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District meets most AYP standards

THURSDAY

December 6, 2007

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

While the Plymouth-Canton school district as a whole met Adequate Yearly Progress standards set by the federal government, three of the district's four high schools failed in one subgroup.

While Salem High School met the federal academic benchmarks of the No Child Left Behind law, Plymouth and Canton high schools failed to meet the requirement in the sub-group, students with disabilities. Starkweather Education Center, the district's alternative high school, failed to have enough students pass math and English tests.

"As a group, our high schools together, we made district high school AYP," said Mike Bender, director of secondary education for PCCS. "But, we still have work to do, no question about that.

"We're very concerned about providing students with disabilities with the necessary support they need to make that standard," he said. "We're not way behind. but whether you fall short by one point or more, it's still falling short."



Video Magic Productions of Canton Executive Producer Mark Salloum records a video message for Sgt. Ray Reichenbach who is in Iraq from his Roseville family - Andrew, 16, Alex, 7, Amanda, 13, John Paul, 19 months, Anna, 5, wife Jeanenne and Aaron, 11.

Images from home

Companies shoot free portraits, videos for military families

BY SUE MASON STAFF WRITER

Jeanenne Reichenbach keeps asking her husband if he's gotten his mail. She's waiting to hear what he thinks of his Christmas present.

Thanks to two Canton Township business, Reichenbach is sending a family portrait and a videotape of her and her six children to her husband, Raymond, a staff sergeant in the Army National Guard on deployment in Iraq. The photo and tape were made during a visit to Metropolitan Lincoln-Mercury in Garden City last month. "It's such a blessing for our family," said Reichenbach. "He can see us. It means a lot to me." The Roseville family was among 12 families from across metro Detroit to take advantage of the free event for families of deployed military personnel offered by CLIX digital photography and Video Magic of Canton. "It worked out great because a lot of the families don't have the money or the ability to do something like this," said Kellie Davila, owner of Video Magic. "It's great especially since they didn't have to jump through a lot of hoops to get it done."



Not in our back yard Neighbors object to expansion of Hindu Temple

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

For nearly five years, the members of the Hindu Temple have envisioned building a new, state-of-the-art worship center on their 5.6-acre parcel. That vision, which has been mapped out in a proposal to the Canton Planning Commission, was blasted Monday night in a lengthy public hearing before the commission.

This is not an anti-Hindu Temple thing," said Canton resident Chuck Davis. "It's an anti-Hindu Temple thing where (the new building is proposed). It's too much building and too much height."

Davis was among dozens of homeowners that attended the public hearing to voice their concerns that the proposed rebuild - a 19,669-square-foot structure - would negatively impact the landscape of its area.

The current temple, which sits at 44955 Cherry Hill and would be demolished after the construction of a new facility, is surrounded by three subdivisions, Cherry Blossom, Kingston Estates and Glengarry Village.

Jill Spalding said she was disappointed that proposal calls for moving the building farther from the road and, essentially, into the middle of the three surrounding subdivisions. She likened the plan to "dropping a huge temple in the middle of my backyard."

"Not my backyard, please," Spalding said to a rousing applause.

Attorney Bryan Amann, who represents the Hindu Temple, said the proposal has addressed many homeowner concerns such as trees and noise. Amann also touched on

It's the second year in a row Starkweather students failed to meet academic targets, including the more rigorous course work that is tested on the ACT-based Michigan Merit Exam given to juniors, which replaced the MEAP test.

"As students arrive in that program, they have varying levels of academic preparation, and may not have had the course work that would prepare them to do well on the Merit Exam," Bender said.

Schools that miss targets over a period of several years could be required to provide mandatory tutoring, hire staff or overhaul curriculum. "Starkweather has become our fourth high school, and we have the same high expectations as any other high school in the state," Supt. Jim Ryan said. "In special education, we're doing a lot more inclusion and a lot more teacher training and I feel we're on the right path.'

Gov. Jennifer Granholm said she's not surprised that more high schools in Michigan failed to make AYP this year, noting many of the juniors who took the Michigan Merit Exam last spring we're not taught under the state's revamped curriculum.

"We knew this was going to happen, it was not unexpected," Granholm said. "These are tough tests, tough standards, and this is the first year we see it coming through the system. We'll see, as we did in the K-8 system when we had new, higher standards and new testing, those results continue to get better. Soon we'll start to see the meeting of AYP and the higher standards result in better preparation for college, which is what it's all about."

Davila wanted to do something more and

Tracy Nowak of Inkster and her daughter, Courtney Pac, 4, are positioned by photographer John Vena, owner of CLIX of Canton, for their portrait taken for Matthew Nowak who is serving with the Marines in Iraq. Nowak is expecting a baby boy in January.

brainstormed about doing the free taping. She did a Google search to find out more and found John Vena's studio "just around the corner."

"We thought it was a good idea to do it together," she said. "The soldiers would have a photograph and they'd also have a DVD. They'd get to see and hear from their families.

John Vena is already doing something like that at his studio in a strip mall on North

Please see VIDEOS, A8



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Hindu Temple is out of room and needs to expand, a fact some neighbors are not happy about.

Salvation Army, Observer team for annual 'Cheer Club'



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

David and Samantha McGrath were kind enough to donate to the Cheer Club last year. This year's program, a team effort between the Observer and the Plymouth Salvation Army, runs through Friday, Dec. 14.

The Plymouth and Canton Observers and the Plymouth Salvation Army will once again team up for their "Cheer Club," the collection of toys and non-perishable foods the two have run for years.

The Salvation Army headquarters, located on Main Street just south of Ann Arbor Road, will be the primary collection point. Dropping them off there gets them more quickly into the hands of those who need them.

Donations can also be dropped off at the Observer's new office, 1100 S. Main.

The drive will run through Friday, Dec. 14.

The idea is to provide nonperishable food and other household necessities, along with new, unwrapped toys, for the Salvation Army's pantry and Christmas adoption program.

That program has helped provide a Christmas for hundreds of needy people over the years who might not otherwise have been able to provide one.

The program is simple: Drop off new, unwrapped toys; nonperishable foods including canned goods; and household items such as paper goods and toiletries. The Salvation Army, which serves Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville, is located at 9451 S. Main in Plymouth. The Salvation Army is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Items dropped off at the Observer office will also go to the Salvation Army.

A list of donors will be maintained so that donors who provide a name and community can be recognized at the end of the campaign.

For more information, e-mail *Plymouth* Observer editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@ hometownlife.com or call (734) 459-2700. You can also call the Salvation Army at (734) 453-5464.

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Santa's coming to town

Canton Corners Shopping Center (at Lilley and Ford) will be the scene of the **ShopCanton Holiday** Fest from noon to 3 p.m., on Saturday. For the second straight year, the **Canton DDA, Canton** Leisure Services and the Canton Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to provide the event for the entire family. 'Everyone had such a great time last



year that we really needed to make this year's Holiday Fest even better. We added sleigh rides; live reindeer; carolers; and are bringing back the Salem High School Rockettes,' said Kathleen Salla, DDA coordinator. The event, which will also feature Santa, a coloring contest, gifts for the kids and refreshments, is free.



Christmas in the Village

Celebrate the season at this year's Christmas in the Village on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 3-9 p.m. in the Cherry Hill Village. Come and tour nine homes decorated for the holidays by homeowners, interior designers, and florists in this year's annual home tour.

Then venture outside and enjoy carriage rides though the park, carolers, holiday treats, and unique seasonal entertainment featuring the P-CEP Madrigals and Chamber Choir, members of the Canton Concert Band, and the Grace Notes Flute Ensemble.

Other event highlights include ice skating in the park, warming stations with hot cocoa and spiced cider available for purchase, a ginger bread house activity in the Cherry Hill School, and visits with Father Christmas in the Cady-Boyer Barn at the Bartlett-Travis House, which will also be decorated and open to the public free of charge.

Home Tour tickets are \$17 on the day of the event at the Village Theater Box Office. Advanced tickets can be purchased for \$15 at the Summit on the Park, or the Village Theater Box Office, or by visiting www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater or by calling (734) 394-5460. Participants touring the homes must be 12 years of age and older.

For those not wishing to attend the home tour, there is no admission fee for the winter attractions, but some activities may require a nominal fee. Dress for the weather. Shuttles will be available for your parking convenience, due to anticipated high volumes of traffic for the Village Theater mainstage performances. For more information, visit www.cantonmi.org or call (734) 394-5460.

Pearl Harbor remembrance

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695, which represents veterans in Plymouth and Canton, will be hosting a remembrance for Pearl Harbor veterans at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at the Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park. The VFW will be assisted by American Legion Post 391, which also represents veterans in Plymouth and Canton, in organizing the ceremony at the park, which is located at the corner of Church and Main streets in downtown Plymouth.

One of the scheduled speakers is Jerry Hoelscher of Canton, a veteran whose 19year-old brother was killed in Pearl Harbor while serving in the U.S. Navy.

Caccamo coffee hour

This Saturday, Dec 8, from 9-10 a.m., Canton Township Trustee Todd Caccamo will be having another "Canton Caccamo Coffee" meeting at the Cherry Hill Perk Coffee Shop (located on the east side of Cherry Hill Village at 50166 Cherry Hill Road). Bring your issues and questions about Canton. Also, if you could bring a an unwrapped toy for the U.S. Marines' Toys for Tots or Canton Goodfellows programs, that would be much appreciated. If you have questions or concerns and cannot make the meeting, feel free to e-mail him anytime at toddcaccamo@ gmail.com or call at (734) 981-6303.

Women wanted

The goal of the Canton Business & Professional Women (BPW) is to promote full participation, equity and economic self-sufficiency for America's working women.

The group is seeking members who are looking for leadership development, informative programs, business contacts networking opportunities, mentor relationships, friendships, community awareness, professional growth, political advocacy, and a voice in women's issues.

The group will host a holiday celebration from 6-8:30 p.m., Dec. 10 at Rose's Restaurant, 201 N. Canton Center Road. The guest speaker will be Judy Ellis of First Step. The group will be presenting First Step with donations from their Wish List.

For more information, contact Irene Psilis via e-mail at Irene.Psilis@ncmc.com or by phone at (734) 981-7810. You must RSVP to attend this meeting.

'Celebration of Lights'

The Canton Concert Band will present a "Celebration of Lights" at the Village Theater, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, on Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. The band will be playing popular Christmas songs at this special holiday show along with some new music.

Joining the band for part of the show will be a choir, and the audience will get a chance to participate.

Ticket prices for the show are \$12 for adults, seniors and youth and \$10 per person for groups of 15 or more. To purchase tickets, visit www. canton-mi.org/villagetheater. Tickets can also be purchased at Summit on the Park by phone at (734) 394-5460 or in person. To purchase tickets at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill box office, stop by during box office hours except on holidays: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 7-9 p.m. and Sunday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Village Theater ticket office will also be open one hour prior to each performance.

For more information about the show, visit www.cantonmi.org/villagetheater or www. cantonband.com.



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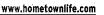
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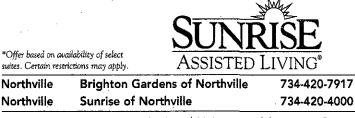
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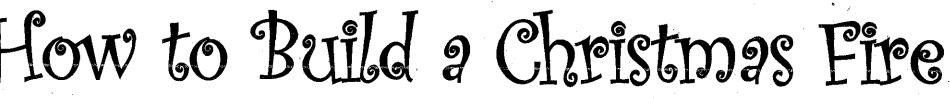
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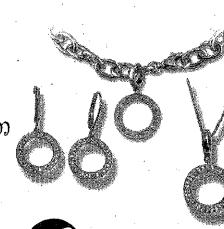
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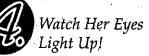
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LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

P-CEP counselors come through in wake of tragedies

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

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The counselors at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park received telephone calls at home on Sunday, Nov. 11, advising them to be prepared for some unusual circumstances when classes resumed Monday morning,

"I called the counselors on Sunday and put them on alert something major had happened and to be prepared Monday morning, they would need to be available to students and staff." said Assistant Principal Carolyn Anulewicz. "Some told me they didn't sleep all night."

There had already been word that weekend that Salem High

School Principal Jerry Ostoin had a stroke, and the 15 counselors - who make up a majority of the Park's crisis team - were prepared to disseminate information about Ostoin's condition.

However, when the counselors arrived in the pre-dawn hours to get the word out about Ostoin. they soon learned that 17-yearold Jean Pierre Orlewicz of Plymouth Township - a Canton High School senior - had been arrested over the weekend for the murder and beheading of 26year-old Daniel Sorensen of River Rouge in a Canton Township garage. "The first thing we did was

meet as a group (administrators, counselors, school psychologist

and social workers) and formulate plans that would help communication," said Sue Konovaliv, who has been a counselor for 14 vears in Plymouth-Canton, eight at Canton High School. "We needed to communicate to staff and students what was going on, and that there was a place to come if they were upset.

This one was intense because we had a whole week of everything that was happening," said Konovaliv, who resides in Plymouth Township. "It takes a lot of time to sink in for some kids, and some needed a couple of days to process it."

The counseling team at the Park assisted more than a hundred students who were affected by the news one of their

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON **INVITATION TO BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, December 20, 2007 for the following:

CSC ROOFTOP HVAC UNIT REPLACEMENT

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

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON **INVITATION TO BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Canton Downtown Development Authority, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, December 20, 2007 for the following:

DDA LIGHT POLES AND LUMINAIRES FOR THE FORD ROAD STREET LIGHTING EXTENSION PROJECT -WEST DISTRICT

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

> TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK OE08573709 2x3



classmates was being charged with murder. However, Barb Lehmann of Plymouth, a member of the Canton High School counseling team for the past 10 years, said while helping students was the main priority, they also met with teachers who were upset by the news.

"It's hard for a lot of the teachers, they sit next to kids, talk to them and get close to those students," Lehmann said. "And, when something affects that student's life, it many times affects them because they have such a caring nature.

"We also look at teachers they've had in the past, who might have had a good and close relationship and maintained contact, teachers they helped in class or with tutoring," Lehmann added.

Erin Demarest, in her eighth year as a counselor at Canton High School, said the murder trial involving Orlewicz is a situation they'll be hearing about and discussing for a long time.

"For some students, they may be OK with it today when it's not in the news, but tomorrow it might be upsetting for a lot of

students," Demarest, of Canton Township, said. "This isn't going to be a short-term fix."

Just as the media frenzy concerning Orlewicz was dying down, the crisis team was again thrown into action when a house exploded in a Canton Township subdivision. The counselors contacted family members, as well as students who lived nearby, to give them factual information before they heard rumors at school.

"Things happen all the time in a large community like ours, and we are always prioritizing," said Konovaliv.

"Not only are we doing our regular jobs helping kids with scheduling classes and finding them tutors, when a crisis occurs we have priorities to meet the needs of the students at that time. Everything else gets pushed back.

"Some days are harder than others," she said. "You can have your day planned out and somebody walks in your door in the morning and the whole day is changed."

The counselors have Masters degrees in guidance and counseling, which also includes crisis training. Sometimes dealing with

a crisis - such as a student being charged with murder - can also affect the counselors.

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"By the end of that week I was starting to feel it," admitted Demarest. "As a counselor, I don't want to be too emotionally invested, but it wears on you after awhile. But, that's when we rely on each other, and get through these situations that are confidential and can't share with other people."

But as emotionally draining and challenging as some of the situations can be, Lehmann said helping students and colleagues cope also has its rewards.

To have gone through a week helping kids with the murder and the police implications and the news; and then the house explosion in Canton - just when you thought you could get back to normal and can't - that can be very challenging," Lehmann said. "But, you get rewards getting to know those kids who are really struggling and having difficulties, and eventually see them get past that."

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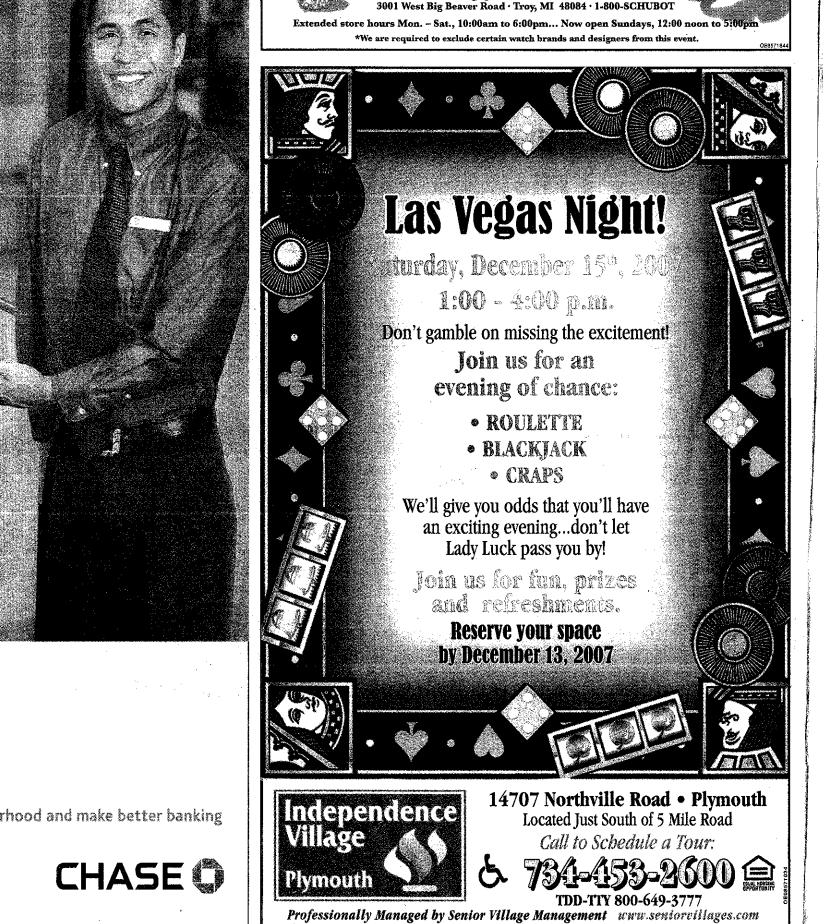
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If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

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DECEMBER

Dysfunctional families seminar

Motivational speaker Susan McKenna and therapist, Arnold Keller, Director of Psychotherapy and Counseling Services in Northville will explain how to determine if you came from a dysfunctional family, what it is doing to your life now and most importantly, what you can do to change it or at least how you can change how it affects you, year after year 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at Ward Church in Northville. No charge, To pre-register for the class or other class dates, call (248) 348-1100. Cookie walk

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26455

W. Chicago, between Beech Daly and Inkster roads, Redford, Christmas cookies of all kind will be available for sale by the pound. For more information, call (313) 937-2120.

A Jingling Christmas

The Handbell Choirs of St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia invite the public to a special handbell Christmas concert, A Jingling Christmas, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, in the church, 11441 Hubbard Rd., south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. The concert also features the St. Michael's Women's Acappella Choir as well as the St. Michael's Teen Choir, all under the direction of Music Minister, Cindy Stempin. There is no charge. All are welcome. For more information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200.

Nativity displays

More than 200 Nativity displays from around the world in a Celebration of the Christmas Creche 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 8-9 (\$7 per person at the door, \$5 per person for groups of 10 or more; Preview party

RELIGION CALENDAR

and lecture by Bengt Swenson 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7 (tickets start at \$50 and benefits the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology, RSVP required by calling (313) 824-4710) at their building, 15415 E. Jefferson at Somerset, Grosse Pointe Park. The nativity displays are from the private collection of Bengt and Elaine Swenson.

Christmas concert

Christmas Joy concerts take place 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. No charge. Childcare provided through age 4. Ward Church welcomes The Chamber

Choir of The First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16. For more information, call (248) 374-7400.

Course in Miracles

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Introduction seminars based on A Course in Miracles spiritual self-study book 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8; 6-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, 28660 Five



BARBARA ANN PEEVER

Age 65, November 29, 2007. Beloved wife of George. Daughter of Helene Warson, Grandmother to Fallon, Also survived by several aunts, uncles and cousins. Visitation Saturday Dec. 8, 4-9pm and Sunday Dec. 9, 2-9pm with a 3pm Rosary at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster (between Ford and Cherry Hill). In state Monday Dec. 10, 9:00am until 10:00am Mass at Sts. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 32500 Palmer (south of Cherry Hill, east of Venoy).

DONALD V. GREENACRE

Age 83 of Orion Twp. formerly of Rochester died December 2, 2007. Beloved husband of the late Helen N. Greenacre. Loving father of Carole McSwain of Lapeer and Jon Greenacre of Australia. Dear grandfather of Jolieanne Post, Roxanne (Michael) Martin and Melanie Greenacre. Greatgrandfather of Dana and Alexandrea Thiel, Lauren, Cailee, William and Dallas Martin. Loving brother of Nancy Zmyslony of Colorado. Dear riend of Audrey Brewer of Waterford. Also survived by a host of friends and relatives. Donald was a past member of the Waterford Aerie Eagles and a former Chaplin at the Rochester Eagles. Funeral from Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors Bossardet Chapel 39 West Burdick, Oxford Thursday 1 P.M. nterment Christian Memorial Cultural Cemetery. Friends may visit Thursday from 11am until time of service. Memorials to the Humane Society of Senesee County appreciated. www.lynchfuneraldirectors.com

JOHN GOTTIS, JR. Age 80, formerly of Farmington, MI. Passed Nov. 30, 2007. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI





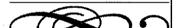
KATHERINE LYNNE MESTER

Formerly of Royal Oak, born October 10, 1970, died in a fatal car accident in Rhinebeck, NY. Her daughter, Isabel Katherine, was born following the auto accident. Katherine is survived by her loving husband, Professor Joseph Luzzi of Bard College, Annandale, NY; her parents, the Honorable Fred M. and Lynne M. Mester of Bloomfield Hills; her siblings, David z Jeneth Mester and Karen Mester of Bloomfield Hills. Kathy taught Pilates in the Hudson Valley, NY area. She received her A.A. in Liberal Arts from Dutchess Community College and was completing her B.A. at SUNY New Paltz. She worked for many years in the performing arts in New York City. After graduating from Cranbrook-Kingswood Academy, she completed in acting from the studies Neighborhood Playhouse, New York. She was a member of Actor's Equity and performed for Williamstown Summer Theater Stock in Williamstown, MA. Her many stage credits included "Bee-luther-hatchee, "The Boy Friend," "Marat/Sade," "Of Mice and Men," and "The Visit." She was especially glad to return to Michigan to perform in "Bee-luther-hatchee" at Meadowbrook Theater at Oakland University. Visitation Thursday 2-8 p.m. at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Rd. (4 blks. E of Woodward), Royal Oak. In state Friday 10:00 a.m. until time of service 11:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Katherine and Isabel Mester Educational Foundation. Share



MARIE (Massolia) CHYTRY Nov. 24, 1934-Nov. 26, 2007

Beloved wife for 31 years of the late Donald J. Chytry. Loving mother of Laura M. (Robert) Beck. Dearest grandmother of Christopher J. Chytry and Holly M. Beck. Dear sister of Margaret McWade of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; John (Eulalia) Massolia of Melvindale; and P. James (Nancy) Massolia of Fenton. Loving aunt to many nieces and nephews Predeceased by loving parents, Pete and Marie Massolia. For Marie, family always came first throughout her life, and we her family, will miss her smiles, hugs and laughter. Arrangements by Griffin Funeral Home, Westland. Interment St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn Heights, MI.



Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Understanding A Course in miracles takes place 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, and Dec. 15. For more information, contact

9 a.m. Sunday school for all ages and Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church. (ELCA), 30650 Sic Mile, Livonia. All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, features choirs and instrumentalists at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96 service drive (Schoolcraft), Livonia. For more information, call (734) 522-6830. Christmas concert

St. Aidan Adult Choir and friends per-

form a concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at the church on Farmington road, north of Six Mile in Livonia. Proceeds from this event help provide assistance to our Christian Service Commission in the preparation of Christmas Baskets for those in need. Admission is \$5 and 2 non-perishable food items. Advent/Christmas hymn festival

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church presents Savior of the Nations, Come, a hymn festival 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at the church located on Five Mile, west of I-275, Livonia. The public is invited. A freewill offering will be received and refreshments follow the performance. The Advent season begins on the first Sunday in December and continues for the four Sundays before Christmas. It is a traditional Christian liturgical season of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Savior, Jesus Christ, in the manger in Bethlehem. Composed by Lutheran composer Michael Burkhardt, the work includes 10

hymns and anthems in special arrangements for Chancel Choir, brass quartet, woodwind duo, the Trinity Bells handbell ensemble, organ, plano and congregation. Organist Ann Buland and planist Susan Harrison lead the festival.

Reformed Protestant services The doctrines and teachings of Reformed Protestantism will be preached 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, at a worship service of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing) at the Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. Rev. Sean Humby of Ohio will preach. For more information, call Margaret Waldecker at (313) 530-6170 or Humby at (937) 252-1156, or visit www. westminsterconfession.org. Weekly Sunday services will begin on Jan. 6.

Dec. 16, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia, Call (734) 464-6722.

Choir cantata

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church presents a Christmas choir cantata, One Small Child, 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at the church, 8828 Wormer, Redford. Everyone is welcome. Call (313) 537-7480.

A Christmas flourish

A celebration of the season featuring a concert by the Birmingham Concert band and the choir of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, in the sanctuary of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple, Birmingham. No charge but donations to the Band's Music Scholarship Fund are appreciated.

Christmas Eve service

7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722.

Christmas Eve worship 5 p.m. Children/Family service, 7 p.m. Lessons & Carois and Candlelight, and 11 p.m. Festival Worship and Candlelight Monday, Dec. 24, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0149. Worship service

10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grownups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

UPCOMING

ENDOW

Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women sessions 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 17 to March 6, (explores Pope John Paul II's Mulieris Dignitatem-On the Dignity and Vocation of Women), in Bixmal Hall church building at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Second session begins 7-9 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 14, to March 3, (explores Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women), in conference room in parish office. Registration required for both sessions. \$60 for materials for each session. Contact Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or send e-mail to mtschmidt@ sbcglobal.net.

ONGOING

Upper Room Ministries

Meets 6 p.m. Sundays, in Room 111 in Our Lady of Loretto School on Beech Daly and Six Mile in Redford. Upper Room Ministries is a spirit filled, charismatic ministry sponsored by Living Water Church in Livonia. All faiths welcome to attend. For information, call Pastor Luke Willis at (734) 425-6360, or Bishop Dan Strength at (734) 812-1099.

F.I.R.E. ministries

With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at

Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Leverne, Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248) 470-5202 or send e-mail to nikki tiernan@gmail.com.

Bible studies

Regular Bible Study program continues at 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month, focus is on St. Paul's Letters to the Romans, at St. Michael's Catholic Church on the corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

MOPS groups

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton, For information, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomensministries@hotmail.com. **LOGOS Youth Club**

Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Wednesday, Sept. 26. For information or registration, visit www.fumcnorthville. org or call (248) 349-1144. HeartCry

The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at , Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. The group is using the book, The Hope of a Homecoming, by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). For information or to register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4.

Worship change

The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service (with Sunday School) will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the 1-96 service drive.

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www. vchurches.com/cbcwomen.

Bible study

Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills, Focus of study is Romans, Come once or more often. Call (248) 626-8253 for more information.

Jim White at (734) 259-0207 or send email to love.comm@hotmail.com.

New schedule

Getting through the holidays

A workshop for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, sponsored by St. Michael the Archangel Parish 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, in St. Michael's School, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. The guest speaker is Dr. Kelly Rhoades, Chair and Professor of Hospice Education at Madonna University. The program is open to all. Annual Christmas concert

DOYLE FRED TODD

Age 61, passed.away December 2 from cancer. Avid golfer and hunter. He leaves behind his loving wife Emilie, along with numerous children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He will be remembered for his astounding wit and humor and will never be forgotten. No visitation, there will be a celebration of his life on December 6th at the American Legion Post No. 32, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia. from 5-10 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations to the family will be received.



JOHN KELLY PIERCE, JR.

Suddenly December 2, 2007. Age 22 in Kalamazoo. Senior at Western Michigan University and member of the Rugby Club Team. Beloved son of Diane S. Marshall (Pete) and John K. Pierce, Sr. Dear brother of Sarah Marshall, Sean Marshall and Brett Marshall. Grandson of JoAnn and the ate Milton Strong and the late Charles "Bud" and Jean Pierce. Also survived by many loving relatives and friends. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile) Friday 2-8pm and Saturday 11am until funeral service 2pm. Memorial tributes to or the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 002018, Des Moines, IA 50340-2018. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

MIKE VOELKER³

Ypsilanti, MI. Age 55, died December 2007. He was born October 30, 952 in Detroit, the son of the late Weldon & Ruth (Wiemeri) Voelker & was raised in Farmington. Survived by his loving wife Susan, of 32 yrs; Ward) daughter, Angela (Chad Voelker; sisters, (Dieter) Jane Stefankovic, Marilyn (Vlada) Savovich & Donna (Kevin) Thrift & brothers, David (Pam) Voelker & Eddie Voelker. Funeral was held December 6, 2007 at Stark Funeral Service. Please sign his guest book at: www.starkfuneral.com

www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

your memories at:

LUCY KATE CASSIDY

Age 72, of Fairfield Glade, TN, passed away Nov. 29. 2007 at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. A memorial service will be held at a later date. She was born April 3, 1935 in Inman, SC, the daughter of Brice Daniel and Ola Denton Eppley. Lucy was a Registered Nurse and enioved reading, sewing, bowling and being a homemaker. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Donald James Cassidy; son, Ronald James Cassidy of Euless, TX; daughter, Melinda Sue Hersback of Troy, MI; grandchildren, Harold James Hersback, Mya Leigh Hersback, Ryan Gilchrist, Jessica Cassidy; sisters, Christie Whitfield of Greenville, SC and Inez Young of Clinton, TN. She was preceded in death by her parents and son, Michael Jay Cassidy. Crossville Memorial Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. was in charge of the arrangements.



SERGE GRATCH, PhD

December 4, 2007 Age 86. Beloved husband of Rosemary. Dear father of Susan (Pat Gleason), Mary, Lucia, Karen, Elizabeth (Matt Waldsmith), Ann, Barbara Cohen (Warren), Amy, Ellen (Andras Komaromy) and Thomas (Lisa Kumar). Grandfather of Zak, Julian, Ellen, Michael, Charley, Laura, Mina, Chloe, Preston and Maya. Private memorial service will be held in the spring. Memorial tributes to Beaumont Hospice, 3601 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48073 or Paws With A Cause, 4646 S. Division, Wayland, Michigan 49348. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



ROBERT J. WILSON

Age 72, of Novi, December 2, 2007 Beloved husband of Stephanie (nee Kobe). Loving father of Susan and Joseph. Dear brother of Joseph Dolan. Also survived by many relatives and friends. Funeral service Thursday, Dec. 6th at 10:00 a.m. at Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btwn 9 & 10) Farmington, MI. (248-474-5200). Visitation Wednesday, 2-8pm, with a 7pm scripture service. Memorial: may be made in Robert's name to Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center c/o of Mary Mercy Hospital 36475 5 Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154.



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

Deadlines:

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com 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 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz % 0E08518962

Cookie walk and bake sale

10 a.m. till sold out Saturday, Dec. 15, at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Rd., south of Ann Arbor trail, Livonia. Christmas cookies of all varieties will be available for sale by the pound along with various bake sale items

Boar's Head Festival of Music

Ancient processional celebrating Epiphany presented by Cherry Hills Presbyterian Church with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra and Dearborn High School's Choral Group 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, and 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at the church, 24110 Cherry Hill at Telegraph. Dearborn. Tickets are free but a free will offering will be accepted. Advance tickets are recommended. Call (313) 563-4800. The interdenominational experience features the Christmas story, the Yule procession and trimming of the hall.

Stranger in the Manger

The Jesus Jammers Choir performs a Dr. Seuss style musical about the birth of Jesus 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia, Call (734) 464-6722. Messiah

A special presentation of Messiah by G.F. Handel under the direction of Tim Schoenherr, 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills. Concert features The Orchard United Methodist Church Chancel Choir accompanied by local musicians in a full Baroque orchestra and solo vocalists from the University of Michigan School of Music. Theater. and Dance. The presentation includes favorite choruses from the Christmas portion, such as "And the Glory of the Lord" and "For Unto Us A Child Is Born". and concludes with "Hallelujah," a gospel version of the Hallelujah Chorus. For more information, call (248) 626-3620. Everyone is invited to join in this celebration.

Christmas concert

Sing Out is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, on Warren Rd. in Canton. The concert features selections by two parish chorales as well as skits performed by St. John Neumann volunteers (the SJN Players). There will also be singalongs for the audience.

Mystery of the Manger Victory Voices Choir performs Christmas musical 6:30 p.m. Sunday,

Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

New worship schedule

Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nurserv, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia, Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia. ora.

Sunday worship

11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Rd. at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services

10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time. at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www. orthodoxlivonia.org.

Singers wanted

Riverside Park Church of God is looking for voices to join their choir. If you like to sing and love God (or just want to get to know God) join in, For more information, call (734) 464-0990.

Pancake breakfasts

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continue their 30-year tradition of all-you-caneat pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The breakfasts are served in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. Adults, \$5; children ages 4-11, \$3; children under age 3, free; and family (2 adults and all children), \$15. Everyone is welcome.

Men's breakfast

Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food. Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. **MOPS meetings**

The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of

Fellowship Dinners

6 p.m. Thursdays. Dinner catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro. \$6. At St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, Call (313)534-7730. Thrift Shop

9:30-11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, Registration

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now taking registrations for the fall program at 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. It is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Loving and caring programs are offered for toddler, preschool, pre-K, and child care. Call (734) 513-8413.

Morning prayers

7:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, corner of Puritan, Redford. Please join in as participants start day with prayer. Call (313) 255-6330

J.O.Y. meeting

The J.O.Y. Builders (Just Older Youth, ages 50 plus) meet 11:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch, fellowship and fun, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. All are welcome to join in. There is no charge, although organizers ask that you bring a luncheon dish to share. Higher Rock Cafe

Second and fourth Friday of the month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland, 2300 S. Venov, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer. For information, call (734) 722-3660 or visit www.tsa. higherrockcafe.4t.com.

Uplifting church services

Want a unique church experience? Join in Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. for a service that will lift your entire family, but be prepared for what will happen after just one service. An open discussion 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Classes available for all ages, child to adult. Riverside Park Church of God is at 11771 Newburgh (corner of Plymouth Road), Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

Worship service

10 a.m. Sundays, at The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Sunday School for children. For information, call (734) 728-3440. Youth wanted

Tweens and teens age 12 and up are invited to join in various youth activi-

Please see RELIGION, A7

RELIGION FROM PAGE AG

ties held at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road (corner of Plymouth), Livonia. Come to one of the regular classes on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or Wednesdays at 7 p.m. For details, call (734) 464-0990.

A healthy you

Join with others as you discover ways to keep minds and bodies healthy through a four-week class that is open to the public and free of charge at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road (corner of Plymouth), Livonia. Day and night classes available. To register, call (734) 464-0990.

Sunday worship

10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Sunday services

Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster Road on Plymouth

Road. Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Ward Wednesdays. Call (734) 425-6360. in No

Farmington Women Aglow Meets the second Monday of each month 7-9:30 p.m. at the Longacre House on Farmington road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call Vikki for more information at (248) 497-7755. Farmington Aglow is a Christian women's groups.

Worship services

Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For more information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait. **Worship services**

vorsnip services

Praise and worship 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 6500 Wayne Road and Hunter, Westland. Contemporary music and casual dress. Children church and nursery. Call (734) 254-0093. Doughnuts and coffee served.

Celebrate Recovery

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville launches Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from their hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday evening for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts). Child care during Celebrate Recovery is free and available by calling (248) 374-7400. For information, visit www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch. org/celebrate.

Sunday service

All are welcome to attend worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Worship service

At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from I Peter. Call (313) 255-6330. Adult literacy classes

BELIEFS AND VALUES

Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those wishing to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you.

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.

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.

TOPS

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, 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 and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322. 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 for information.

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 7 p.m. followed by Benediction service. For information,

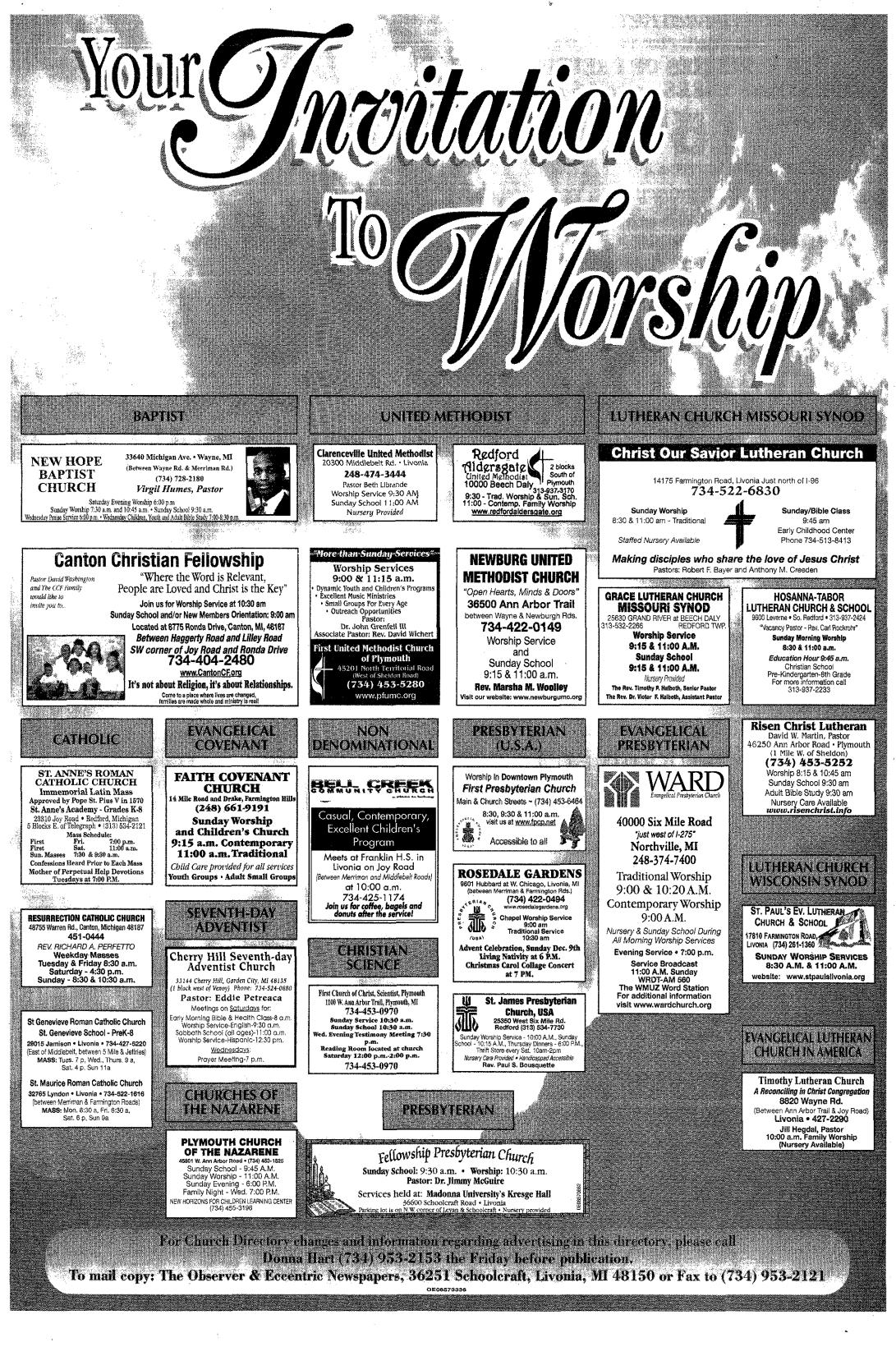
call (734) 261-1455. Senior activities

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.

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.

Unity of Livonia

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



(*) A7

Store grand opening will benefit community foundation

Holiday shoppers can buy a few gifts, meet Detroit Lions' Shaun Rogers and help the Canton Community Foundation all at the same time when the new Wireless Toyz holds its grand opening this weekend.

The new store, located at 39904 Ford Road, will donate five percent of the proceeds from the opening day's purchases and from the afternoon and evening of Friday, Dec. 7 to the Canton Community Foundation to support a range of community programs. Grand opening highlights include:

■ A special appearance and autograph signing on Saturday, Dec. 8 by the Detroit Lions' Defensive Tackle Shaun Rogers from 2-4 p.m.

 The first 25 customers on Dec. 6, 7 and 8 will receive a \$100 Wireless Toyz gift certificate, and everyone attending can register to win a Treo 755p valued at more than \$500.
Additional activities at

the store will include special merchandise promotions, free classes for activities such as text-messaging, e-mailing with your phone, using a Bluetooth headset and more.

Headquartered in Farmington Hills, the new Wireless Toyz store is the first to open in Canton and the 42nd store in the state. For more information, including hours, contact the store at (734) 844-9000 or visit www. wirelesstoyz.com.





VIDEOS FROM PAGE A1

Canton Center Road at Hanford. His studio will take a photograph of the family and send it to the service member free of charge.

A Navy veteran, he's knows about the support structure that exists for families of the deployed in base towns like Jacksonville, Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Families can shop at the PX and businesses made "exceptions" for the families.

Davila and Vena got Metropolitan to be the corporate sponsor of the event, held just prior to Veterans Day.

FROM PAGE A1

the criticism that the proposed design doesn't resemble homes that surround the property.

"It doesn't look like the homes around it, no question," he said, but added that the exterior is a reflection of religious heritage.

While some homeowners complained about loud music, berm heights and the plan to expand the site's parking lot, others simply suggested that the Hindu Temple move to another location.

"They ought to be able to find another site that's much more suitable," one man murmured.

Betty Noel, a Glengarry Village resident, feels the same. "Who would buy these

homes? Would Bryan Amann buy one of these homes? I think Davila handled the publicity, putting out the word about the event. Families were invited to come to the dealership. All they needed to bring was their loved one's military address.

Davila brought her best camera to make sure the videos were of the highest quality. She wanted to be sure the families could be heard and the images were "crisp."

"John did the same," she said. "His pictures turned out beautiful."

"The families came from all over, Canton, Roseville, within a half hour's drive," added Vena. "Everyone who came in was wonderful, the families were wonderful." The families included a

they should sell and go find property that would give them more room," she said. Suresh Shah, a member of

the Temple's board, said they have no plans of relocating.

"This is our property," he said. "Sure, they are mad and they don't want us here but we are not upset. We want to work with our neighbors."

Amann said the opposition of the proposed plan boils down to bigotry.

"This would not be said about a Catholic or Baptist church," he said.

The most scathing comments of the night came from Commissioner Catherine Johnson, a resident of Glengarry Village. Johnson accused the Temple of being anything but good neighbors and said she had received word that women at another temple had engaged in public urination. At that point, was born two weeks after he left. "He gets to hear her say Dada," said Davila. "Some kids were telling their dads about getting a Boy Scout badge. They were telling them all

pregnant wife who will give

deployed. The photograph lets

him see her looking very preg-

nant. Another dad is getting a

photographed of his wife and

9-month-old daughter who

birth while her husband is

kinds of cool things. "It also was emotional. Most wives ended up crying," Davila said. "I don't think there was a dry eye in the place."

smason@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2112

both Amann and Commission Chairman Vic Gustafson objected.

Johnson went on to say that the color of the proposed building needed to be "toned down." Shah said Johnson's com-

ments were offensive. "I think the entire hall was

shocked," he said. "What she said was absolutely ridiculous. Who does that? That just shows how she feels about us. She was wrong."

At Amann's request, the proposal was tabled until after the new year. In the coming weeks, Amann is slated to meet with the surrounding homeowner associations to go over the temple's plans.

"We want to be good neighbors but this is what we've worked on," Shah said. "This is what we want."

OF0857349

tiparks@hometownlife.com (734) 459-2700

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 6, 2007

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED USE OF THE



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2008 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS DECEMBER 11, 2007

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM WILL BE HELD BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE TOWNSHIP HALL WHICH IS LOCATED AT 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD. ON DECEMBER 11, 2007.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE TO AFFORD THE PUBLIC THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE BEFORE THE BOARD ANY PROPOSED USE OF THE 2008 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.

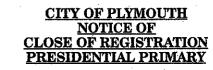
PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS FROM THE WAYNE COUNTY OFFICE OF BLOCK GRANT, WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, ARE THAT THE ESTIMATED 2008 FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR THE TOWNSHIP WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$107,000.00.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, UPON COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING, WILL DETERMINE THE USE OF THE 2008 FUNDS.

ANY WRITTEN COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED USE OF THE 2008 FUNDS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO SUSAN VIGNOE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COORDINATOR, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD., PLYMOUTH, MI 48170 AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007.

> MARILYN MASSENGILL, CMC CLERK, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

Publish: December 6, 2007



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the voter registration of Qualified Electors for the PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION to be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 will be taken at the Office of the City Clerk during the office hours as enumerated below:

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Registration will close on MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2007, and no further voter registrations will be accepted for said election. Any interested person may also register at any Secretary of State Branch Office during their regular business hours. Qualifications of an elector for registration are as follows:

- 1. Citizen of the United States
- 2. At least 18 years of age
- 3. Resident of the State of Michigan for thirty (30) days
- 4. Resident of the City of Plymouth on or before thirty (30)
- days prior to the date of the election

Qualified electors who are currently registered with the City Clerk will not have to re-register. If you have a physical problem and cannot come into City Hall, please call and make other arrangements. The telephone number is 734-453-1234, ext. 234 or 225.

Linda Langmesser, CMC City Clerk

QE08573224 - 2x

Publish: December 6, 2007

COUNTY NEWS

www.hometownlife.com

Caution: Set the proper foundation for your investment club

■he other day on my radio

show, I was asked about investment clubs. The caller and a group of friends were thinking about forming one and wanted my thoughts. On the whole, I am very favorable to investment clubs. If run successfully, they can be profitable, educational and a lot of fun. In too many cases, though, when not run properly, they have disappointing results.

One caveat - never invest your entire portfolio through an investment club. You are going to have to make compromises to other members and that is not something you should do with an individual portfolio. Prior to participating in an investment club, it is important to make sure that you have your own independent portfolio geared for your goals and objectives. The investment club portfolio should be a supplement to your own portfolio.

There are a number of issues that need to be resolved, and



it is to invest in stocks. new issues, or whatever, it is important

Rick Bloom to make sure all the club

members are on the same page. Nothing will break up an investment club faster than disputes over how to invest. Another issue is how the club will be run. What is the responsibility of each member and how will the legal aspects be handled? After all, one of the goals of an investment club is to make money and whenever you make money you know there are tax issues.

Investment clubs typically require regular contributions and meetings. Those issues should be decided up front to avoid problems. Another issue is what happens when

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a member wants out? What formula will determine how a member's interest is valued and how will payouts be administered?

In order to prevent adverse tax consequences or undue losses, there may be a provision that a departing member is paid off over time as opposed to a lump sum.

What happens if a member does not meet their responsibility by not paying dues or doing research? There has to be some sort of methodology to handle these situations. The National Association

NEW FURNACE?

of Investors Corp. (NAIC) in Madison Heights can provide a wealth of information for investment clubs. The national organization publishes Better Investing magazine, which is dedicated to helping educate and inform investors. Anyone who has an investment club or is thinking of forming one should contact the NAIC at

(877) 275-6242 or www.better-investing.org. Another resource is the Dummy series of books - Investment Club for Dummies is excellent.

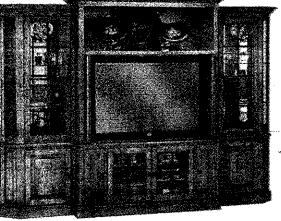
Investment clubs are great because they encourage people to be involved with their money. However, all the successful ones set the foundation before they begin investing

and that includes legal agreements, bylaws, rules and regulations.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).







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GUARANTEED RATE THROUGH 1/31/08

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Page A10 (C)

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

OUR VIEWS Merited or not, raises come at wrong time

When the Canton Township Board of Trustees voted to give themselves a pay raise last week, they must have realized what to expect.

Almost unanimously, board members voted themselves a 3 percent pay raise for 2008 (Todd LaJoy and Todd Caccamo were the exceptions). A number of people attending the board meeting were critical of the pay raises, and Observer readers have also written or called to express their dismay that the board would choose to reward themselves with higher salaries at a time when Michigan's economy is in shambles.

Certainly members of the board realize Canton residents have been impacted by the current economic realities, including plenty of job losses, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

On top of that, a report came out Tuesday suggesting home prices across the country showed their biggest drop in a quarter century. Canton has not been insulated from that. The township has had its share of foreclosures, and home values have been dropping just like other places in Southeast Michigan.

To make matters worse, property owners in Canton will see an increase in their taxes next year because of Proposal A.

So it's no surprise that some residents aren't real happy with their elected officials increasing their own salaries. One group of residents has even started a recall effort to repeal the raises.

It's not like Canton officials haven't had their share of raises in recent years. Take Supervisor Tom Yack. In 2001, his salary was just \$88,862. It was \$116,290 in 2005. With the latest increase, it will be \$127,073 in 2008. That's an increase of more than \$38,000 in seven years.

Clerk Terry Bennett and Treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter have also seen fairly significant increases in the last few years. In 2002 they had an annual salary of \$72,100. They will make \$103,730 next year.

In the overall scope of things, a 3 percent raise isn't that big a deal. Trustee Todd Caccamo, who voted only to give the clerk a raise, said it happens in the private sector all the time. But the fact is, public officials are not in the private sector, and government is not a private business. It functions solely by spending taxpayer money.

So it would have been a nice symbolic gesture to see Canton's public officials actually show they feel the pain of many of their constituents.

The time has come to expand term limits

A proposal to extend term limits will not be on the Jan. 15 ballot; if it were on the ballot, it is likely that it would go down to defeat.

Proponents of term limits have done a good job of convincing a majority of potential voters, against all evidence, that term limits have been a boon to good government. Term limits were approved as a constitutional amendment in 1992. The amendment limited the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general and state senators to two four-year terms. It limited state representatives to three two-year terms. The amendment was passed in the midst of a national movement that began in Oklahoma, based on the idea that office holders who remain in office too long are too vulnerable to lobbyists and develop power centers that are detrimental to democracy.



GOLLY! YOU WERE REALLY

WET BEHIND THE EARS, BUT



It's a 'Christmas' tree

I would like to point out a significant error in the caption of the tree lighting photo at the Summit as published In Sunday's Observer, Dec. 2. It states that Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack lights up the "holiday tree." The correct statement is the Christmas tree.

The Christmas tree, always an evergreen, is symbolic of our Savior, who is ever-green and we bring the tree into our homes "living" with us as we celebrate the season of his birth.

You may call the silver trees "holiday" trees as they are artificial and are used only for decoration at this time of the year. **Dollie Lieberman**

Canton

Board needs reality check

When I read the headline "Officials give themselves pay raise" in the Observer, I was hoping it wouldn't be for the Canton Township board — so soon after they previously elected themselves raises. Underneath that story, you had another story stating that there was an increase in needy children since the dip in the state's economy. There are now 569 kids in the reduced lunch program in our school district, up from 550 in 2006 and a substantial increase since 2005 when there were roughly 400 children. This means that people are hurting financially in this area. Most of us are working a job that should be for six people, we are losing our jobs, we are getting pay cuts, we've had our 2007 property taxes increased, our homes are being foreclosed - what reality does this board live in? When the group of people that work for you, vote themselves raises, and you are getting yet another pay cut, or have lost your job, it's a slap in the face. We have called Terry Bennett's office, asking how we repeal this. She was very nice, but obviously did not agree with our objections and stated she "respected our opinion." She said she'd get back with us after checking with the legal department. According to www.michigantownship. org, "If a petition is filed within 30 days after the township board votes the salary signed by 10 percent of the qualified electors of the township requesting that the question be submitted to the electorate, the township board shall call a special election and submit the question of the salary to the electors." We have set up an e-mail account: cantonpetition@yahoo.com for those of you who are interested in helping to get the 10 percent signatures required to hold a special election to stop this. A special election is costly - so we encourage the township board to stop this increase immediately. The times we are currently living in, call for a freeze on spending of this kind. We applaud those who objected at the meeting. Write now to stop this increase.

LETTERS

constantly idolizing other nations such as France, Norway, Great Britain, and Canada for their national health care systems. We are supposed to be the wealthiest and most intelligent nation in the world, but we always seem to be playing "catch-up" with other nations in regards to critical policies and systems such as health care, energy, and gasoline-free vehicles.

We, as the people of this great nation, must speak out to our government as one about providing every citizen an equal right to quality health care. We must not stop until our voice is heard and the government is once again "For the People, By the People."

Beau Applebaum

Canton

Not happy with police

On a recent Saturday morning I found a parking ticket on my car, left there at 4:20 that morning by one of our finest. My offense? Parking facing the wrong dire tion, with my left wheels to the curb, in an otherwise legal spot in front of my house, thus posing a clear and present danger to, um, well, something, I'm sure. I know I'll sleep better at night knowing our alert police officers are on the lookout for backward-parking scofflaws. Of course, I'll be sleeping with my doors and windows shut tight, to keep out the noise and smoke from the underage parties often held at the neighbor's house. Our officer might have noticed that the loud gaggle of people drinking and smoking on the sidewalk that night (and vomiting in our neighbors' lawns) were all high schoolers if he had, say, bothered to get out of his car. Perhaps next time they're nearby, they could visit the park, where teens often gather to vandalize the playground equipment with graffiti. They seem easy enough to catch, if you care to stop by sometime. The last time I walked through the park after dark, one continued writing on the tables even as I stood over them watching — until I took the pen out of her hand. We all have to do our part, and I'm glad to have helped our officer meet his quota of revenue-generating tickets that otherwise serve no public good. I'm also glad to live in a town as safe as Canton, where so many work together to provide a peaceful and low-stress environment for our officers to work in. After my few encounters with the police, I can hardly believe that the cause and effect is the other way 'round.

move their headquarters to Detroit. We know that feeling because we've felt it many times in Detroit as companies quietly shut their doors here and reopened them in suburbs all around the city.

A few of us even recall 30 years ago when General Motors moved a transmission plant from Detroit to Livonia. They earned valuable state tax credits in the process that Mayor Coleman Young didn't oppose, because he knew it was better to have a factory in Livonia than Indianapolis.

Granholm and the State of Michigan were involved to keep Quicken Loans from moving to Ohio. Or Arizona. Or any other state. Period. And don't think that Ohio and Arizona weren't pitching feverishly. They were. And they have an impressive set of incentives that they likely offered, including low interest loans, grants for utility or street improvements, tax exemptions, tax credits and tax abatements. They probably could have matched whatever Michigan offered. So we were very fortunate to

But during the recent partisan battles over the state budget, term limits have been cited as a major factor in legislative inaction.

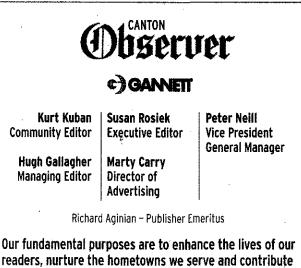
While in theory term limits seem to hearken back to the ideal of citizen legislators, the reality is that term limits have robbed the Legislature of historical perspective, left legislators with little expertise in particular areas of state government and public policy, fostered an ability to see beyond narrow partisan positions for the greater good and robbed most of experience in crafting compromises that work. Term limits have shifted institutional memory, and power, to hired aides rather than elected legislators.

Professional politician needn't be a pejorative. The state needs some professionals in Lansing. Many legislators have admitted that their lack of experience has been a significant part of the problem. We have had a series of House speakers who have come to the position after a single term in office.

It is unlikely that voters would totally abandon term limits. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce has thrown its support behind a proposal that would allow legislators to serve a total of 12 years in either the House or Senate or a combination of 12 years in both chambers. Under the current law, legislators can serve up to 14 years in both chambers, but are limited to six years in the House, eight years in the Senate.

Ironically, this proposal did not make it to the ballot because of partisan wrangling over attempts by Democrats to append other reforms that the Chamber did not support.

We believe legislators need more time in office and urge the Legislature, the Chamber and others to continue making the case for extending term limits and bring it to the ballot for next November.



readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

H. Hudak Canton

National health care needed

The United States of America is the greatest nation on Earth and yet I am

Kyle Loosli Canton

Quicken move a regional win

Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation have nothing to be ashamed of in their role to keep Quicken Loans and Rock Financial in the state of Michigan.

I can understand that some people in Livonia will be disappointed by the decision that Dan Gilbert and his management team at Quicken Loans made to

even stay in the game by offering Gilbert key intangibles – such as the chance to take on a major role in developing a revitalized, re-energized and exciting downtown.

and the second second

Sure, when a business is deciding among Livonia, Southfield, Ann Arbor or Detroit we are all going to be pitching against each other, and the governor shouldn't be taking sides. But that wasn't the game we were in with Quicken Loans. If it were football it wasn't Michigan vs. Michigan State, it was Michigan vs. Ohio State.

In the last year, 13 economic development organizations in southeastern Michigan agreed that when the region is competing in a global arena it makes more sense for us to work together than separately.

And in the first six months of this year the group has been responsible for 65 projects representing almost \$2.3 billion in investment and 4,800 retained or new jobs.

In our next report the region will be counting another 4,000 retained jobs from Quicken Loans. That's something we should all be cheering.

George W. Jackson CEO of Detroit Economic Growth Corporation

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.

Mail: Letters to the editor Canton Observer 1100 South Main Plymouth, MI 48170

Fax: (734) 459-4224

E-mail: kkuban@hometownlife.com

"I was told by someone the other day, 'Welcome to the I should be dead club.' It definitely changes your outlook on life. We will look at tragedies and natural disasters in a different light from now on. It's not someone else's job or responsibility to help. It's everyone's."

QUOTABLE

- Dave Goble, who along with his wife, Jan, survived their home exploding, and whose spirit has been buoyed by the support of the Canton community

Detroit needs to toughen up its homeland security

o Detroit got slammed again, this time in a survey that rated it the most dangerous city in America for having the worst crime rate, at least according to CQ Press, a division of Congressional Quarterly.

Detroit has the worst crime rate, based on the incidents of murder, rape, aggravated



Greg Kowalski

assault, robbery, vehicle theft and burglary. Just about as soon as the rating came out, so did critics of CQ — including the FBI, which cautioned that statistics shouldn't be taken out of context.

They're right, of course, because crime isn't about statistics. It's about people — and perception.

I live in a city completely surrounded by Detroit that is perceived by many people to be extremely dangerous. It isn't, but neither is it the safest city in America, or the state, or the metro region. I'd say that it is the safest town within the borders of Detroit, but that's about as far as I would go.

Yet, I don't live in fear because I know while there is a moderate chance that I might be the victim of a non-violent crime, like burglary or car theft, there is an extremely small chance that I will be a victim of a violent crime.

That's because crime is a complicated business. It isn't as simple as it may seem paraded on the nightly news. People rarely go about randomly shooting at each other, and when they do, that type of crime can occur anywhere, including Amish schools.

But when it comes to murder, at least, most victims have an association with the killer, whether it be a family member or the neighborhood drug dealer that everybody seems to know. As for perception, the worst type of crime a town can experience is random homicide: a thief spots a person in a car, goes over and pulls out a gun, shoots the person and steals the car.

What makes this so bad is that it could happen to anyone who just happens to be in the wrong place. And if that occurs a few times, that brands the whole town as unsafe I don't live in fear because I know while there is a moderate chance that I might be the victim of a non-violent crime, like burglary or car theft, there is an extremely small chance that I will be a victim of a violent crime. That's because crime is a complicated business. It isn't as simple as it may seem paraded on the nightly news. People rarely go about randomly shooting at each other, and when they do, that type of crime can occur anywhere, including Amish schools.

under any circumstances.

But that kind of crime just doesn't happen often.

When you look at a community the size of Detroit, along with its rate of poverty, it's not surprising that it has more than its share of violent crime.

Many factors cause crime, including poverty, lack of education and lack of opportunity, but I am firmly convinced the overriding problem is drugs — which themselves are directly related to those other factors.

Drugs are rampant. Sit in court in Detroit and see how many cases are directly related in some way to drugs. The presence of drugs — which, by the way, are not limited to the inner-city area — is rampant. If Detroit really wants to kill its crime problem, it should turn its attention in a huge way to eliminating drugs. Crack houses should be shut down as soon as they open. Drug dealers must be arrested immediately. If it takes a military-like operation to do that, so be it. This problem must be crushed in the strongest manner.

Take some of those resources we are squandering in Iraq and bring them home, where they can do some good.

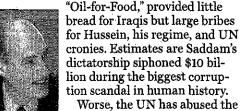
That's real homeland security.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the Birmingham Eccentric. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@hometownlife.com.

Liberty Alliance proposed to champion liberty and dignity

Perelict in its original mission, today's United Nations (UN) is a global Tammany Hall lethal to the liberty and dignity of our human family.

The UN's waste, fraud and malfeasance have turned tawdry graft into a global art. For example, the UN's "humanitarian" aid program,



Thaddeus McCotter Instances and allegations of the sexual exploitation and abuse

of Congolese women, girls, and boys were leveled against the UN personnel sent to protect them. The particulars of this barbaric sexual abuse are unfit for this forum.

These are not the acts of the UN envisioned by President Franklin Roosevelt in his March 1, 1945, Address before Congress on the Yalta Conference:

"(A common ground for peace) ought to spell the end of the system of unilateral'action, the exclusive alliances, the spheres of influence, the balances of power, and all other expedients that have been tried for centuries — and have always failed. We propose to substitute for all these a universal organization in which all peace-loving nations will finally have a chance to join."

Weighed against Roosevelt's words, the UN is deemed wanting, and the reason is revealed — a "universal organization" will include "peace-loving nations" and tyrannical regimes.

Today, the UN's membership is stacked against free people. According to Freedom House, of 192 UN member states, 89 are "fully free" and 103 are not. Thus, a majority (54 percent) of member states oppose the expansion of human liberty and dignity because it directly threatens their regimes.

Nevertheless, since 1945, the U.S. has been the UN's largest annual contributor. In 2006, American taxpayers forked over \$423.5 million in dues (or 22 percent of the UN's regular budget) and over \$5.3 billion in total to the UN. Still, we and all free people remain UN tyrants' favorite targets.

Two statistics gauge this dysfunction: Only 46 percent of the UN's members are free nations; but the UN's top 10 financial contributors are all free nations. Two statistics gauge this dysfunction: Only 46 percent of the UN's members are free nations; but the UN's top 10 financial contributors are all free nations.

This must end.

We must create a Liberty Alliance. The Liberty Alliance must be founded upon the self-evident truth all human beings are possessed of dignity and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Liberty Alliance's members shall be free nations. Member nations diminishing their people's liberty must be demoted to observer status and, when necessary, expelled from the Alliance.

The governing structure and rules of the Liberty Alliance shall maximize transparency, equity, and democracy in the pursuit of expanding human liberty and dignity. Moreover, the Alliance will help people seize their own destinies in their own way through diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural initiatives. The Alliance must not have a military component; and must never infringe upon a member nation's rights.

Finally, the Liberty Alliance's headquarters shall be sited on the free soil where liberty triumphed over colonialism, communism, fascism, world wars, and the Holocaust – Central or Eastern Europe.

Crucially, the Liberty Alliance will not demand its member nations exit the UN. All free nations should remain in the UN to keep an eye on our enemies. But we must stop paying through the nose to get kicked in our assets. Instead, we and other free nations will donate to the UN the same amount as its cheapest tyrants, like North Korea. Free nations' monies and personnel spared from the UN shall be dedicated to the Liberty Alliance or returned to taxpayers.

Some will decry the Liberty Alliance. They are wrong. Within the Alliance, Americans and all free peoples will remain cemented and steeled by the harmonic bonds of liberty, dignity, comity and duty; and, like our greatest generation, we will not bend, we will not break in our reasoned faith in a future graced by free nations.

U.S. Rep. **Thaddeus G. McCotter**, R-Livonia, represents Michigan's 11th Congressional District. He is chair of the Republican House Policy Committee.







W/TNDOW/

(C) **A11**



Sounds of the Season

Free Concerts at

Schoolcraft College

December 9—Wind Ensemble

Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

Schoolcraft College Radcliff Center

1751 Radcliff Street, Garden City

Featuring the works of John P. Sousa, Dimitri Shostakovich, Hector Villa-Lobos, Elliott Del Borgo, LeRoy Anderson and the holiday favorite *Christmas Song* by Mel Torme and Robert Wells.

December 10-Jazz Band and Synthesizer Ensemble

Monday, 7:30 p.m.

DiPonio Room inside the VisTaTech Center

Schoolcraft College main campus

18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia

The Jazz Band performs holiday favorites by Chick Corea, Dave Brubeck, and Stevie Wonder. The Synthesizer Ensemble's selections range from the traditional to the modern, including *Lacrymosa* from Mozart's *Requiem Mass*, a dramatic rendition of the 1980s hit *Africa* by the pop group Toto, and a special arrangement featuring vocalist Josh Marois, whose voice is electronically transformed to sound like a full choir,

> December 16—Choral Union Sunday, 3 p.m.

Recital Hall inside the Forum Building

Schoolcraft College main campus

18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia

A choral concert entitled *A Winter's Tale* featuring choral music and poetry readings that capture the spirit of the holiday season. A suggested, but not required, admission donation of one canned or boxed nonperishable food item, which will be donated to the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan, would be appreciated.

734-462-4400 www.schoolcraft.edu



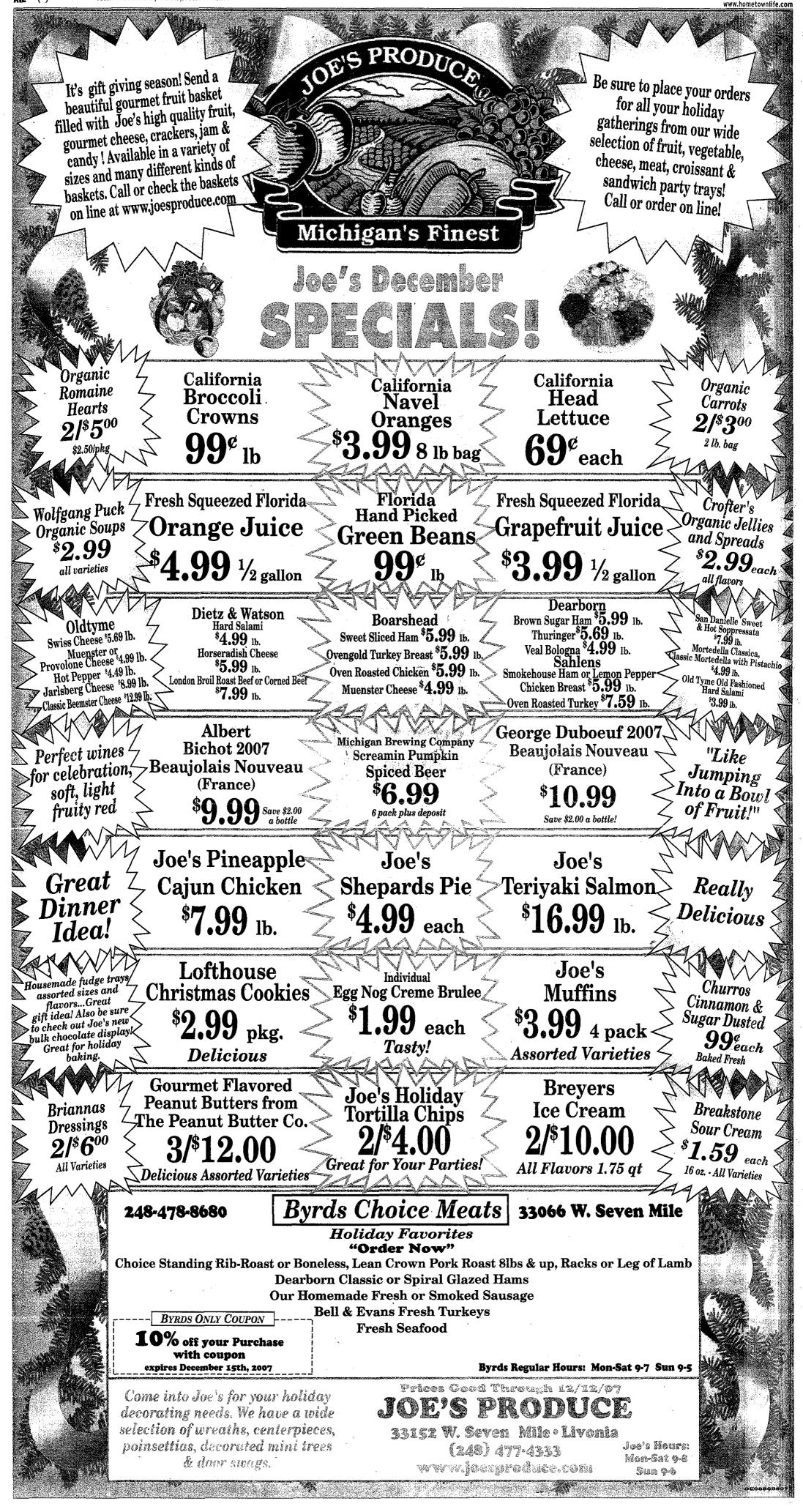
Visit renewalbyandersen.com





1 As compared to ordinary single pane glass in winter. Values are based on comparison to U-Factors and SHGCs for clear glass non-metal frame default values from the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).

* DETAILS OF OFFER - Offer expires December 22, 2007. Additional \$200 off total purchase of 4 or more windows or patio doors, when an appointment is scheduled at this showroom event. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Financing available with approved credit only, Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. Uccerse number available upon request. "RENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. © 2007 Andersen Corporation, All rights reserved.



Turnovers doom Canton lady cagers, B2

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

Thursday, December 6, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

3's vs. trees

Titans' inside power offsets 'Cats' triple barrage, 53-48

Chiefs fall to Pioneer, See Page B2.

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Once Plymouth's boys basketball team started raining threes on Southgate Anderson Tuesday night, the Titans decided to go inside. Inside the paint.

Led by a trio of large-bodied post players, the visiting Titans survived a flood of Wildcat triples to earn a thrilling 53-48 decision in the season opener for both teams.

Anderson's starting frontcourt trio of 6-foot-6 senior forward Phil Carr, 6-1 forward Terry Butler and 6-1 center Mike Kozar accounted for 41 of the team's 53 points.

The slashing, spring-loaded Carr did the most damage, posting 22 points and seven rebounds against the Wildcats' smaller frontcourt.

"We got beat by a very good team tonight," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "They put the ball in the right kids' hands at the right times.

"They have three main players who dominated the game for them. We knew what they were going to try to do and we did some things to try to hedge against it, but they were just a little bit better than us tonight."

The Wildcats received a strong effort from senior guard Brandon Roberts, who scored 15 points and pulled down a team-high five rebounds.

Plymouth connected on



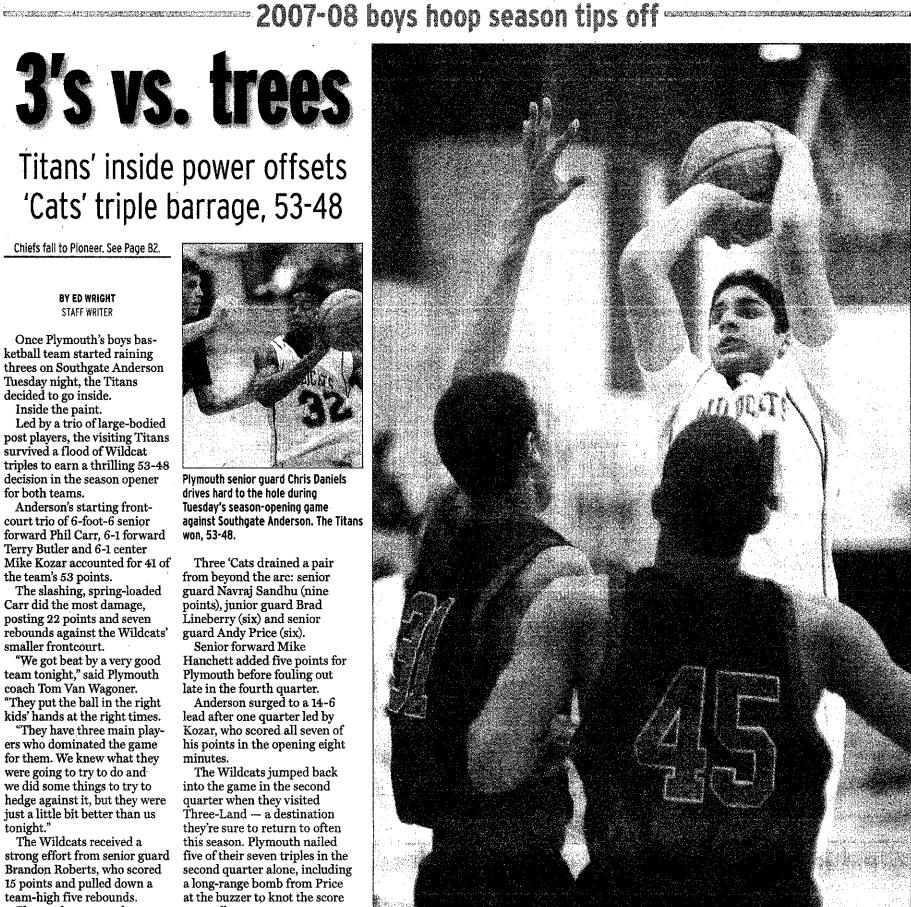
Plymouth senior guard Chris Daniels drives hard to the hole during Tuesday's season-opening game against Southgate Anderson. The Titans won, 53-48.

Three 'Cats drained a pair from beyond the arc: senior guard Navraj Sandhu (nine points), junior guard Brad Lineberry (six) and senior guard Andy Price (six). Senior forward Mike

Hanchett added five points for Plymouth before fouling out late in the fourth quarter. Anderson surged to a 14-6

lead after one quarter led by Kozar, who scored all seven of his points in the opening eight minutes.

The Wildcats jumped back into the game in the second quarter when they visited Three-Land — a destination they're sure to return to often this season. Plymouth nailed five of their seven triples in the second quarter alone, including a long-range bomb from Price at the buzzer to knot the score at 25-all.





Ignition fall

The Detroit Ignition (4-2) were defeated by the New Jersey Ironmen (4-1) 8-6 Saturday in Newark, N.J. The loss dropped the Ignition to 4-2 in the Major Indoor Soccer League while the expansion Ironmen improved to 4-1.

Detroit's goals were scored by forwards Hewerton Moreira and Worteh Sampson, and midfielder Ze Roberto. Sampson notched two assists on the night, while scoring his goal unassisted.

The Ignition will travel to Baltimore on Saturday to take on the 5-2 Blast.

Wolfpack tryouts

The Western Wayne Wolfpack girls AAU basketball team will be holding tryouts on Sunday, Jan. 6, at High Velocity in Canton.

Following are the tryout times for the five teams: 9-and-under — 9-

10:30 a.m.; ■10U — 10:30 a.m.

to noon; 11U — noon to

1:30 p.m.; **■12U** - 1:30-3

p.m.; and

almost one-third of the 22 triples it launched — a respectable percentage, especially considering it was the first game of the season.

Amazingly, Plymouth was outrebounded 17-5 in the first half, yet walked into its locker

Please see 'CATS, B2

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Warriors clip Eagles' wings

Lutheran Westland's Allyson Yankee drives to the hoop past Plymouth Christian's Sara Ross in Tuesday's non-conference encounter. Yankee scored 19 points in a 37-25 LW victory. See details of the game on page B2.

Plymouth swim team claims first place at Wildcat Challenge

For complete results on the meet, please see page B2.

The Plymouth boys swimming and diving team will be riding a wave of momentum into the 2007-08 season thanks to its first-place showing in Saturday's seasonopening Wildcat Relay Challenge, which was held at the Canton High School pool.

The Wildcats outpointed five other teams, including runner-up Holly and third-place Woodhaven. The field also included Dundee, Dearborn Edsel Ford and Redford Union.

Plymouth touched first in four of the 11 relays and placed second in another.

The hosts' initial first-place finish came in the second event of the day - the 200-yard backstroke relay, which Mike Conger, Chris Wilson, Jack Distel and Adam Wing won with a time of 1:54.93.

The Wildcats took gold in the next event, too - the 200 breaststroke relay - thanks to strong efforts from Kyle Dull, Ben Ambrose, Tony McLaughlin and Dan Stoscup.

■13U - 3-4:30 p.m.

There will be a \$15 tryout fee to cover the cost of an AAU card and insurance.

For more information, contact Scott Samulski at (734) 306-3081 or sjsamulski@ yahoo.com.

Coaches: Please call

Local high school varsity athletic coaches are encouraged to report all of their teams' results to Observer Sports Editor Ed Wright so that the area's prep athletes receive the recognition they deserve.

Wright can be reached at (734) 953-2108 after 5:30 p.m. on weekdays. Results can also be e-mailed to ewright@hometownlife.com or faxed to (734) 591-7279.

The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 11 p.m.; the deadline for Sunday editions is Friday at 11 p.m.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth senior forward Navraj Sandhu focuses on the front of the rim as he launches a fade-away jumper during Tuesday's 53-48 loss to visiting Southgate Anderson. Sandhu finished with nine points.

LOCAL SPORTS

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Canton girls basketball coach Brian Samulski has repeatedly delivered the same five-word directive to his team during timeouts, halftime intermissions and postgame meetings during the first three games of the 2007-08 season: Take care of the ball.

Unfortunately for the Chiefs, they've yet to heed their coach's plea on a consistent basis.

As a result, they're 0-3 following Monday night's 40-30 home setback to Howell. Trailing by just two heading into the final eight minutes, Canton committed seven fourth-quarter turnovers and managed to launch just four shots because of the shaky ball security

The Highlanders took advantage of their hosts' miscues by

GIRLS PREP HOOP

outscoring Canton 12-4 in the fourth quarter to sew up a convincing road win.

"Obviously, I'm not doing a very good job teaching these kids how to handle the ball and how to pass-and-catch because it continues to be a problem for us." Samulski said. "I have to come in and do a better job of teaching them how to pass to the open player, how to call for the ball, how to call names out when they pass the ball and how to look down court when we're bringing it

"You can't turn the ball over seven times in the fourth quarter when you're down two and expect to win a game — it's just not going to happen."

Canton wasted a phenomenal

performance by senior forward Baylee Hollowell, who defied game-long double teams to register 17 points and 15 rebounds. Defensively, she blocked five shots and altered a few others.

The next most productive Chief was freshman Kayla Bridges, who netted five points. Four other players scored two.

"Baylee is a great worker who deserves all the success she's having right now," said Samulski. "Every team we've played has went all out to stop her, but they haven't been able to. If she keeps working hard like this, she's going to have a great season."

The Highlanders' scoring ledger was as balanced as a tightrope walker as seven players scored, none more than Alysa Asher's nine. Nikki Gunning contributed eight, including a pair of early triples, while Charlie French and

Megan Hatter both chipped in with six.

Howell led 12-11 after one quarter, 20-18 at the half and 28-26 with eight minutes to play. The Highlanders scored the

first eight points of the fourth quarter to put the game on ice. Canton didn't net its first fourthquarter points until Bridges nailed a running jumper in the lane with 1:35 left.

The Chiefs actually outshot the Highlanders from the field, canning 14-of-36 shots (38.8 percent) compared to Howell's 17-of-50 (34 percent) accuracy rating. Neither team sparkled from the free-throw line: Canton hits 2-of-6 freebies while the Highlanders

stripe. Howell turned the ball over just 10 times while Canton racked up 22 give-aways.

buried 3-of-5 from the charity

SOUTHGATE ANDERSON 51, PLYMOUTH 36: On Tuesday in Southgate, the Titans prevailed thanks to senior guard Lindsey Potter's 16 points.

The loss dropped the Wildcats' record to 0-3 while the Titans improved to 2-0. Junior guard Kelsi Robinson paced Plymouth with 11 points, nine of which came on a trio of threes.

Junior forward Shaakira Haywood and sophomore forward Stacey Klonowski both contributed nine points. Hawyood led all rebounders with 12 caromes.

'We're still working on developing the team chemistry we need to win," said Plymouth coach Richelle Reilly. "Our inexperience is showing through in December. We need to just keep getting better, both as a team and as individuals."

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 37, PCA 25: Junior

"We're not quite there yet."

Colligan said, assessing his team's

opening night performance, "but

The Chiefs return to action

Monroe. The opening tip is set for

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 59, PCA 45: Brandon

Bekius won in his debut as coach

Tuesday as host Lutheran High

Westland (1-0) got untracked in

the second half to beat Plymouth

Senior forward Robert Seltz

who outscored PCA 30-21 in the

second half, with 13 points. Sam

Ahlersmeyer, a junior forward,

added 11. Senior forward Nate

Bachert contributed eight points.

Trevor Zinn led the Eagles with

10 points. The Warriors were 7-of-

13 from the foul line, while PCA

"It was a tough game, we

matched up well because both

teams are small," Bekius said. "We

played better the second half. The

first half we were kind of sloppy.

We ran our offense and created a

few more turnovers."

was 11-of-15.

paced the victorious Warriors.

Christian Academy (0-1).

Friday night when they host

guard Allyson Yankee had 19 points, four assists and four steals to propel Lutheran High Westland (1-1) to a non-conference win Tuesday over visiting Plymouth Christian Academy (1-1).

Becca Refenes, a 6-2 junior center, contributed 12 points, 20 rebounds and three assists. Rachel Storck also grabbed 10 rebounds and had three assists.

"We got off to a slow start tonight, but we were able to apply some pressure, get some turnovers and pick the tempo up more to our liking," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade. "We're still learning. We still make silly mistakes and we don't see the whole floor yet, but it will come."

Megan Greve scored seven for PCA, who trailed by only one at halftime, 16-15.

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

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON **Board Proceedings-November 27, 2007**

6:30 P.M. - CLOSED SESSION - PENDING LITIGATION Adjourn: Motion by Zarbo, supported by Bennett to move from closed session to open session at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at 1150 Canton Center S. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Roll Call Members Present: Bennett, Caccamo, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo

Staff Present: Director Eva, Executive Director Santomauro, Director Conklin Adoption of Agenda Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the amended agenda adding C-3 Special Event Status and Installation of Signs for Canton Goodfellows Annual Paper Sale and G-10 Consider Accepting Proposal Submitted by Northwest Consultants Incorporated for Design Survey on Van Born Road from Haggerty to Lilley. Motion carried unanimously. Approval of Minutes Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the Board Minutes of November 13, 2007. Motion carried unanimously. Payment of Bills Motion by Kirchgatter, supported by Bennett to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. CONSENT CALENDAR: Item 1. AUTHORIZE PLACEMENT OF SPECIAL EVENT SIGNAGE FOR 2007 SHOP CANTON HOLIDAY FEST. (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize the placement of signs for the 2007 ShopCanton Holiday Fest event in accordance with the Canton Township Sign Ordinance. Motion Item 2. APPROVE APPOINTMENTS TO THE SENIOR ADVISORY carried unanimously. COUNCIL. (CLS) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the following appointments to the Senior Advisory Council for a three year term beginning January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010, and the Alternates to a one year term, January 1 - December 31, 2008. One nominee would be appointed to fill the remainder of an existing term that would expire in December, 2008.* Pioneer Club: Lynn Walgenbach (current member whose term expires 12/07) Alice Underwood-Alternate Royals Club Elmer Kulp (current member whose term expires 12/07) Carol Evans - Alternate (current member whose term expires 12/07) Zester Club:

Theresa Krolicki, Nancy Horace – Alternate *Katie Maglocci - for a term to expire in December, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT STATUS AND THE INSTALLATION OF SIGNS FOR THE CANTON GOODFELLOWS ANNUAL PAPER SALE. (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve special event status for the Canton Goodfellows annual paper sale and grant approval to install signs advertising the event. Motion carried unanimously. GENERAL CALENDAR: Item 1. CONSIDER RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR MOBILE COMMAND -

2005 UASI GRANT. (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the purchase of a EARS - 2000 JPS - ACU 1000 8 Channel Recording Module and accessories for the Mobile Command through ComSource Inc, 3130 Austin Dr, Rochester Hills, MI 48309 in the amount of \$11,957.00. Funding to come from account #101 860 977 1600 and will be reimbursed through the 2005 UASI grant. Motion carried unanimously. Item 2. MERIT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR NON-UNION CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES' 2008 COMPENSATION. (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the recommendation of the Merit Commission to increase the salaries of the non-union classified employees by 3.0% across-the-board and to increase the salary grade ranges for the non-union classified employees by 3.0%. These increases shall be effective 1/1/2008. Motion carried unanimously. Item 3. CONSIDER ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION. (FBD) Adopt the following resolutions: Resolution #1 WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3) in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary of officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Supervisor is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2008, the salary of the office of Supervisor shall be as follows: Supervisor \$127,073 salary (not directly performing assessing) The foregoing resolution offered by board member Clerk Bennett Supported by board member Kirchgatter Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: Aye: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nay: Caccamo The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Terry G. Bennett, Clerk Resolution #2 WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3) in a township that do officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Clerk is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2008, the salary of the office of Clerk shall be as follows: Clerk \$103,730 salary The foregoing resolution offered by board member Clerk Bennett Supported by board member Trustee Zarbo Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: Aye: Bennett, Caccamo, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nays: None The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Terry G. Bennett, Clerk Resolution #3 WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3) in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary of officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Treasurer is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2008, the salary of the office of Treasurer shall be as follows: Treasurer \$103,730 salary The foregoing resolution offered by board member Clerk Bennett Supported by board member Trustee McLaughlin Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: Aye: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nay: Caccamo The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Terry G. Bennett, Clerk Resolution #4 WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3) in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary of officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Trustee is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2008, the salary of the office of Trustee shall be as follows: Trustee \$12,537 'salary The foregoing resolution offered by board member Clerk Bennett Supported by board member Kirchgatter Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: Aye: Bennett, Kirchgatter, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nay: Caccamo, LaJoy The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Terry G. Bennett, Clerk Motions carried unanimously. Item 4. APPROVE PROPOSAL FOR TOWNSHIP TELEPHONE CARRIER SERVICES (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the bid proposal from AT&T through the State of Michigan MI-Deal Program for telephone carrier services for a three year period from the date of contract signing, and further; that the MI-Deal proposal for long distance telephone services be approved for a two year period from the date of signing. Motion carried unanimously. Item 5. APPROVE BID FOR PRINTING THE 2008 SERVICE DIRECTORY AND CALENDAR. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve the bid submitted by National Wholesale Printing Corporation in the amount of \$11,782 (Communications Account #101-240-900-0000 Printing and Publishing) for printing of the 2008 Service Directory and Calendar. Motion carried unanimously Item 6. APPROVAL OF PRESERVATION PROJECT FOR 425 NORTH RIDGE ROAD. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to accept a donation for the historical house at 425 North Ridge Road from Uptown Ridge Investors, LLC to be moved to the Bartlett-Travis House site and further; To accept a donation to be made by December 15, 2007 by Uptowns Ridge Investors, LLC of \$29,000 to be used to move the house and further; To approve the agreement between the Township and Uptown Ridge Investors, LLC regarding 425 North Ridge Road and further; To approve the following budget amendment in the 2008 Historic Commission Capital Budget to reprogram \$46,000 of funds to complete the project scope and to budget the \$29,000 donation from Uptown Investors, LLC for the project. Increase Revenues: Historic District Commission Donations #101-000-675-8030 \$29,000 Increase (Decrease) Appropriations: Capital Projects-Travis House #101-803-976-0000 \$(42,000) Capital Projects - Historical 101-803-976-1000 \$71,000 Total \$29,000 This budget amendment increases the 2008 Historic District Commission budget from \$122,691 to \$151,691, and the 2008 General Fund budget from \$27,752,963 to \$27,781,963. Motion carried unanimously Item 8. CONSIDER PURCHASE OF COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SERVER SOFTWARE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW FINANCIAL SOFTWARE SYSTEM. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the purchase of computer hardware and software required for the installation of the new financial software system in the amount of \$54,811.01, (General Fund, General Government Department, Capital Outlay - Equipment account #101-200-977-0000) with purchase orders issued to Hewlett Packard for \$38,847.01 and Micro Source, Inc. for \$15,964.00. Motion carried unanimously. Item, 9. CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF HP PRO-LIANT SERVER AND RELATED SOFTWARE TO SUPPORT CityView VERSION 9 THROUGH THE STATE OF MICHIGAN CONTRACT. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize the purchase of the Hewlett-Packard ProLiant Server and related software from Hewlett-Packard and Micro Source, Inc. through the State of Michigan Contract: MI -REMC (WSCAII) (HP-WSCA-04), for a total cost not-to-exceed of \$15,500, with funds from Planning Services Capital Outlay - Computer Equipment account #592-853-977-2580. I further move to approve the following budget amendment for this purchase: Increase (Decrease) Appropriations: Capital Outlay - Computers #101-853-977-2580 \$15,500 Contracted Services #101-853-818-0000 (15,500) Total \$ -0- This budget amendment does not change the Planning Services budget total or the General Fund budget total. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo, Nays: Caccamo Motion carried. Item 10. CONSIDER ACCEPTING PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY NORTHWEST CONSULTANTS INCORPORATED FOR DESIGN SURVEY ON VAN BORN ROAD FROM HAGGERTY TO LILLEY. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize Northwest Consultants Incorporated to complete the design survey for the Van Born Road Improvements for an amount not to exceed \$8,500. Motion carried unanimously. OTHER: Supervisor Yack stated the study session for December 4, 2007 has been cancelled. The next regular Board meeting will be December 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, First Floor, Board Room, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan 48188. ADJOURN: Motion by Zarbo, supported by Bennett to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk -Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Borad Approval. Publish: December 6, 2007

Pioneers too much for Chiefs FROM PAGE BI **BOYS PREP HOOP**

we'll get there."

7 p.m.

Ann Arbor Pioneer's boys basketball team is one of the most highly regarded Class A squads in the state early in the 2007-08 season.

On Tuesday night at Pioneer, Canton found out why.

The Pioneers built a 30-24 halftime lead before cruising to a 56-38 decision in the season-opener for both teams.

We just had a hard time scoring," said Canton Dan Colligan, a short time after his varsity coaching debut had ended. "Pioneer is very good defensively and they forced us to turn the ball over 17 times, which hurt. We saw some high-pressure defense tonight."

The winners padded their lead to 43-33 at the end of the third quarter before outscoring their visitors 13-5 over the final eight minutes. Senior forward Neil Sharma paced the Chiefs with 19 points and eight rebounds. Junior guard Sherif Hassanien had a strong varsity debut, scoring nine points.

Senior forward Will Courtney led a balanced Pioneer attack with 11 points,

Canton canned 8-of-12 free throws while the Pioneers were 4of-10 from the charity stripe.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, December 20, 2007 for the following:

DISASSEMBLE, MOVE, AND REASSEMBLE

room even-steven.

'That's what the threeball can do for you," said Van Wagoner. "It has its advantages, especially when you have a bunch of kids like we do who can make them. That's going to have to be our forte this year."

The lead changed hands six times over the final frenetic 10 minutes as neither team managed to capitalize on a boatload of trips to the foul line.

Anderson took the lead for good – 39-38 – when Carr converted a fast-break layup with just over five minutes left.

The Titans padded their lead to 43-38 before Roberts answered with a pair of driving layups 20 seconds apart to cut the 'Cats' deficit to 43-42.

He nearly handed his team the lead with four minutes to play, however, a referee ruled that Anderson coach Dave Fast had called time out before Roberts stole a pass and headed toward his rim uncontested.

Leading 50-48 with 14.2 seconds to go, Southgate iced the game when Butler hit the first of two free throws. It then secured the rebound off the second-shot miss when Carr tipped a long rebound out to Jon Jaciuk, who was stationed near the top of the key.

Jaciuk was fouled immediately before sinking both free throws to make it 53-48.

Anderson hit just 12-of-26

THE HISTORIC HUGH-CLYDE HOUSE

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

> TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK OE08573951 2x3

NOTICE **CITY OF PLYMOUTH. MICHIGAN** WINTER TAXES - 2007

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2007, and payable through February 28, 2008 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be made at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED during the Christmas Holidays from Friday, December 21, 2007 through Tuesday, January 1, 2008. The Treasurer's office will be OPEN TO ACCEPT TAX PAYMENTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS on Thursday, December 27th, and Friday, December 28th.

۰.

Teresa Cischke, CPFA **City Treasurer**

OE08573017 - 2x3.5

Publish: December 2 & 6, 2007

Publish 12/6/2007

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings-November 20, 2007

A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. Roll LaJoy, **Call** Members Present: Caccamo. Kirchgatter, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Members Absent: Bennett Staff Present: Director Eva, Karen Fox, Jessica Pietka, Bruce Malinczak, John Spencer, Joe Kocinski, Mike Sheppard. Others Present: Bob Lewis, Mark Dvorak, Jason Mavel and Ron Vedder: New World Systems Adoption of Agenda Motion by Kirchgatter, seconded by McLaughlin to approve the agenda. Motion carried by all members present. STUDY SESSION TOPIC Item 1. Financial Software System This presentation informed the Board of Trustees of the results of the selection process for an integrated Financial Software System and answered questions the Board may have had and to provide a demonstration of the system. <u>Adjourn</u> Motion by McLaughlin, supported by Zarbo at 9:05 p.m. to adjourn. Motion carried by all members present.

Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor Terry G. Bennett, Clerk

OE08573453-2x4

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

Publish: 12-6-07

free throws (46 percent) while the Wildcats hit the mark on 8-of-14 from the stripe (57 percent).

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SWIM RESULTS

2007 WILDCAT CHALLENGE SATURDAY AT CANTON H.S.

OVERALL STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth; 2. Holly; 3 Woodhaven; 4. Dundee; 5. Dearborn Edsel rd; 6. Redford Union. 400-yard freestyle relay: 1. Edsel Ford (Cory

Collet, Artur Ludscher, Justin Brassell, Michael Sorice), 3:40.10; 2. Holly, 3:44,38; 3. Plymouth (Jack Gruszczynski, Peter Nolan, Ethan Weiner, Jason Oldani), 3:50.64; 4. Woodhaven, 3:51.96; 5. Dundee, 4:28.86. Ø 200 backstroke relay: 1. Plymouth (Mike

Conger, Chris Wilson, Jack Distel, Adam Wing), 1:54.93; 2. Dundee, 1:55.98; 3. Woodhaven, 1:59.24; 4. Holly, 2:03:58; 5. Edsel Ford, 2:10.28.

200 breaststroke relay: 1. Plymouth (Kyle Dull, Ben Ambrose; Tony McLaughlin, Dan Stoscup), 2:09:01; 2. Dundee, 2:12:15; 3. Redford Union, 2:16:41; 4. Holly, 2:19:69; 5.

Adam Wingi, 4:41.29, 4:60 Ford, 5:10, 8:5, 5 Woodhaven, 2:23.76. 400 medley relay: 1. Woodhaven (Thomas Laurell, Mark Truskowski, Adam Hunt, Patrick Murphy), 4:10, 29, 21, 4:17, 79; 3. Plymouth (Chris Wilson, Justin Scaparo, Peter Nolan, Adam Wingi, 4:41.29, 4. Edsel Ford, 5:10, 85; 5. Dundee, 5:33.44.

Dundee, 5:33.44. 200 butterfly relay: 1. Dundee (Zach Labardee, Marty Smith, Andy Meyer, Tim Imber), 1:45.98; 2. Plymouth (Paul Snyder, Imbery, 1:45:96; 2: Plymouth (Paul Shyder, Jack Distei, Ben Ambrose, Mike Conger), 1:49:08; 3: Woodhaven, 1:56:52; 4: Edsel Ford, 1:56:88; 5: Holly, 2:10:50.
400 medley relay: 1: Plymouth (Dan Stoscup, Tony McLaughlin, Justin Scaparo, Jack Gruszczynski), 4:36:52; 2: Woodhaven, 1:38:78: 3: Holly, 4:39:47; 4: Feda Ford

:38.78: 3. Holly. 4:39.47: 4. Edsel Ford. 4; 5. Redford Union, 4:47.96.

200 medley relay: 1. Dundee (Darrell Tarry, Andy Meyer, Tim Imber, Marty Smith), 1:48.01; 2. Edsel Ford, 1:51.00; 3. Woodhaven, 1:55.45; 4. Plymouth (Adam Wing, Kyle Dull, Ethan Weiner, Jason Oldani), 1:57.38; 5. Holly, 2:02.45

500 freestyle relay: 1. Holly (Mike O'Connor, Nick Keller, Jake Quinnan, Matt Konopitski), 5:03.86; 2. Woodhaven, 5:07.29; 3. Plymouth (Ben Ambrose, Jack Distel, Paul Snyder, Tony McLaughlin), 5:15:52; 4. Edsel Ford, 5:57:66.

600 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Chris Wilson, Jason Oldani, Mike Conger), 6:05.16; 2. Edsel Ford, 6:39.01; 3. Holly, 6:46.53; 4. Woodhaven, 6:56.89; 5. Dundee, 8:12,58.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Holly, 1:37.79; 2. Dundee, 1:38.34; 3. Edsel Ford, 1:38.58; 4. Plymouth (Ethan Weiner, Dan Stoscup, Kyle Dull, Peter Nolan), 1:41.34; 5. Woodhaven, 1:46.14; 6. Redford Union, 1:58.36.

1-meter diving: 1. Dan O'Connor (Holly), 141.50; 2. Chris Ballue (Dundee), 123.75; 3. Josh Gray (Woodhaven), 119.40; 4. Bryan Mann (Plymouth), 117.25; 5. Nick Lyscas (Edsel Ford), 96.45.

KNOW THE SCORE check out the numbers in today's SPORTS section

ALL-AREA SOCCER

Stevenson kickers lead All-Observer field

FIRST TEAM

GK - SASA MISKOVIC, SOPH., SALEM: Only a sophomore, the Novi Catholic Central transfer made a sudden impact on the Rocks and the WLAA as he recorded nine shutouts and was voted to the WLAA's All-Lakes Division team.

"Even though he's only a sophomore, Sasa was one of the top goal-keepers in the state this year," said Salem coach Ed McCarthy. "He has great size for a goalie, he's good at coming out to get the ball and he has tremendous quickness.'

F · COLIN ROLFE, SR., PLYMOUTH: Rolfe was in the running for the state's "Mr. Soccer" award after completing a sensational season in which he netted 28 goals and 22 assists. The four-year varsity player finished his career with a school-record 65 goals and earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Louisville.

"Colin is such a dynamic" player," said Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich. "He was very good as a freshman, but he improved year after year due to his strong dedication to the sport and our program. He played forward and mid-field -- wherever we needed him."

MF - BRIAN KLEMCZAK, JR., STEVENSON: The Spartans co-captain capped off three excellent seasons as a starter, leading the team with eight assists and totaling seven goals and 22 points (third best in both categories).

Klemczak did all that in addition to his strong commitment to defense.

"Brian's high level of fitness allows him to cover a lot of ground and to excel at both ends of the soccer field," said Stevenson head coach Lars Richters. "He is an outstanding student-athlete (4.3 GPA) and a tremendous person away from the field.'

Klemczak earned All-Western Lakes, All-District, All-Region and All-State (second team) honors. Meanwhile, he captained last summer's Michigan Wolves team to a second-place finish at nationals.

D - SCOTT ZECH, JR., CANTON: With a stunning combination of speed, skill and instinct, Zech was one of the state's premier defenders in 2007 and one of the mainstays in Canton's drive to capturing the WLAA championship. Zech is a two-year All-State honoree and is well on his way to a third



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Livonia Stevenson's Brian Klemczak (left) continued to be a major factor in the Spartans' success again this season.

next season.

D - KEVIN COPE, JR., SALEM: Primarily a defender, Cope was called upon on several occasions to spearhead the Rocks' offense off set pieces. Three of the third-team All-State performer's four goals were game-winners, including one against cross-campus rival Canton. Cope was voted on to the WLAA's first-team All-Conference contingent.

"Kevin is one of the top one-vone defenders in the state," said McCarthy. "He's great in the air and he's a very flexible player who we can bring up into our attack.

D - DYLAN GREEN, SR., STEVENSON: Green, a co-captain and second-year starter, earned team MVP honors for Stevenson while netting five goals and five assists from the back line.

For his efforts, he received selection to the All-Conference, All-District, All-Region and All-State (honorable mention). "Dylan has the ability to

be a talented forward," noted Richters. "But he has always placed the team's needs first. As a result, he has developed into a solid, intelligent and skillful back player.'

MF - PAT NOLAN, SR., CANTON: A senior captain, Nolan was one of the

main reasons the Chiefs enjoyed such a stellar 2007 campaign. He earned All-WLAA honors thanks to his all-out-effort style and knack for making big plays and scoring timely goals. D - RON BERGER, SR. GARDEN CITY: Berger

was Garden City's defensive anchor for two seasons, starting every game and being a big reason for the team's 9-8-1 record. In addition to clearing the ball out of danger numerous times in front of the Cougars' goal (he collected three saves), he chipped in with a goal and three assists.

"He is 6-1 with good vertical clearing and (passes) well with his head," said Garden City coach Bill Torni. "The other teams' set plays were hindered by this ability."

He was player of the game seven times and was named the Cougars' MVP, as well as being selected to the all-Mega White and all-district 6 teams. The Livonia Meteors club player intends on continuing with soc-

cer in college. MF- JEREMY STOYCHOFF, JR., SALEM: The Rocks' junior mid-fielder earned All-Lakes and All-District honors thanks to his hustling, unselfish play. While he didn't rack up flashy stats, his skillful passing ability generated plenti-ful scoring opportunities for his teammates.

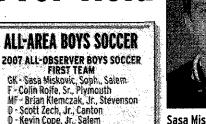
"Jeremy has outstanding vision and a tremendous ability to find the open player with passes," said McCarthy. "He's a very good defender, too.' F - BRYSON MACHONGA, SR., PLY. CHRISTIAN:

Machonga has been an assist machine for the Eagles the past four years, having racked up 54 helpers the past two seasons alone, including 28 with 13 goals in 2007. The captain earned Division 4 All-State honorable mention status.

"Bryson has been a consistent player throughout his career at Plymouth Christian, but he saved his best for last in his senior year," said PCA coach Larry Machonga. "Bryson plays with a lot of confidence and he and Ross (Gerulis) helped lead us to the championship this season.

MF - JOEY D'AGOSTINO, JR., STEVENSON: The second-year starter played virtually every minute of every match for Stevenson, finishing second on the team in assists and sixth in points. His contributions earned him All-Lakes Division honors, as well as All-District selection.

"Joey is a very smart player



D - Scott Zech, Jr., Canton D - Kevin Cope, Jr., Salem D - Dylan Green, Sr., Stevenson MF - Pat Nolan, Sr., Canton D - Ron Berger, Sr. Garden City MF - Jeremy Stoychoff, Jr., Salem F - Bryson Machonga, Sr., Ply. ristian.

Christian MF - Joey D'Agostino, Jr., Stevenson D-Brady Thom, Sr., Stevenson SECOND TEAM F - Nick Chastine, Sr., Red. Thurston D - Adam Bedell, Soph., Churchill

D · Adam Zehel, Sr., Lutheran MF - Brian Chambers, Sr., Garden City MF - Ryan Matthey, Sr., Franklin

MF - Adrián Evionenko, Jr., Stevenson Vinny Carozza, Sr., Churchili Tyler Floyd, Sr., Plymouth Ryan Baglow, Sr., Lutheran Westland

Istiand F - Sherif Hassanien, Jr., Canton D - David Kalvelage, Sr., John Gienn MF - Tim Maher, Sr., Red, Thurston D-MF - Matt Parent, Sr., Clarenceville COACH OF THE YEAR

George Tomasso, Canton HONORABLE MENTION Churchill: Max Washko, Ian Guerin, Ben Churchill, Max Washko, Jan Guerin, Den Zukowski, Matt Regan, Franklin: Zain Qureshi, Steve Trapp, Travis Matthey, Joel Boettcher, Stevenson: Nate Sergison, Kendal Snow, Conner Burton, Justin Collins, John Glenn: Khalid Suleiman, Jacob Gates, Sergio Pavan, Jeff Thompson Nelson Kenne.

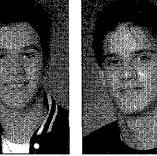
Neison Aeine. Wayne: Stephen Maynor, Tim Hubbard, Alex Ball, Stefan Harrison, Eric Schmitt, Plymouth: Trevor Floyd, Mike Korona, Evan Yoder, Austin Kaczanowsky. Canton: Logan McGraw, Mark Edwards, Tim Belcher, Joel Langdon, Kyle Breitmeyer, Brandon Burt, Phil Rollings, Salem, Josh Pascarella, Dan Radosevich cott Dreaver, Jace Bearden, Matt Garden City: Joe Clor, Chad Hallam,

Garacer Grey Construction Tyler Arban. Thurston: Chris Clay, Luke Toppa, Doug Weldon, Jake Cravens. Redford Union: Jon Kappler, Chris Gibbs, Dorian Bradford, Josh Thompson. Liv. Clarenceville: Phil Strachan, Malt Caract: Daniel Pebal.

Garant, Daniel Pepal. Lutheran Westland, Josh Kruger, Micah Hausch, Aaron Derminer, Huron Valley Lutheran: Aaron Howell, Plymouth Christian: Jordan Machonga, Ross Gerulis, Spencer Wiard, Brent Zinn, Tenner Zing Trevor Zinn. **Canton Agape:** Brandon Pierson, Donald Mullett, Mark Mullett, Joel Ruffin, Jared

with good skill level and the ability to keep possession of the ball," Richters said. "He has a knack for positioning himself in just the right places. When he wasn't on the field, we simply were not the same team."

D'Agostino, meanwhile, was captain of the Michigan Wolves 15Û team that won the national championship in summer 2007. D - BRADY THOM, SR., STEVENSON: Thom,



Colin Rolfe

Plymouth

Kevin Cope

Salem

Salem

Stevenson

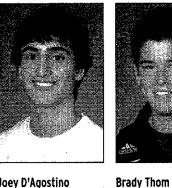
Sasa Miskovic Salem



Scott Zech Canton



Ron Berger Garden City



Joey D'Agostino Stevenson

a co-captain and second-year starter for the Spartans, was a major factor why Stevenson gave up just six goals in 20 games this season, said Richters. That perhaps was why teammates honored him with the team's. "Unsung Hero Award."

"Brady is one of the nicest young men to go through our program," the coach continued.





Dylan Green Stevenson



Jeremy Stoychoff

Bryson Machonga Plymouth Christian

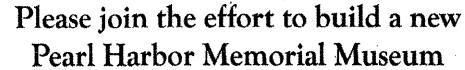


George Tomasso Canton coach

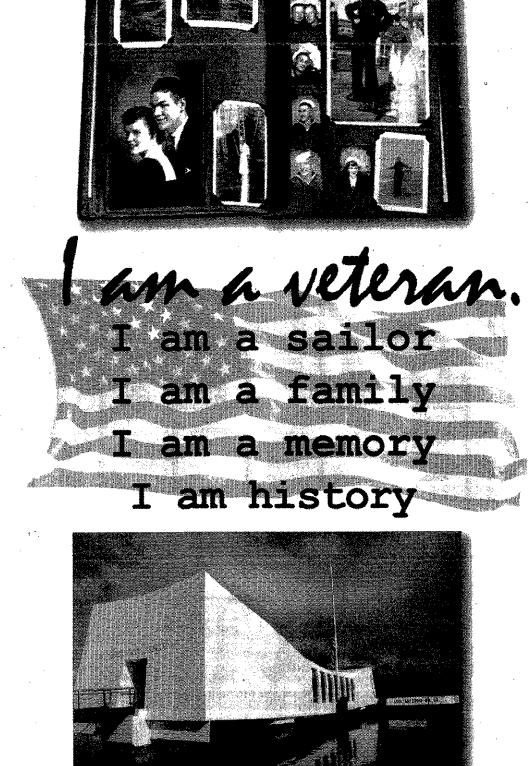
"He had the respect of everyone on the team for his willingness to do whatever the team needed without looking to take any of the credit.

COACH OF THE YEAR GEORGE TOMASSO, CANTON: Tomasso led the Chiefs to the Western Lakes Activities Association championship in 2007.

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The USS Arizona Memorial

& Visitor Center.

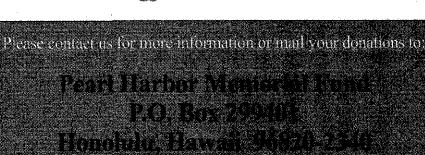
The Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund needs your help to preserve the memories of the greatest generation.

The current USS Arizona Memorial museum and visitor center, built in 1980, is not only over-crowded, it is sinking into its Pearl Harbor landfill.

Many of the artifacts donated by veterans and their families, like the Paxton Carter scrapbook, can not be exhibited due to these deteriorating conditions.

You can have a direct impact on the preservation and protection of American history.

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007





BY JULIE BROWN STAFF WRITER

Stephen Piazza, vice president at Livonia-based Quicken Loans, is familiar with government-backed loans for military veterans.

"My parents did it," as did many others of the post-World War II era seeking homes, he noted.

These days, VA loans carry a surcharge/funding fee of 2 percent of the loan amount. Livonia-based Quicken doesn't handle VA loans, but does have other options returning veterans can consider.

There's the Community 100 loan, with zero down for a home and no VA funding fee. There's a maximum \$68,000 annual income, Piazza said, although one spouse could qualify for the loan alone with both names on the home title.

"It's there to encourage homeownership just like the VA is," he said. The VA can be fussier on affordability. Loans similar to Community 100 are offered by other lenders under different names.

"It's not a big part of the market," Piazza said of returning vets. In the wake of problems with subprime loans, the VA route has become more popular.

People leaving military service get a packet of information when discharged, Piazza said. "Most of the marketing comes through the lenders."

He's asked often what is a good loan, and emphasizes a good loan as compared to what, "You have to pay a premium for a VA loan." He and his colleagues have recommended VA loans for some people.

"I think you'll see more lenders offer VA loans." Some do now, and he anticipates more will make them available.

Piazza urges veterans, and borrowers in general, to negotiate a purchase price to keep closing costs down with seller's assistance.

"It's a worthwhile benefit," he said of the VA, adding the government doesn't give the loan but insures it. "It's a worthwhile option compared to what it was a year ago."



Some loans for vets guaranteed by government

Here is a Q&A from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Q: What is a VA Guaranteed Home Loan?

A: VA guaranteed loans are made by private lenders, such as banks, savings & loans, or mortgage companies to eligible veterans for the purchase of a home which must be for their own personal occupancy. The guaranty means the lender is protected against loss if you or a later owner fail to repay the loan. The guaranty replaces the protection the lender normally receives by requiring a down payment allowing you to obtain favorable financing terms.

Q: What is pre-purchase counseling and why is it helpful?

A: Pre-purchase counseling gives a person information on (1) the process of buying a home, (2) the key players in the home buying process, and (3) debt management. The goal is to create a more well informed homebuyer. While VA does not require such counseling, we strongly recommend it. There is usually no

A: No, VA cannot compel a lender to make a loan that would violate their lender policies. Lenders must also comply with VA income and credit standards. If a lender is unwilling to make a loan to you, we can only suggest that you try other lenders.

Q: How much is my entitlement?

A: Your basic entitlement is \$36,000. For loans in excess of \$144,000 to purchase or construct a home, additional entitlement up to an amount equal to 25 percent of the Freddle Mac conforming loan limit for a single family home may be available. This loan limit changes yearly. This means that qualified veterans could get a no down payment purchase loan of up to \$417,000 through December 31, 2006 effective January 1, 2006. Q: Is there a maximum loan limit? A: There is no maximum VA loan. Lenders will generally lend up to four times the amount of a veteran's entitlement without requiring a down

payment. Q: How do I get a Certificate of

records. However, veterans are encouraged to ask their lenders about this method of obtaining a certificate. You can apply for a Certificate of Eligibility by submitting a completed VA Form 26-1880, Request For A Certificate of Eligibility, to the Winston-Salem Eligibility Center, along with proof of military service. In some cases it may be possible for VA to establish eligibility without your proof of service. However, to avoid any possible delays, it's best to provide such evidence. Q: How do I obtain a VA Home Loan?

A: Here are the steps:

Select a home and discuss the purchase with the seller or selling agent. Sign a purchase contract conditioned on approval of your VA home loan. Select a lender, present them with your Certificate of Eligibility and complete a loan application. The lender will develop all credit and income information. They will, also request VA to assign a licensed appraiser to determine the reasonable value for the property. A Certificate of Reasonable Value will be issued. Note: You may be required to pay for the credit report and appraisal unless the seller agrees to pay.- -The lender will let you know the decision on the loan. You should be approved if the established value and your credit and income are acceptable. You (and spouse) attend the loan closing. The lender or closing attorney will

HOMES SOLD

explain the loan terms and requirements as well as where and how to make the monthly payments. Sign the note, mortgage, and other related papers. The loan is sent to VA for guaranty. Your Certificate of Eligibility is annotated to reflect the use of entitlement and returned to you.

Q: What are the benefits of a VA home loan?

A: There are many benefits of a VA Home loan: Equal opportunity. No down payment (unless required by the lender or the purchase price is more than the reasonable value of the property).

Buyer informed of reasonable value. Negotiable interest rate. Ability to finance the VA funding fee (plus reduced funding fees with a down payment of at least 5 percent and exemption for veterans receiving VA compensation). Closing costs are comparable with other financing types (and may be lower).

A: Guarantee that a home is free of defects. VA guarantees only the loan. It is your responsibility to assure that you are satisfied with the property being purchased. The VA appraisal is not intended to be an "inspection" of the property. You should seek expert advice (a qualified residential inspection service), as necessary, BEFORE legally committing to a purchase agreement. If you have a home built, VA cannot compel the builder to correct construction defects although VA does have the authority to suspend a builder from further participation in the home loan program.

VA cannot guarantee that you are making a good investment. VA cannot provide you with legal services.

Q: Is a guaranteed loan a gift? A: No, it must be repaid, just as you must repay any money you borrow. If you fail to make the payments you agreed to make, you may lose your home through foreclosure.

Q: Can I get a loan for a home outside

Placing lien won't do job alone

Q. Our homeowners association is experiencing a number of foreclosures by the mortgage companies and the board is finally deciding to put liens on the homes for nonpayment of assessments. However, the board doesn't want to take any further action. They are thinking that they will get their money when the home is sold. What are your thoughts?

A. The association has a responsibility to collect

assessments in a timely fashion. While it is necessary and appropriate to put a lien on the home to

indicate the delinquent

assessment, it is also imperative that the association, in most cases, take affirmative action to foreclose on the lien or otherwise pursue collection efforts. Merely placing a lien on a home does not result in the money being paid and if you think you're going to get the money when the home is sold, particularly in Michigan's economy at the present time, you may be waiting a couple of years. You should consult a knowledgeable community association lawyer who can give you good advice as to the alternatives you have available to collect the funds now.



charge for the housing counseling. An excellent online source of information for first time homebuyers is provided by Ginnie Mae.

To locate a housing counseling office, call (800) 569-4287. or visit HUD's Web site. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) maintains both the phone number and Web site. Q: Does my entitiement guarantee that I will get a home loan?

Elicibility?

A: ACE (automated certificate of eligibility): It may be possible to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from your lender. Most lenders have access to the ACE system. This Internet-based application can establish eligibility and issue an online Certificate of Eligibility in a matter of seconds. Not all cases can be processed through ACE - only those for which VA has sufficient data in our

No mortgage insurance premiums. An assumable mortgage Right to prepay without penalty. For homes inspected by VA during construction, a warranty from builder and assistance from VA to obtain cooperation of builder. VA assistance to veteran borrowers in default due to temporary financial difficulty. Q: What can VA not do?

of the United States? A: Unfortunately, the law only allows VA

to quarantee loans on property in the United States, its territories, or possessions.

Q: Can I get a VA loan if I have had a bankruptcy in the last few years? A: The fact you and/or your spouse have been adjudicated bankrupt does not in

\$365,000

\$221,000 \$190,000

\$170,000

\$165.000

\$108,000

\$320,000 \$145,000

\$90,000 \$132,000

\$85,000

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\$65,000

\$157,000

\$71,000

Please see VA, C4

Redford

South Lyon

Please see HOMES, C4

51075 Powell Rd

9121 Beech Daly Rd

101 S Union St 101 S Union St

743 York St

9999 Berwyn

25425 Glendale

15540 Kinloch

19982 Lennane

24848 Lyndon

20010 Lexinaton

19480 Macarthur

19444 Poinciana

19799 Poinciana

11379 Riverdale

11652 Rockland

18668 Seminole

17627 Wakender

25225 Westfield

8834 Winston

8846 Winston

12835 Wormer

61110 Palamino Ct

21011 Parkwoods Dr

1950 Alexander Dr

35232 Bakewell St

32618 Birchwood St

7394 Central St

345 Ash Ct

Westland

25432 Southwick

9340 Salem

9209 Hemingway

Q. I'm thinking about redoing a building in downtown Montreal and am wondering if you have any comments? I have been successful in lofts in Detroit and am wondering what the going price is?

A. Based upon my research, we're talking about approximately \$400 a square foot for the purchase price of condominium lofts in downtown Montreal, depending upon the location. You are best advised to consult with a real estate agent, although there are a number of condominiums being converted and/or constructed in the river front area.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

Y.

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 6-10, 2007, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices. Canton \$225,000 \$420,000

46605 Aarons Way 212 Alexandria Ct 43002 Arlington Rd 41529 Bedford Dr \$180,000 \$98,000 \$450,000 \$192,000 50627 Belmont Ct 6637 Brookshire Dr 43497 Cherrywood Ln \$200,000 46797 Creeks Bnd \$220,000 \$204,000 \$349,000 6776 Devonshire Dr 44946 Dionne St \$98,000 \$354,000 2033 E Franklin Dr 7066 Festival Ct 47528 Glengarry Bivd 44202 Harsdale Dr \$385,000 \$220,000 \$175,000 \$1,325,000 1900 Hawks Nest Ct 49546 Hollywood Di 6513 Kings Mill Dr 2017 Knollwood Dr \$341,000 \$175,000 \$187,000 \$340,000 44217 Leeann Ln 47083 Lyndon Ave 41860 North Dr 48101 Park Lane Ct \$240,000 \$323,000 \$333,000 \$417,000 47835 Pavillon Rd 47854 Pavillon Rd \$407,000 \$179,000 358 Pinehurst Dr 2131 Preserve Cir E

365 Princess Dr \$205,000 \$275,000 \$325,000 47585 River Woods Dr 47669 River Woods Dr 3509 Shepherd Ln 47597 Vistas Circle Dr N \$232,000 \$262,000 Farmington 33494 Alta Loma St \$131,000 35564 Heritage Ln Farmington Hills \$170,000 32711 Balmoral Knis 23028 Cora Ave \$153.000 \$150,000 29237 Laurel Dr 21382 Magnolia Ct \$135,000 \$193,000 30075 Minglewood Ln 32363 Nottingwood St \$175,000 \$250,000 21543 Riverwalk Ct 31561 Rocky Crst \$351,000 \$273,000 \$74,000 \$300,000 30715 Shiawassee Rd 30681 Sunderland Dr Garden City 6918 Burnly St \$112,000 32505 Cambridge St 28428 Donnelly St \$125,000 \$48,000 28461 Donnelly St 7016 Gilman St \$103,000 \$145,000 28468 Kathryn St \$128,000 \$129,000 33171 Kathryn St \$130,000 \$145,000 29545 Rosslyn Ave 32638 Rosslyn Ave 6526 Sharon St \$142,000 \$145,000 28653 Warren Rd 29895 Windsor St \$83.000 \$138,000 29896 Windsor St Livonia \$178,000 9725 Adams St 14327 Arden St \$145,000

14155 Berwick St

\$193,000

28538 Broadmoor St \$165,000 34016 Burton Ln 11498 Cardwell St \$220,000 \$145,000 \$141,000 \$150,000 11751 Cardwell St 8877 Denne St 36642 Dowling St 9974 E Clements Cir \$156,000 \$155,000 14122 Edgewood St \$185,000 \$310,000 30536 Fairfax St \$158,000 \$175,000 19507 Fitzgerald St 31704 Haldane St 14566 Harrison St \$280,000 \$185,000 11035 ingram St 9040 Iowa St 31722 Joy Rd \$160,000 \$133,000 33119 Kentucky St \$153.000 \$109,000 27815 Long St 18945 Loveland St \$157,000 \$147,000 14123 Lyons St 18549 Milburn St \$129,000 29896 Orangelawn St \$168,000 35582 Orangelawn St 33971 Plymouth Rd \$170,000 \$550,000 14047 Sunset St \$169,000 17955 University Park Dr \$115,000 18720 Vanderhaven Ln \$170.000 30637 Westfield St \$173,000 Milford 1219 E Commerce St \$145,000 \$146,000 \$383,000 824 E Huron St 3085 Exeter Dr 876 Panorama Ct \$166,000 Northville \$428.000 601 Ashley Ct 44289 Deep Hollow Cir \$580,000 \$258,000 17233 Lilly Pad Ct \$380,000 17800 Maple Hill D

18600 Marble Head Dr	\$760,000
46637 Merion Cir	\$540,000
16009 Morningside	\$155,000
16010 Morningside	\$169,000
365 Orchard Dr	\$165,000
18853 Pinehollow Ln	\$440,000
620 Potomac St	\$438,000
204 Randolph St 40122 Rupping Trouble	\$578,000
49133 Running Trout Ln 418 W Dunlap St	\$455,000 \$399,000
44415 White Pine Cir E	\$510,000
48430 Wicker Creel Dr	\$224,000
Novi	9224,000
45155 Bartlett Dr	\$115.000
41317 Beacon Rd	\$359,000
47495 Cheitenham Dr	\$550,000
47714 Cheltenham Dr	\$185,000
22654 Chestnut Tree	\$190,000
41416 Glyme St	\$215,000
27859 Hopkins Dr	\$157,000.
27869 Hopkins Dr	\$170,000
41325 Singh Blvd	\$237,000
27500 Sloan St	\$285,000
27194 Victoria Rd	\$334,000
Plymouth 800 Arthur St	\$85.000
1048 Beech St	\$245,000
15050 Bradner Ave	\$218,000
11415 Brownell Ave	\$157,000
45952 Concord Dr	\$325,000
12721 Essex Ct	\$425,000
14536 Farmbrook Dr	\$170.000
600 Irvin St	\$197,000
9170 Manton Ave	\$175,000
11886 N Canton Center Rd	\$299,000
9295 Northern Ave	\$160,000
305 Pacific St	\$239,000

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Thinking	Real	ESLd			Think	IUDF

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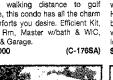
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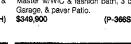


(P-366SP)





Freshly painted St. James on a quiet street. Large island Kit w/all appl's. spacious Fam Rm w/frpl, formal DR





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C4 (*)

REAL ESTATE

VA FROM PAGE C1

itself disgualify you for a VA home loan. The following rules apply:

If the bankruptcy was discharged more than two years ago, it may be disregarded

If the bankruptcy was discharged within the last one to two years, it is probably not possible to determine that you and/or your spouse are a satisfactory credit risk unless both of the following requirements are met:

you and/or your spouse have reestablished satisfactory credit, and

the bankruptcy was caused by circumstances beyond your and/or your spouses control (such as unemployment, medical bills, etc.) If the bankruptcy was discharged within the past 12 months, it will not generally be possible to determine that you and/or your spouse are satisfactory credit risks.

Q: Why do I have to pay a fee for a VA home loan? Since I paid a fee for my first loan, why is there a larger fee for my second loan?

A: The VA funding fee is required by law. The fee is intended to enable the veteran who obtains a VA home loan to contribute toward the cost of this benefit, and thereby reduce the cost to taxpayers. The funding fee for second time users who do not make a down payment is slightly higher. The idea of a higher fee for second time use is based on the fact that these veterans have already had a chance to use the benefit once, and also that prior users have had time to accumulate equity or save money towards a down payment. Second-time users who make a down payment of at least 5 percent pay a reduced funding fee of 1.5 percent, the same as first-time users making the same down payment. For a 10 percent down payment, the fee drops to 1.25 percent. The effect of the funding fee on a veteran's financial situation is minimized since the fee may be financed in the loan. National Guard and Reservist veterans pay a slightly higher funding fee percentage. Q: I want to buy a house with a VA loan. Do I need to occupy the property? A: The law requires that you certify that you

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intend to occupy the property as your home. This requirement is considered satisfied if you actually intend to occupy the property as your home and in fact so occupy it when the loan is closed or within a reasonable time afterward.

Q: I am a single veteran stationed overseas and want to buy a home in my hometown. My friends who are married can do this with their spouses occupying the property in their place, but VA says I can't do this with my parents or other relatives occupying on my behalf. Isn't this discrimination against single veterans?

Q: May a veteran join with a nonveteran who is not his or her spouse in obtaining a VA loan?

A: Yes, but the guaranty is based only on the veteran's portion of the loan. The guaranty cannot cover the nonveteran's part of the loan. Consult lenders to determine whether they would be willing to accept applications for joint loans of this type. Lenders that are willing to make these types of loans will likely require a down payment to cover risk on the unguaranteed, nonveteran's portion of the loan. Unlike other loans, the lender must submit joint loans to VA for approval before they are made.

Both incomes can be used to qualify for the loan. However, the veteran's income must be sufficient to repay at least that portion of the loan related to the veteran's interest in (portion of) the property and the nonveteran's income must be adequate to cover the rest.

Q: If a veteran dies before the loan is paid off, will the VA guaranty pay off the balance of the loan?

A: No. The surviving spouse or other co-borrower must continue to make the payments. If there is no Co-borrower, the loan becomes the obligation of the veteran's estate. Mortgage life insurance is available but must be purchased from private insurance sources.

Read

Sports

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A: The law specifically provides that occupancy by the veteran's spouse satisfies the personal occupancy requirement. The law makes no provision for occupancy by any other relatives as a substitute for personal occupancy by the veteran.

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CELEBRATING



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Sector Sector





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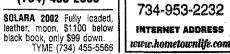
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CLASSIC GLAZE RECIPE

1 cup sugar ½ teaspoon cinnamon ½ teaspoon paprika ½ teaspoon cloves Pinch nutmeg

Mix ingredients. Lay wax paper on a flat surface and pour some of the mixture onto the wax paper. Roll the outer surface of the ham in the mixture until it is well coated. Put the sugar mixture coated ham on a plate or lazy susan so you can spin it. Use a butane torch to caramelize the sugar. Wave it quickly so the sugar bubbles but does not burn. This process may take about 10 minutes if you are being slow and careful.

Savory glaze recipe: Mix 1 cup brown sugar and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown mustard, then spread on the ham. Put the coated ham on a plate so you can spin it. Use the mini torch with lowest flame to caramelize the mixture. Wave it quickly so the mixture bubbles but does not burn. *Courtesy of Pam Cole.*

HAM RECIPES

Here are three different ways to serve pam's ham featuring a different meal during the week with limited prep time, according to Pam Cole, owner of pam's-hams.com.

HAMMY QUICHE

Cook time: 45 minutes Prep Time: 10 Minutes 9-inch pie crust shell 3 eggs 1 ½ cups half and half

1 ½ cups shredded cheddar cheese

1 cup chopped cubed ham

Salt and pepper to taste

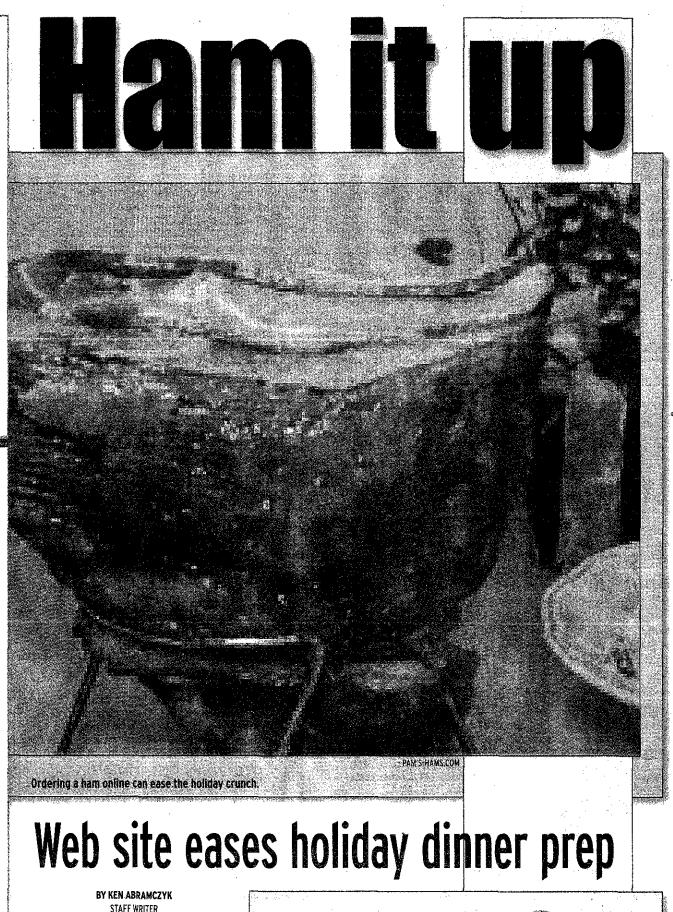
Optional: chopped spinach, onions or mushrooms

Sprinkle half the cheese on the pie crust, whisk remaining ingredients and pour into pie crust. Bake at 375 degrees F for 45 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Remove and let stand for 10 minutes before serving. Serves four.

Note: If you don't have half and half handy, use the milk in your refrigerator and add ½ stick melted butter.

CHEF SALAD EXTRAORDINAIRE

Cook time: 0 minutes, Prep Time: 10 minutes





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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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REAL TREES ARE EARTH FRIENDLY

According to the Michigan Christmas Tree Association, real trees are the right environmental choice.

ALCONTRACTOR

Unlike artificial trees which are made from plastic, real Christmas trees are renewable and recyclable," says Jill O'Donnell, a Christmas tree specialist with the MSU Extension Service. "However, many people still perceive cutting trees down as bad for the environment and that's not the case. Real Christmas trees no longer come from the forest. They are grown on farms throughout North America.'

According to MCTA, for every Christmas tree harvested, up to three more are planted the following spring. Christmas trees typi-

cally take 7-10 years

before harvest and as

1 cup chopped ham 4 slices swiss cheese sliced 4 slices cheddar cheese sliced 2 hard boiled eggs chopped ½ cucumber sliced One head of iceberg lettuce chopped.

Combine all ingredients and serve with a favorite dressing, or combine ½ cup each ranch and thousand island dressing, or combine ½ cup each Italian dressing (Pam Cole likes Newman's) and Caesar dressing (again, Cole prefers Newman's.) Serves 4.

JAMBALAYA

Cook time: 30 minutes Prep Time: 15 minutes 1½ cups ham, diced 1 large onion, diced 1 can okra, drained ½ green pepper, chopped 2 cloves minced garlic 1 cup uncooked rice 1 can (14 oz.) diced tomatoes ½ cup chicken broth 2 tablespoons olive oil Hot pepper sauce (Tabasco or other) Salt and pepper, to taste

In a large saucepan, brown onions, garlic, okra and green pepper in olive oil about 5 minutes. Add remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer until rice is cooked (about 25 minutes). Serves 4.

For other recipe suggestions, visit pam'shams.com. Recipes courtesy of Pam Cole. school at a local Dairy Queen. Ice cream always put the customers in a good mood.

Pam Cole remembers her job in high

"Everybody was happy," she remembers.

Fast forward past a marketing job and that fun and "feel good" rationale also drew her into a new business which involved a food enjoyed over the Christmas holiday — Cole owns pam's-hams.com, an Internet site where visitors can order a fully-cooked spiral sliced ham glazed with sugar and honey.

"Customers like (ham), and it's something that makes the holidays easier," Cole said about her business. "I like the tradition and the memories, people are happy around it and it simplifies people's lives."

The former marketing director for Honey Baked Ham started her Commerce Township-based business because "it's what I know," she said.

She left Honey Baked and worked at an ad agency for one year before starting pam's-hams.com. "I left because I needed more flexibility with my family," Cole said. "Working outside the home got to a point where there was no more leeway. (Honey Baked) was very accommodating," Cole worked there for 11 years, and for seven of those 11 years, she had children to take care of, she says. "(The company was) as good as they could be."

Cole said she has a 100 percent guarantee on her product. 'It is fabulously good," she said. (And she's right. It is good. The ham has a sweet, smoky flavor.) Hams aren't the only foods sold on the Web site. She also sells smoked turkey, side dishes and desserts for those



Pam Cole sits with her children, Parker and Paulina. Cole launched a Web site earlier this year where customers can order hams.

serving the ham as a dinner, and other gift items to send to friends and family.

She also promotes the hams' low carbs, which she says is only I gram of carbohydrates per serving compared to 9 grams in other brand hams. "Meat in and of itself is supposed to be low carb," she said. "We pump a cure into it and get a smoky taste. Others use sugars, but we use more of a smoky taste. It has only one gram of carbs. The high carbs (of the others) often catch people by surprise."

You don't heat this ham, either. Cole provided some cooking tips.

"If hams don't have extra water added, you don't heat it," Cole said. "If you add

Piease see HAM, D3

they grow, they help counteract possible greenhouse effects. produce oxygen and clean the air, and provide wildlife habitat. After the holidays, trees can be chipped into mulch for hiking trails, playgrounds, animal stalls or landscaping. Many communities collect whole trees for river shoreline stabilization, sand dune erosion prevntion, marshland sedimentation, fish habitat, even hazardous chemical clean-ups. Homeowners can use them for winter garden decoration and wild bird feeders, In addition, selecting a locallygrown tree supports the state's economy. Michigan supplies three million trees to the national market every year, the third largest supplier of the United States. For more informa-

tion, and to view a MCTA Choose & Cut Guide, visit www.mcta. org.

Clearing off shelves reveals tasty 2007 leftovers



hroughout the year I accumulate gadgets, software and services that, individually, don't warrant an entire column. But they're still noteworthy, so allow me to share some tech love while I clean house.

EXTEND YOUR NETWORK

Tech Savvy Rick Broida

In my folks' house, built in the early 70s, it is impossible to get a Wi-Fi signal to travel beyond one room. We've tried numerous routers, always with the same head-scratching result. And I know many others who've encountered similar Wi-Fi Kryptonite issues. So how's a home user supposed to ferry

their Internet connection from, say, the downstairs den to an upstairs bedroom? Answer: a powerline networking kit. You plug one little box into an AC adapter near

your router, then connect an Ethernet cable to an available port. Next, you plug a second box into an AC adapter in the room where you want Internet access; its Ethernet cable connects to your

PC's Ethernet jack. The Internet travels through your home's The ActionTec MegaPlug AV kit uses your home's electrical wires to carry Internet access from one room to another.

electrical wires. Sounds nutty, but it works — and it's super-easy to set up. I've been using the ActionTec MegaPlug AV (actiontec.com) in my own home to serve Internet access to my Xbox 360, and it works like a champ. The two-adapter kit sells for \$169.99, though I've seen it for less online (try PriceGrabber.com).

EDIT YOUR VIDEO

For the past month I've been trying to use Adobe Premiere Elements 4.0 (adobe.com) to edit a family vacation video — but finally I

Please see TECH SAVVY, D2

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Check Inday's SPORTS 83

Profile of a Paw Print Inn Guest

Name: Cody Favorite toy: Squeaky frog

Got Game?

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gave up and went back to Pinnacle Studio 11. Not because Elements is lacking in features or difficult to use. In fact, it's quite powerful and fairly easy to pick up, though the interface does seem complicated compared with Studio's.

No, I abandoned Elements because I couldn't figure out how to do certain basic tasks, like edit titles and add a black overlay to the beginning of my video. In Studio, I learn by fiddling. Elements frequently sent me to the online help, where I didn't always find answers.

Still, for anyone interested in video editing, I highly recommend downloading the free trial version. If you're willing to face the learning curve, you'll find it offers impressive power for the price (\$99.99).

LISTEN TO BOOKS

If you love audiobooks as much as I do, you'll definitely want to check out Simply Audiobooks (simplyaudiobooks.com).

The site offers books for rent and download, all of them at very competitive prices. For example, the Download Club lets you download books to play on your PC, burn to CD, or copy to your MP3 player or phone. (Alas, getting books onto iPods requires a bit of hoop-jumping.)

Plans range from \$14.95 per month for one book to \$27.95 per month for three books, with discounts available if you prepay annually.

You can also rent audiobook CDs, Netflix-style. The \$17.98/month plan lets you check out one



Web service Simply Audiobooks lets you rent audiobook CDs just like you rent DVDs from Netflix. You can also download audiobooks directly to your PC.

selection at a time, with no late fees, due dates or shipping charges.

The service carries over 22,000 CDs and about 6,000 downloads. Long-time favorite Audible. com carries a lot more of the latter, but doesn't offer CDs. If you prefer the simplicity of popping a book into your car's CD player, give Simply Audiobooks a try.

Meanwhile, don't forget to visit your local library, where you can check out (and in some cases even download) audiobooks free of charge.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books, including How to Do Everything with Your Palm Powered Device, Sixth Edition. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail. com.

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*Dr. Gordon has moved from the Michigan Medical Associates Building on Main Street in Plymouth and is no longer affiliated with Dr. Najam Syed or Michigan Medical Associates.



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extra juices, you end up cooking it and giving it texture because you have the extra water in it. You get a lunch meat flavor and it's milder.

"But with my company's ham, just take it out of the refrigerator and serve it as it is."

The logo features a woman in a black dress, which symbolizes the simplicity and versatility of ham. "(The black dress) is a staple of the wardrobe," Cole said. "You get can get dressed up with it, or dress down for the occasion. You can serve the ham as a fancy dish or a casual gathering, and everyone really loves it."

You won't find these hams at the local grocer's. The hams are usually shipped within one week, with no deliveries on weekends. Shipping usually costs \$15 with the exception of several Western states where it costs \$30 and \$5 for each additional item, according to her Web site. "I have no intentions of working them into stores. I want to keep the costs down with the Web site and service," Cole said. Customers should order by Dec. 15.

She shares her recipes on her Web site, such as macaroni salad, and tomato and bacon salad. She has holiday recipes for side dishes she "absolutely loves." "You can use ham for five different days, it is such a versatile meat, and it's as good on a club sandwich as it is on au gratin potatoes." She loves ham and eggs, frying the eggs in the same pan as the ham once the ham is cooked.

This Christmas is Cole's first with the new Web site and business. "I'm excited about the holidays," Cole said. "I'm not driving to the office every day. I hope to enjoy what the holidays are all about. I hope to take a little stress out of people's lives and make them 'DQ happy'."

For more information on the hams, other foods, shipping and ordering, visit www.pam's-hams.com or call 1-888-PAMS-002 (888-726-7002).

parkling wines made by the méthode traditionelle (Champagne method) are unique since they undergo two fermentations.

The first produces a still white wine from primarily chardonnay and pinot noir. The for 18 months in the bottle on second occurs in the bottle, where carbon dioxide produced during fermentation cannot escape and dissolves in the wine. Carbon dioxide pressure in the bottle may reach 90 pounds per square inch or six times normal atmospheric pressure.

The second fermentation may occur in various bottle sizes, principally 750mL (standard size) and 1.5L (a magnum). We have had the opportunity to taste sparkling wines from these bottle sizes side by side and much prefer the taste quality of the wine from magnum.

MUMM NAPA

All that said, we recently tasted the wines of Mumm Napa in magnum, which confirmed our opinion. For purposes of planning, a magnum will serve 12 four-ounce pours.

Mumm Napa was founded in 1983 by French Champagne winemaker Guy Devaux. The winery is located on the Silverado Trail in Napa Valley, overlooking the vineyards of Rutherford. If you are planning a trip to California wine country, include Mumm Napa. The winery has a full-service tasting patio, in-depth tours and an excellent collection of art photography.

Current winemaker Ludovic Dervin dubs the Mumm Napa Brut Prestige \$48/magnum "the quintessential Napa Valley sparkling wine." We say this wine defines the Mumm Napa house style.

Grapes for this bottling are harvested by hand at night and placed in small boxes so they arrive cool and in perfect condition at the winery. Grapes are pressed immediately and gen-

fermentation. In spring, the wines from 80 different vineyard lots are blended, sugar and yeast are added and placed in bottles for the second fermentation. The wines are aged the yeasts lees.



ing to remove the lees, the wine spends another three months aging in the bottle to marry the wine

dosage. Ray & Eleanor

EFFORTS Heald REWARDED

The result of this effort is a wine that features aromas of fresh flowers, a crisp mouthfeel with a steady stream of bubbles and flavors of citrus, melon and peach, followed by an extended finish. It is an excellent aperitif, but also a splendid wine to provide pleasure throughout a meal.

Mumm Napa Blanc de Noirs

tetete

tly to yield the juice for the first (white wine from black grapes) \$48/magnum is a blend of 85 percent pinot noir and 15 percent chardonnay. Still red wine is added to maintain the wine's lovely coral-pink color. It showcases pinot noir fruit characters of cherries, raspberries and strawberries and complements mild to spicy cuisine. When serving it as an aperitif, slightly salty appetizers like smoked salmon, parmesan cheese or even popcorn are best.

Celebrate the holidays with sparkling magnums

Mumm Napa Reserve Brut \$60/magnum exhibits the distinctive flavors that 36 months of aging on the lees provides. Toast, fresh bread, and spice aromas introduce a harmonious blend of red fruits, vanilla and cream.

Small bubbles collect at the surface to provide an elegant mousse. Balanced acidity keeps the flavors fresh and crisp, ending with a hint of hazelnuts. Try this wine with light meats like pork or veal and any type of seafood.

Mumm Napa 2000 DVX \$50/750mL (tasted in standard format) is the tête de cuvée that

honors founder Guy Devaux. This is Mumm Napa's best of the best. Winemakers barrel fermented 30 percent of this best lots wine, composed of equal quantities of pinot noir and chardonnay. It was aged on the lees during the second fermentation for five and one half years and another six months following disgorging. This is a full-bodied sparkler

that is generous and velvety on the palate.

Red raspberry, nectarine, toast and mocha flavors lead to a long silky finish.

Sparkling wines are featured prominently for holiday celebrations. Yet, they can be enjoyed anytime of the year and throughout a meal. If you're serving a large group, consider a magnum for its superior flavor development.

The Healds 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

WINE PICKS

Sparkling wines are perfect for holiday celebrations and enjoyment throughout the year.

From California:

Mirabelle Brut Non-Vintage \$19 Mirabelle Brut Rose Non-Vintage S24 2000 Gloria Ferrer Royal Cuvee Brut \$28 J Cuvee 20 Brut non-Vintage \$32 J Brut Rose \$35 2004 Schramsberg Blanc de Blancs \$35 2004 Schramsberg Cremant Demi-sec \$38 1999 J Vintage Brut \$50 2000 J. Schram \$90 1997 J Russian River Valley Vintage

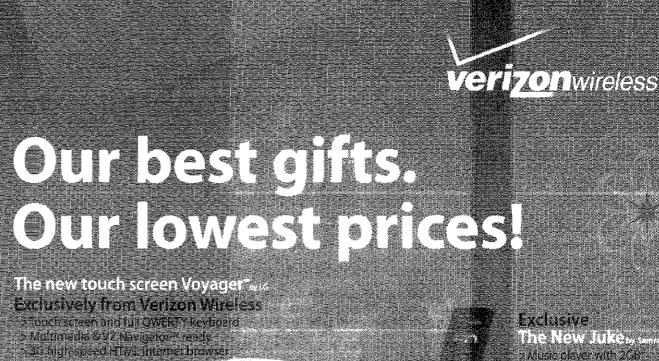
From Oregon:

Brut Late Disgorged \$100

2002 Argyle Brut \$26 - incredible value

From Italy:

Lunetta Prosecco Non-Vintage \$13 Adami "Garbel" Prosecco Non-Vintage \$15





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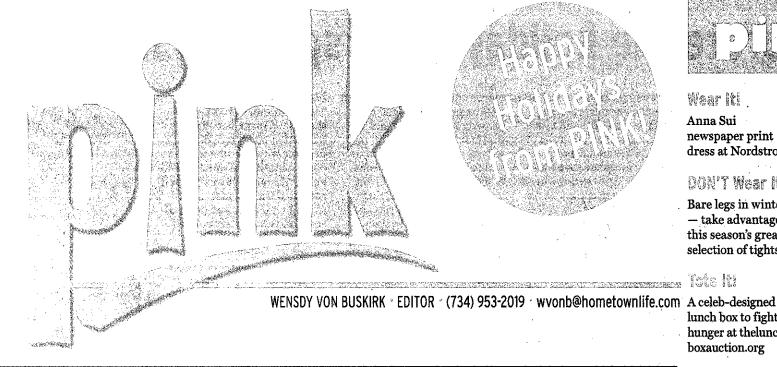
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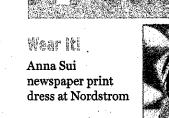
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Samsung Juke: \$99.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate. With new



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ireat Lakes Crossing Mall 448-253-1799 BRIGHTON 1159 Chailis, Ste. C off Grand River,	Mile Rd.) 248-538-9900 FENTON 17245 Silver Pkwy. (in the Sears Plaza) 810-629-2733	(across from Summit Place Mall) 248-335-9900 ROCHESTER HILLS 3035 S. Rochester Rd.	Oakland Mall (inside main entrance, next to food court) WARREN 5745 Twelve Mile Rd.,	CLARKSTON Cellular Technologies 248-625-1201 CLAWSON Communications USA	Cellular Cellutions 248-349-8116 OAK PARK Cellular Cellutions 248-284-0091	The Wireless Shop 248-458-1111 UTICA Mobile2Mobile Wi 586-739-9977
n front of Target) 10-225-4789 :ANTON 12447 Ford Rd. corner of Ford &	FT. GRATIOT 4129 24th Ave. 810-385-1231 LAKE ORION	(at Auburn Rd.) 248-853-0550 ROYAL OAK 31921 Woodward Ave. (at Normandy)	Heritage Village 586-578-0955 WESTLAND 35105 Warren Rd. (southwest comer	248-280-6390 COMMERCE Cellular Source 248-360-9400 Wireless Tomorrow	OXFORD Wireless Network 248-628-8400 PLYMOUTH 20/20 Communications	WARREN Multilinks 586-497-9800 Wireless Network 586-573-7599
illey Rds.;/Canton orners) 34-844-0481 SEARBORN 4417 Ford Rd.	2531 S. Lapeer Rd. (Orion Mall 2 miles north of the Palace) 248-393-6800 LIVONIA	248-549-4177 ST, CLAIR SHORES 26401 Harper Ave. (at 10 1/2 Mile) 586-777-4010	of Warren & Wayne Rds.) 734-722-7330 OR VISIT THE VERIZON WIRELESS STORE AT CIRCUIT CITY	248-669-1200 FARMINGTON HILLS Cellular City 248-848-8800 FERNDALE	734-456-3200 Wireless USA 734-414-9510 ROSEVILLE Authorized Cellular	WEST BLOOMFIELD Global Wireless 248-681-7200 WIXOM Auto One
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MAC Curiositease metallic pigments

MAC artists call these versatile pigments, little pots of gold. This holiday set is part of Curiositease.





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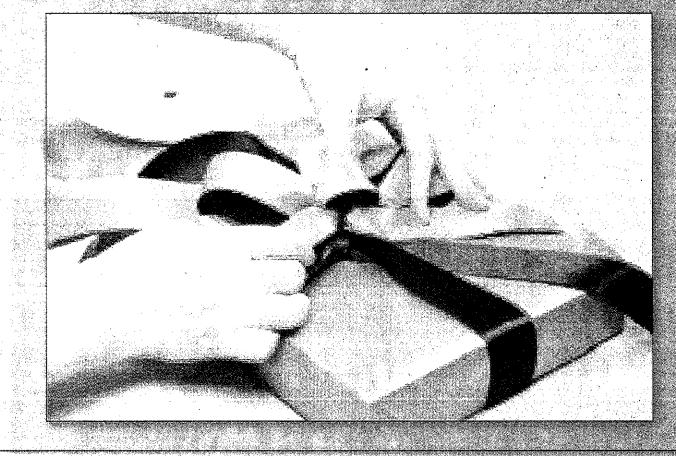
com.

SANTA PAMS AT THELVE OAKS

Bring your dog or cat for a visit with Santa Paws 9-10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 9 at Twelve Oaks Mall. Animal must be on leash or in a carrier and up-to-date on shots. A donation will be made to a local animal rescue group with each purchase of photo packages, RSVP at (248) 348-9438.

HOLIDAY MALK

Tour six of Grosse Pointe's most beautiful homes, decked with holiaay, spiendor, during the mother's **Club of Grosse Pointe South High** School Holiday Walk, noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. Tickets. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Call (313) 300-7908.



Learn how to tie pretty ribbons and bows at www.readysetwrap.com.

Become a 'wrap artist' with this gift glorifying advice

Sure, it's what's inside that counts. But a beautifully wrapped gift can be as much fun to anticipate as to open. Here are some tips from Lisa's Gift Wrappers to pump up the volume of your 'wrap.'

PINK WRAPS FOR A CAUSE

What: PINK Editor Wensdy Von Buskirk will help wrap gifts at Lisa's Gift Wrappers to benefit DRIS. Detroit Radio Information Service.

bon from back to front and tie a bow. Easy and inexpensive, but certainly a pretty presentation.

MAKE IT FUN Kemember Mary Poppins sang "With NAMBO LUNCHEON AND BOUTIQUE

The National Association of Women **Business Owners Greater Detroit** Chapter will host its annual Holiday Luncheon and Boutique, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thurs. Dec. 6 at Fairlane Club, Dearborn. Tickets are \$35 for NAWBO members; \$50 for non-

members. Call (313) 961-4748 or visit www.nawbogdc.org.

OLD FASHION HOLDAY

Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village brings back Christmas traditions from the 19th and early 20th centuries Dec. 7-8, 14-16 and 19-23. Ride in a decorated Model T or horse[.] drawn carriage, ice skate, and meet Santa and live reindeer. Historic Eagle Tavern offers authentic holiday meals and live period music. Every night ends with a sing-along and fireworks. Tickets, \$12.75 for members, \$8.50 for children: \$15 for non-members, \$10 for children; four and under free. Call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.thehenryford. org.

(734) 462-1100 or laurelparkplace.

PERSONALIZE IT

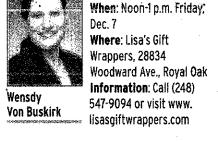
Plan a specific wrapping paper for each family member - as you bring the gift into the house, you can wrap it in the correct paper. Plan on setting aside a place to store the packages (make it a secret) as they are wrapped while they wait for the bows.

Use a small, removable sticker to label the box either with initials or some other identification so that you can remember what is in the box (because all wrapped packages look the same - regardless of size).

BAG IT

Gift bags have their place in the world of gift wrapping - and even plain colored bags can work. Think lunch bags sponge painted as craft projects during a school party, that can double as goodie bags for gift items. Reusing a gift bag (sorry Miss Manners) just takes a little creativity.

Try taking the rope string out and substi-



tuting a beautiful ribbon for the handles. Or, use the pre-made holes and thread a ribbon from front to back, tying the bag shut with a single loop (think "Tiffany" style).

CUSHION IT

If you have an item where the cost of buying a box far exceeds the price of the gift - such as an ornament - fill a bag with a little colored shred for cushion, fold the top of the bag over, punch two holes, thread rib-

every job that must be done, there is an element of fun. You find the fun, and snap ... the job's a game!" Wrapping needs to be done, but think of why - gifts are to celebrate what people mean to us, so make the wrapping a celebration. Maybe a glass of wine, chocolate or a hands free headset while you're chatting with your BFF will help you deal with the monotony of wrapping and make the time fly by. By the way, Scotch brand has a wrist dispenser with pre-cut tape - it's fun and easy to use. They also have a new tool to cut paper - it saves your hands!

Lisa's Gift Wrappers recently launched www.readysetwrap.com to offer online shopping as well as step-by-step wrapping advice. Lisa's also offers Wrap & Rap Nights, where friends can get together in the store after hours for private wrapping parties. Call Lisa's Gift Wrappers at (248) 547-9094.



SHRINE GIFT POUTIOUE

Avoid the malls and find more personal presents at Shrine's Holiday Gift Boutique, 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7 in Shrine Catholic Grade School. The show features handmade gifts from "Fairy Couture" and hand blown glass, to burp cloths and baby blankets. Admission is \$1. Call (248) 219-9604.

BRAS FOR A CAUSE

Support Gilda's Club Metro Detroit at the "Bras for a Cause Luncheon, Fashion Show & Holiday Boutique" Friday, Dec. 7 at Somerset Inn. Cancer survivors will model Soma Intimates, while vendors offer everything from jewelry and purses. to cosmetics and holiday gifts. Boutique shopping, 10 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.; lunch and fashion show, noon. Tickets, \$75. Call (248) 577-0800, ext. 22.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Livonia Marriott will host Breakfast with Santa 9-11 a.m. Dec. 8, featuring a healthy meal along with special prizes and giveaways. The event is part of Laurel Park Place's "Salute our Troops" campaign in support of Selfridge Air National Guard Base/ Family **Readiness Wing. RSVP required,**

HOLIDAY HIGH TEA

Toast to opportunities for local youth by attending Holiday High Tea at the Townsend, 3-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13. The tea benefits Alternatives For Girls. Bring 'white elephant' treasures for the silent auction. Make checks payable to Alternatives for Girls and mail to Maddalena Design, Ltd., Suite 300, 36801 Woodward Ave., Birmingham, Mich., 48009.

AANM HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

The Arab American National Museum will host its 2nd annual International Holiday Marketplace & Fashion Show, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 13. The free event includes multicultural merchandise, complimentary refreshments, music and a live fashion show featuring vendors of culturally inspired apparel. Call (313) 582-AANM or visit www. arabamericanmuseum.org.

BBAC HOLIDAY SHOP

Shop for a cause the last weekend of BBAC Holiday Shop. On Dec. 13-14, 10 percent of sales proceeds will benefit Birmingham Public Schools arts programs and Lighthouse of **Oakland County. Holiday Shop offers** hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind pieces from a variety of artists. Holiday Shop is open through Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. The BBAC is located at 1516 S. Cranbrook. Call (248) 644-0866 or visit www.BBArtCenter.org.

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