 percent each of pinot noir and chardonnay. The wine is very dry

with elegant, brisk, pure and lingering flavors of minerals and citrus.

Laurent-Perrier's luxury cuvée, Grand Siècle, is termed multi-vintage in order to avoid the inevitable debate about which vintage is best. It is an assemblage of grand cru chardonnay and pinot noir only from vintage years, with time-in-bottle of five to seven years. With a dosage of 10 to 12g/L to add balance, the wine boasts mineral, brioche and honey notes in a unique combination of depth and elegance.

At Jacquesson, owners Laurent and Jean-Hervé Chiquet, make the best NV every year, but it does not copy the previous year. Jean-Hervé says, "We make great, serious white wines that sparkle." Juice is fermented in large, neutral oak casks that allow controlled oxidation during the six to 10 months in oak. The wines are not racked after fermentation, so a bâtonnage (stirring the lees) can be implemented for an additional three months. This technique enhances the body and aromatic complexity of the wine. Each blend emphasizes chardonnay and carries a number. Cuvée 728 was made from the 2000 vintage principally; 729 used grapes from 2001 and 730 features wines from 2002.

The Jacquesson Cuvée 730 \$40 shows red fruit character with notes of stone fruits, vanilla, honey and minerals accompanied by a broad, creamy

More recommended champagnes and sparkling wines to consider for New Year's Eve.

NON-VINTAGE

Taittinger Prélude Grands Crus \$70 Pommery POP \$13/187mL Pommery Brut Royal \$39

TETE DE CUVEE AND VINTAGE CHAMPAGNES

1997 Nicolas Feuillatte Cuvée 225

1999 Taittinger Brut Millésimé \$65 1996 Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs \$140 1999 Delamotte Blanc de Blancs Lé Mesnil \$79

ROSE (VINTAGE AND NV)

NV Delamotte Brut Rosé Le Mesnil \$70

mouthfeel. From a great vintage, the 1996 Jacquesson Avize Grand Cru \$66 is 100 percent chardonnay from the village of Avize in the Côte des Blancs. Aromas of ripe Brie, mineral, earth and bread dough yield to clean, crisp chardonnay flavors followed by a creamy finish. A very special cham-

WINE PICKS

1999 Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Rosé Brut \$210

DOMESTIC SPARKLING WINES

NV Mumm Napa Brut Prestige \$19 NV Mumm Napa Cuvée M S19 2001 Mumm Napa Blanc de Blancs

1997 Gloria Ferrer Royal Cuvée \$28 2003 Gloria Ferrer Blanc de Blancs

NV Gloria Ferrer Brut \$20 2001 Argyle Brut (Oregon) \$26

FROM ITALY

NV Bottega Petalo Vino Dell'Amore Moscato Spumante \$14. If you like sweet muscat that sparkles, you'll like this.

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.

pagne. Consider it for New Year's Eve.

Eleanor and 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 focusonwine@aol.com.

> and how many were using the plastic or tinfoil vent

Fire marshals from across

the country were telling me

source of fires.

that coffee makers are a huge

When the coffee maker is

left plugged in, the on-and-

off switch can suddenly

explode and the plastic is

I swear, folks, that this

in my home; lucky for me, I

was standing in front of it

many homeowners have

lights hung all around their

homes and extension cords

running all over the different

Every year, in particular

during the winter months,

people dying from house

we read the tragic stories of

when it happened.

happened to my coffee maker

It is that time of year when

instantly a ball of flame.

Words get in the way sometimes

n every column I attempt to enlighten, to educate or to provoke thought about animal

Sometimes the goal would be to help people understand what course of medicine might be best for their pet. Other times it might be to shed some

light on both

or just to let

people know

about opportu-

nities that are

mal lovers.

out there for pet

owners and ani-

Once a year,

sides of an issue,



About Animals

Dr. Brad Davis

however, I merely list the things people have said at my clinic that were amusing.

That column always gets me the most feedback.

As I point out every year, I am not mocking the speakers. Everyone makes these mistakes. It's a misunderstanding of a phrase, or possibly just a slip of one's brain. It's all in fun, so no one should be offended. No one

was the queen of the malaprops.

"I want to go to Hawaii and see the women dance in their hula

'What kind of animal was the

'If you don't want her to know it's you, send it unanimously." When asked if she knew the

the tongue. Sometimes it's just a fact that got crossed up in someshould be embarrassed. And no one should yell at me.

Julie worked as a technician at my clinic for a few years, and she She said things like:

Pink Panther?"

Ten Commandments, she thought for a moment and said, "I know the fifth commandment is that you don't have to testify if it will incriminate you."

Julie has gone to Florida now, and thus this particular column is shorter than it has ever been before. It is hoped she'll write often, which should give me a load of new material every time.

So in honor of Julie, I present the 2006 list of things people said when the words got in their way. Enjoy.

"The cast kept his arm from immobility."

'They're very sad. We should send them a grievance card." "I hate to quelch your enthusi-

Trying to quote the song Lady Marmalade: "Voulez voulez vouche avec moi, Detroit."

Repeating a misunderstood TV report that Kwame Kilpatrick promised to be more mature in his second term: "I heard he promised to be more than Cher." "She saw that Napoleon

Dolomite movie. "I'm not sure if it's diarrhea or

"Don't count your eggs before

they hatch." I think he needed more social-

ism when he was a puppy." "I caught it on the down sloop." "Ooh, cherry cordells are my

favorite candy!" "When she heard the news she was a historical wreck."

"Will we need pee pee or urine?"

"My dog was very sick last year so we had to have him utilized." "He loves being petted ... he's just an attention horde.'

"His eyes are blood shock." In an e-mail: "... but when he sees another dog, he becomes vis-

"I guess I'm just more anal intensive than you."

"We came to an agreement after doing some flea bargaining." "That's an old wise tale."

"I don't want it to be more

complicateder."

"Everywhere I go, he follows me like a leech."

"Could you check and see if he has termites in his ears?"

"I had questions about setting up a euthanism."

"I was so excited ... I was full of hydrenaline." 'So do you think I could rub

Neo-sperm on it?" "He's getting old ... in a few years he'll be 9."

"There's no poop in the dog's "When he sees the cat carrier

he runs off and then it takes me all day to eradicate him." In a note sent with a husband about their cat: "He's always

Hungary." You'll have to forgive me. I was just at the dentist and they novacated me."

"He wants to eat his pie and have cake, too."

"We both had to go in front of a comediator." About something that hap-

pened that was bad: "It's a castro-My name's Teresa, with an M. "There's an infant number of

possibilities." Singing along with a Christmas song on the radio:

"Phillies La te Da ..." "I'm worried about his rear Me: "Your dog has KCS ... a

condition that means he has dry Client: "So he's only making dry tears?"

Julie would be proud. Have a great 2007!

Dr. Brad Davis is medical director for the VCA Garden City, 2085 Inkster Road, Garden City, MI 48135. Mail questions or comments there. He also hosts the nationally syndicated radio show Animal Talk. Visit www.animaltalkradio.com, and write to Brad@animaltalkradio.com.

Beware of hidden dangers in home

🐃 he near misses in my life always prompt me to write something that can help others.

Recently we almost had a fire in our house. I was sitting and reading in my recliner chair when the lamp light bulb began to flicker. It didn't bother me, as it

> had done this for the past month or so and I would just tap my finger on the lamp and that was enough to stop it.

Suddenly there were sparks and smoke shooting out of the bulb area, and I was up like a

shor to remove the power cord from the wall outlet. I figured I'd just saved the day. But as I smelled the pure electrical burn odor

Appliance

Doctor

Joe

Gagnon

that I became so accustomed to during my days of fixing appliances, I started to remember the past month sitting beside this beautiful tabletop lamp. On several occasions I faintly smelled something

onds and then it was gone. I'd even gone down and checked the odor in the furnace room and it was all clear. Not once did I even think about the flickering lamp. I always thought it was a prob-

lem with the bulb and that

burning, just for a few sec-

eventually it would burn out and I'd replace it.
I took the lamp to my workbench and had a heck of a time removing the bulb. It finally broke free, and I could see that the inside of the socket was all burnt up with loose ash created from

the heated metal. I went to the local hard-

Not once did I even think about the flickering lamp. I always thought it was a problem with the bulb and that eventually it would burn out and I'd replace it.

ware store and bought a new socket, and the repairs were done in minutes. It has bothered me that I

wasn't smart enough to realize a potential fire was ready to happen, right beside my nose. I won't take a flickering light bulb so casually next time.

PLUGGED IN

I told my friend Kelly Presley this story, and she had one even more danger-

room at 3 a.m. and shook her father, telling him she awoke to a strange sound in her bedroom and an obnoxious smell. Kelly's husband, Kurt, jumped out of bed and

dashed into the child's bedroom to find that her new hair dryer was operating. It was red hot and just about ready to ignite. This all happened on its own. No one turned it on.

This was a close call, and it makes me wonder how many people leave their hair dryers plugged into the wall when not in use. For that matter, how many other things are left plugged in when not in

COFFEE MAKER

I wonder if anyone remembers the column I wrote 10 years ago about the coffee maker in your kitchen.

I was doing a survey on how many house fires are created by the clothes dryer

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Her 12-year-old daughter fires. Many of these houses came running into her bedhad non-working smoke detectors and these fires could have been prevented. **CLOTHES DRYER** That clothes dryer in your laundry room is the one thing that most people pay

> potential to create a fire that is so quick you won't even have a chance to wake up. Yes, that's true. So why is it that millions of Americans turn on the clothes dryer and

little attention to. It has the

then go to bed? Clean the vent line, especially if you haven't done that

in the past six months. If the dryer is making thumping sounds or squeaks during operation, stop using

In plain English: If you smell something burning, it means just that. Something is burning.

it and get it fixed.

OVEN

I received an e-mail the other day from a person who asked me if his oven needed a good cleaning. I don't know how to reply. Just how dirty is the inside of the oven? Anyway, if you have a self-

cleaning oven, the cold winter months are an ideal time to put it through a self-clean Remember this: The inside

of that oven can get as hot as 1,000 degrees. Be aware of the plastics that are stored inside the drawers of a kitchen range, and also the paper and plastic items in the cupboards that touch the Stay with the kitchen range

when it is in the self-clean mode. It's just a safe practice and has been known to safe a life or two. 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 mklemic@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.



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APPETIZERS

garnish

FROM PAGE D1

¼ teaspoon oregano ¼ black pepper 12 parsley leaves, optional for

Cut a thin slice off the top and bottom of each potato. Cut each potato in half. Place in a saucepan and cover with water. Add salt. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 10 to 15 minutes. Don't overcook. Strain and let cool.

Crumble feta in a small bowl, add pine nuts, green olives, olive oil, lemon zest, oregano and black pepper. Mix well. This mixture can be made up to two days in advance, and kept refrigerated. Let it sit out at room temperature one hour before assembling.

Assemble by scooping out the center of each potato with a spoon or melon-baller. Then fill the centers with a teaspoon of the feta mixture. Garnish with parsley if desired.

Recipe can be found in Cocktail Food: 50 Finger Foods with Attitude, by Mary Corpening Barber and Sara Corpening Whiteford.

CAPRESE SKEWERS

1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar 1 tablespoon plus one teaspoon extra virgin olive oil ¼ teaspoon black pepper 1/2 teaspoon of kosher salt 4 ounces of mozzarella cheese cut into 241/2 inch cubes 24 small cherry tomatoes 24 small to medium fresh basil leaves

Whisk together balsamic vinegar, a tablespoon of olive oil, 1/8 teaspoon of pepper and salt in a small bowl. This can be prepared up to three days in advance.

24 skewers or toothpicks

Toss the mozzarella cubes in 1 teaspoon of olive oil and le teaspoon of pepper. Add salt to

Assemble skewers by sliding on a cherry tomato, one folded basil leaf and a cube of mozzarella on each toothpick. Arrange all 24 on a plate and brush with the balsamic vinegar mixture. Serve immediately.

Recipe can be found in Cocktail Food: 50 Finger Foods with Attitude, by Mary Corpening Barber and Sara Corpening Whiteford.

ARTICHOKE AND SPINACH SWIRLS

1 package (17.3 ounce) frozen puff

pastry sheets ½ cup mayonnaise

½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

1 teaspoon onion powder

1 teaspoon garlic powder ½ teaspoon ground black pepper

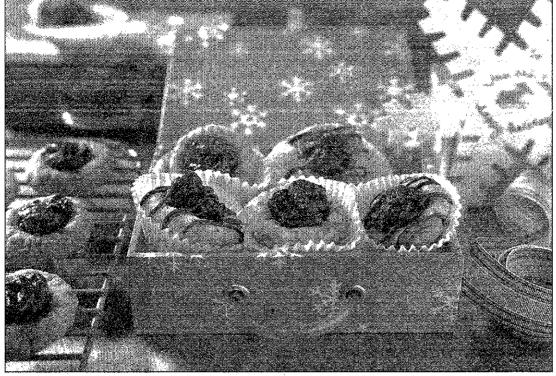
1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped spinach, thawed

and well-drained

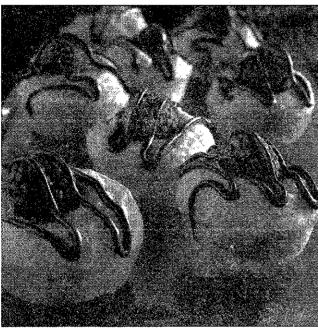
1 can (14 ounces) artichoke hearts, drained, chopped

Thaw the pastry sheets at room temperature for about 40 minutes. Heat the oven to 400 degrees F. Line a baking sheet

with parchment paper. Stir the mayonnaise, cheese, onion powder, garlic powder,



Try these Cranberry Oat Thumbprint cookies and start a new holiday tradition.



Try these mini raspberry almond treats to satisfy a sweet tooth.

chokes in a small bowl.

Unfold one pastry sheet on a

lightly floured surface. With the

short side facing you, spread half

edges. Starting at the short sides,

with remaining pastry sheet and

Cut each roll into 20½-inch

slices. Place two inches apart on

prepared baking sheets. Bake for

15 minutes or until golden.

Remove and cool slightly on a wire rack. Serve warm or at room

temperature. Makes 40 pastries.

MINI RASPBERRY-ALMOND SWIRLS

cheese, softened and cut in

of the spinach mixture on the

pastry to within 1 inch of the

roll up like a jelly roll. Repeat

spinach mixture.

¼ cup sugar

1 egg yolk

½ cup slivered almonds

1/4 teaspoon vanilla

late chips

1 teaspoon shortening

13 ounce package of cream

1/2 teaspoon almond extract

18-ounce can of refrigerated

crescent dinner rolls

¼ cup seedless red raspberry jam

3 tablespoons semisweet choco-

24 fresh raspberries for garnish

Heat oven to 375 degrees F.

raspberries. cooking spray. In food processor, place sugar and almonds. Cover; process about 30 seconds or until almonds are finely ground. Add cream cheese, vanilla, almond extract and egg yolk. Cover; process about 10 seconds or until well

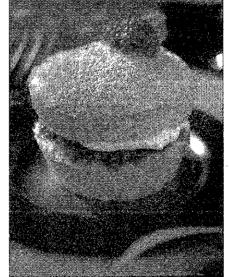
On lightly floured surface, unroll dough into I large rectangle. With floured rolling pin or fingers, roll or press dough into 12-by-9-inch rectangle, firmly pressing perforations to seal.

Spread cream cheese mixture evenly over dough rectangle. With pizza cutter or knife, cut rectangle lengthwi narrow rectangles. Starting with cut edge, roll up each narrow dough rectangle (filling will be soft). Repeat with remaining half. With serrated knife, cut each roll into 12 slices; place cut side up in muffin cups.

Bake 11 to 13 minutes or until light golden brown. Remove rolls from oven. With handle of wooden spoon, make indentation in center of each roll; spoon 1 teaspoon jam into each.

Bake 2 to 4 minutes longer or until golden brown. Run knife around edge of each muffin cup to loosen. Remove rolls from cups; place on cooling racks.

Place raspberry over jam on each roll. In 1-cup microwavable



PILLSBURY

The Layers of Love cake includes tangy

measuring cup, microwave chocolate chips and shortening uncovered on High 30 to 45 seconds, stirring once, until melted. Drizzle chocolate over warm rolls. Serve warm or cool.

For an optional powdered sugar glaze, in small bowl, stir/2 cup powdered sugar and 2 teaspoons water until smooth; drizzle over warm rolls.

Store rolls in refrigerator. Makes 24 rolls. Recipe courtesy of Pillsbury.

CRANBERRY OAT THUMBPRINTS

1 cup (two sticks) of butter, softened

3/4 cup sifted confectioner's

sugar 1 teaspoon vanilla

1-2/3 cup all purpose flour 3/4 cup ground, toasted walnuts 1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup oats (quick or old-fashioned) 1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries

6 tablespoons granulated sugar ¼ cup water

1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips

For cookies, beat butter, confectioner's sugar and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer until creamy. Add combined flour, walnuts and salt; beat just until combined. Add oats; beat just until combined. Cover and

refrigerate dough until firm,

about two hours or overnight.

For filling, combine cranberries, granulated sugar and water in small heavy saucepan. Bring to a boil; reduce heat. Simmer gently, stirring frequently, until cranberries pop and mixture thickens. Cool slightly. Cover and refrigerate until ready to

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Pinch off pieces of dough and roll into 1-inch balls. Place two inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Use thumb to make deep indentation in center of each ball. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until bottoms are light golden brown. Cool two minutes on cookie sheets. Transfer to wire racks; cool completely.

Store cooled cookies at room temperature in airtight container, separating layers with parchment or waxed paper, up to three days or freeze up to three months. Thaw in container at room temperature.

To serve, fill centers of each cookie with 1/2 teaspoon cranberry

Melt chocolate according to package directions. Transfer to resealable plastic sandwich bag and seal. Snip a tiny piece from corner of bag. Pipe chocolate over each cookie. Refrigerate just until chocolate sets. Makes 4-1/2 dozen.

Recipe courtesy of Quaker Oats.

LAYERS OF LOVE CAKES

1 (18.25 ounces) package white cake mix, regular or with pudding 1-½ cups skim milk ⅓ cup canola oil 3 large egg whites 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla, divided 1 cup oats (quick or old-fash-

2 ounces reduced fat cream cheese softened 3 tablespoons confectioner's sugar, with extra for gar-

(ioned)

nish.

½ pint heavy whipping cream 1-3/4 cups fresh or frozen raspberries, coarsely crushed

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly coat 24 medium muffin cups with cooking spray; set

For cupcakes, beat cake mix, milk, oil, egg whites and I teaspoon vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on low speed 30 seconds to blend. Beat two minutes on medium speed, scraping bowl occasionally. Gently fold in oats. Divide batter evenly between muffin pan cups, filling each about% full.

Bake 20 to 22 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool two minutes in pan; remove from pan and cool completely on wire rack.

For filling, beat cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and remaining 1/2 teaspoon vanilla with electric mixer on low speed until blended. Add cream, gradually increasing mixer speed to high and beating until soft peaks form. (Do not overbeat.)

With serrated knife, slice cupcakes in half horizontally. Spread cut side of cupcake bottoms with heaping measuring teaspoonful crushed raspberries. Top with heaping measuring tablespoonful whipped

Place cupcake tops cut sides down on top of cream, pressing gently. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar and garnish with additional fresh berries, if desired. Cover and refrigerate leftover cupcakes up to three days. Makes 24 cupcakes. Recipe courtesy of Quaker Oats.

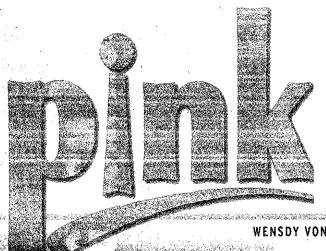




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Detroit Fashion Incubator

New organization aims to help designers

Then the Detroit

Design Lab unraveled with little fanfare last fall, it left a hole in the local fashion design scene.

But not for long. Michael Delon Wilson soon mended the fray by creating the Detroit Fashion Incubator, an organization designed to promote metro Detroit fashion designers through workshops, seminars and support. The DFI launched with a grand opening party on Dec. 1 and is offering free memberships through 2007.

PINK recently caught up with Wilson to find out more about the DFI.

What is the DFI?

It is a launching pad for designers who really want to be able to create sustainable businesses in metro Detroit. We started out with seminars and workshops, and now we've kind of morphed into a retail space as well.

What does the DFI offer? We have an outreach program. We host monthly members' networking meetings. About 15-20 people on average attend. We offer seminars and workshops, discounts from companies such as fabric stores, sewing equipment. We have a monthly newsletter compiling information or events that we think people might be interested in. We have a fashion calendar on our website. For outreach members we will set up a page with a bio and photos of their gar-

Who can join DFI?

Sydell Schubot

We're still looking for designers so if anyone's interested in our consignment or . joining the organization, from Jan. 1, 2007 to Jan. 1, 2008 we

Thinking about hosting a New

ning can be a daunting task. For

advice on how to plan the perfect

clients alike. The inspiration behind many of their celebrations for nearly

as lavish or as simple as you wish.

gests hosts or hostesses blueprint

these preparations:

Begin with

the guest list.

Invite guests

special place in

your heart and

will enjoy min-

gling with each

who hold a

other.

50 years, Sydell believes parties can be

The Schubot family style-setter sug-

Year's Eve soirée? Holiday party plan-

gathering, Pink turned

to Sydell Schubot, co-

Schubot Jewellers in

The annual Schubot

owner of Jules R.

holiday party held

each December in

their 'jewellery' salon

has become a tradition

for family, friends and



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER A. JABLONSKI

DFI's Michael Delon Wilson at the DFI Grand Opening party on Dec. 3.

Detroit Fashion Incubator 4737 Grand River Ave., Detroit 48208

(313) 281-8001 www.detroitfashionincubator.com

The Detroit Fashion Incubator is offering free Outreach Membership to fashion designers through 2007.

are offering free membership to our outreach program, so they can get an understanding as to what the incubator's role is. After that it's \$135 per year.

What prompted you to start the Incubator?

I was actually inspired through a trip to Toronto. They have a fashion incubator which I actually happen to be a member of. It's very cool. It's a great organization. They do a lot of things to really support the designers in Toronto.

When did you put the machine in motion?

I started working on it about two years ago. We launched an event called Project Refashion Detroit. We featured about five designers and it was just a very great event to get designers on the same page with presenting

Think outside the box.

Over the years, the

Schubots have hosted a

variety of parties from a charity benefit that fea-

tured a renowned animal

Glass to another where a

sion program was being

filmed in their salon dur-

Create a layout that

enables good flow.

one conversation.

Anticipate the needs of your guests

should include a map, parking arrange-

ments and phone number in case of last

from a cell phone. A designated greeter

near the door and serve them wine and

minute direction requests or inquiries

can collect and return guests' wraps

appetizers upon arrival.

before they even arrive. Invitations

Consider removing

chairs and other obsta-

cles to encourage min-

gling and more one-on-

designer from Steuben

fashion-focused televi-

ing the party.

their collections and things like that. From that event we started talking about developing studio spaces that designer could rent and have shared industrial machines and cutting tables — a collective organization.

What is your background? I studied fashion at Wayne State University. I also started

sewing when I was about 13. My aunt who is a seamstress taught me how to sew. I work in Chicago and Toronto. My background is custom clothing, mostly evening or cocktail

Do you think Detroit's design scene is growing?

It's definitely growing. I think it's just developing and we have very great talent here.

Do you think designers need to work together?

I think you do because we don't have an industry here in Detroit with manufacturers, pattern makers and wholesale fabric suppliers, so you have to reach out to markets that have that. One of the things we want to provide is a resource list. Whether designers want hang tags for their clothing or embroidery we have those resources to call. As a designer starting out time is the most valuable resource we have.

Do you feel DFI is replacing the Detroit Design Lab?

Only the retail space is similar. When Pure Detroit decided to close the lab that's one of the reasons I wanted to open the retail space. We only had planned a showroom for the designers to be able to come in and meet with clients, meet with buyers and present their collections in an elegant space. I didn't want to compete with the Design Lab because I'm a very big supporter. I had just dropped off new merchandise two weeks before it changed its organizational structure.

Do you think Detroit style can be defined?

I see it as very eclectic. I've met so many different designers that do different things. There's not one style that stands out in my mind.

What are some of your goals for 2007?

We have seminars and workshops that are going to launch after the first of the year. We'll have seminars like how to develop your collection to how to put together a business plan. We want to bring on people who can help designers at every stage of their business. DFI is going to continue to expand and grow and it will change. As our member's needs change, we'll change with

Presentation is as important as the cocktails and

menu. Select a caterer to handle preparation, serv-

ing and cleanup. Select taste sensations with an eye

on quality vs. quantity to ensure pieces look beauti-

Establish a festive ambience. Music should be light and not overpower conversations. Decorations

should lend a festive touch and not be obstructive.

Introduce guests to one another, who might not already know each other, thereby making sure

everyone is engaged. Be sure to thank each guest for

Mer a keepsake to take home. Party favors can be cre-

ative and not expensive. Some of Sydell's favorites include small candles and homemade cookies wrapped up in an

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attending and ask about their family.

ful as well as taste great.

PINK Readers share their favorite books

When we staged our 2006 Reader PINK Picks contest, dozens of local ladies shared their favorite books with PINK. From classics and current events to drugstore paperbacks and guilty pleasures, these reader-recommended titles (listed in no particular order) are worth a look:

by Sophie Kinsella

 $A\,Million\,Little$ Pieces and My Friend Leonard by James Frey Angi Balluff,

Livonia

Power, Freedom and Grace: Living From the Source of Lasting Happiness by Deepak Chopra

Aleta Demeester, Garden City

The Man of my Dreams by Curtis Sittenfeld Katie Martin, Farmington Hills

French Women Don't Get Fat by Mireille Guiliano Andrea Herzog, Troy

Herland by Charlotte Perkins Gilman Heather Johnson, Redford

The Innocent by Harlan Coban Gretchen Kloyz, Birmingham

Straight Up and Dirty by Stephanie Klein Jamie Poppenger, Livonia

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini Cailey Ryckman, Livonia

Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas by James Patterson

Westland America (The Book)

Olivia Boitos,

by Jon Stewart Caitlin Pasqualone,

Farmington

She's Come Undone by Wally Lamb Sarah Hirsch, West Bloomfield

Duh! The Stupid History of the Human Race by Bob Fenster Jacquel Grimes, Detroit

The Ten Commitments by David Simon and Deepak Chopra

Carmen Hockney, Birmingham

Honeymoon with My Brother by Franz Wisner Sandy Menczer, Birmingham

East of Eden by John Steinbeck Carol Clarke, Westland

by Barbara Ehrenreich Elizabeth Lafontaine, Rochester Hills

Nickel and Dimed

Burnt Toast by Teri Hatcher Jennifer Zur, Westland

The Sun and Moon over Assisi by Gerard Thomas Straub Dolores Kapanke, Garden City

Jennifer Hensel, Shelby Twp. Nights in Rodanthe by Nicholas Sparks

The Undomestic Goddess

Dispatches from the Edge by Anderson Cooper

Amy Ormsbee, Rochester Hills

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

Deva Gibson, Farmington

The Shopaholic Series

Helly Hrecin, Madison Heights'

by Sophie Kinsella Katy Thomas, Milford Wicked

Rosemary Plafchan, Farmington Hills The Chronicles of

by Gregory McGuire

Narnia by C.S. Lewis Joan Rayford, Livonia

Marley & Me by John Grogan Mary Beth Conger, Livonia

Terri Toma, West Bloomfield.

Blue Smoke by Nora Roberts

Blue Flame by Nora Roberts Maureen Lesondah, Livonia

Tell No One by Halen Coben

Erin Garner, Oak Park Elements of Style

Courtney Head, Brighton Heat by Bill Buford

Stephanie Brockmiller,

by Wendy Wasserstein

Webberville A Breath of Snow and Ashes

by Diana Gabaldon

Brooke Brennan, Wayne

Swapping Lives

Milford One Special Summer

by Jacqueline and



Consider a Printer

Lee Bouvier Alyssa Engle, Canton

Commence of

Secret Life of Bees and The Mermaid Chair by Sue Monk Kidd Mary Kokoska, Livonia

The World is Flat by Thomas Friedman

Mary Engelsen, Novi

The Bible!!

Sandy Bosker, Canton Woman Power by Dr. Laura

Lyn S. Pietryka, Livonia

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden Julie Tofelski, Plymouth

Baby Proof by Emily Giffen

Teresa Rutecki, Plymouth

Emma by Jane Austen Margie Stambaugh, Westland

The Alchemist: A Fable About Following Your Dream by Paulo Coelho

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