

Don't let the depressing economic news diminish your holiday spirit
Our views, A6

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Charges dropped after man's wife refutes statement to police



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ahmed Kalile Jaber's wife, Ayah, testified in 35th District Court on Monday, refuting the statements police detectives said she made to them the night she and her husband were hit by a car.

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The charges against a 22-year-old Canton man accused of pulling his wife into oncoming traffic Nov. 20 were dismissed Monday morning.

Ahmed Kalile Jaber's wife, Ayah, testified in 35th District Court that she and her husband weren't in a dispute at the time of the collision, which took place just after midnight on Haggerty Road south of Ford. "We were just walking and just talking," said Ayah, who has only been in the U.S. for a few weeks, through an interpreter. "I don't know how it happened."

Ayah's testimony was a reversal from her statements to detectives just after the accident when she said Jaber had gotten violent with her.

When asked by Nicole Clay, Wayne County assistant prosecutor, whether she recalled telling township detectives that her husband had forced her into the street and

told her to "go ahead, die," Ayah said no.

"We were just walking and then we got hit by the car," she said.

Ayah, who walked with a slight limp, also denied telling detectives that her husband was swinging at her, but admitted that they had been arguing inside their hotel room before the collision.

The couple, who married in July through an arranged marriage in Jerusalem, had been staying at a hotel while searching for a permanent residence.

Ayah testified that she left the hotel in an effort to get to her mother-in-law's home and said she decided to walk because she "didn't want to go with him to the car."

Under questioning from Clay, she denied telling police that Jaber had attempted to keep her inside the apartment.

Moments after she left the hotel, Ayah said her husband joined her and that they ended up inside the middle of the street because they were taking a shortcut to Jaber's mother's home.

Tim Cummings, the driver of the vehicle that struck the couple, said he noticed the two only moments before they landed on the hood of his car.

"They were wearing dark clothes," he testified. "I hit the brakes as soon as I could."

Neither Ayah or Jaber, who appeared in court wearing a leg brace, suffered life-threatening injuries.

Despite Clay's argument insisting Jaber had committed a criminal act against his wife, 35th District Court Judge John MacDonald dismissed the charges against him, which included assault with intent to commit murder, assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence.

After the hearing, Jaber, who was joined in court by several female supporters, was denied a request to be released from custody in order to seek medical attention for his leg. He is being held because he failed to appear for an unrelated court hearing.



Ahmed Kalile Jaber reacts to 35th District Court Judge John MacDonald's decision to dismiss charges against him.

Cooking from scratch

Jonathan's Family Restaurant focuses on homemade cooking, good service

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As long as he's running the show, Adam Adamopoulos says you will never find boxed mashed potatoes or pressed meat in his restaurant.

"We do this from scratch," he says proudly of the menu at Jonathan's Family Restaurant, which he co-owns. "Once people come in and see what we do, they are impressed."

Adamopoulos, who has been in the restaurant business for 31 years, opened the Michigan Avenue eatery in 1993 and said he and his team of 15 employees have poured themselves into their homemade recipes and customer service to make up for their location.

"We don't have any visibility from the road," Adamopoulos said. "So we get a lot of our clientele through word of mouth. We have people who live in the area come in and say 'How long have you been here?' or 'We didn't know you were back here.'"

Jonathan's shares the southern end of a building



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Owner Adam Adamopoulos at Jonathan's Family Restaurant on Michigan Avenue.

fronted by Subway just east of I-275.

Boasting an all-American menu featuring meat loaf, soups, perch, ribs, pork chops, burgers and steaks, Adamopoulos said he believes in the restaurant and that's why he decided to proceed with a renovation of its dining room when some advised waiting for the economy to turn around.

"I have been in this business for so long. I have seen the economy go up and down and I strongly believe we have good times ahead," he said.

"I've had to close restaurants, but you won't see me crying because my father always told me that this is a country where you can accomplish anything, but you have to be ready to sweat."

And with most of the

entrees priced under \$10, Adamopoulos said Jonathan's appeals to busy, working families.

"A lot of families have both parents working and they don't have time for home-made cooking so they can let us do it," he laughed. "This is what we do and this is what we enjoy."

For more information on the restaurant, call (734) 326-5870.

Thieves using car break-ins to get into homes

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you're reading this and your garage door opener is in your vehicle, Canton Sgt. Deb Newsome says put the paper down and go get it. And while you're at it, grab your vehicle registration, proof of insurance, pay stubs and anything bearing your address.

"It is never a good idea to leave those things in your car," said Newsome, using two recent Canton crimes as a reference point.

On Nov. 26, thefts from two vehicles led to home invasions in Canton and Washtenaw County.

At about 5:30 p.m., Canton police received word that a township family's vehicle had been burglarized while they were dining at Buddy's Pizza in Livonia. The thieves got away with the vehicle's registration and the garage door opener to the victim's home.

Retired Canton Fire Department Lt. Jack Raker was the first to notice the car had been broken into and alerted Buddy's management. By coincidence, Raker and his wife were seated next to the owners of the vehicle and were talking about the theft when they overheard the conversation.

"They took the glove box contents," said Raker, adding that by the time everyone figured out what the thieves were up to, they had already ransacked and fled the family's home when police arrived.

Less than two hours later, Canton police were made aware that a vehicle parked at Arctic Edge on Michigan

Avenue had been broken into and a garage door opener, as well as paperwork, had been stolen.

It was later discovered that the Washtenaw County home of the vehicle's owner had been burglarized.

Newsome said the department is following up on leads in the thefts and that it's believed the same thieves committed both crimes.

"All things indicate these were the same people," she said. "They were back to back in a short period of time."

In addition to the two incidents associated with the township, Newsome said another car burglary the same day in Dearborn Heights led to a home invasion in Westland.

"This is a new trend that we are starting to see pop up in other jurisdictions," she said, adding that motorists are encouraged to keep garage door openers and personal information with them.

"Just as you carry your driver's license with you, carry your registration and proof of insurance," Newsome said. "And I know a lot of people do it but leaving your garage door opener in your car is just like leaving a key in your car."

While acknowledging the removal of these items can be a hassle for vehicle with multiple drivers, Newsome said the extra effort is worth it.

"Just as you pass the keys from driver to driver, pass the registration," she said. "It can be cumbersome but it can be done."

Those unable to carry their garage door openers are advised not to leave them in plain sight.

Former principal giving back with new scholarship

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Earle Chorbajian readily admits that his claim to fame as a Wayne-Westland school district employee is starting the annual district-wide spelling bee some 27 years ago.

That changed this week, when the retired junior high principal and his wife Billie

donated \$20,000 to establish a scholarship at Wayne Memorial High School.

"I'm a World War II veteran and I was able to go to college because Eleanor Roosevelt pushed her husband to pass the GI Bill to allow vets to go to college," said the Canton resident. "It seems to be that students today need a little extra help. It won't pay their way, but it'll get them started."

The Adams School/Wayne Memorial High School Scholarship will be awarded beginning with the Class of 2009. One student for each of the first two years will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. After that, the scholarship will be 5 percent, the amount depending on the interest income generated.

Please see **PRINCIPAL, A2**

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USA WEEKEND

who not ready slow down

Coming Sunday:
Superstar Beyonce Knowles

Compassion in action: Late donations help Salvation Army feed the hungry

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Maj. Jim Irvine, the corps officer for the Plymouth Salvation Army, sees and hears a lot of stories of generosity and need, particularly around the holidays.

The stories are all special to an organization that counts on the generosity of others to fulfill their mission. But this year, one story in particular struck Irvine's heart when an elderly woman, stricken and barely able to move, still found the time to bring a turkey to donate to the Salvation Army.

The woman had difficult moving and couldn't maneuver out of her car, so Irvine had to pull the frozen turkey she was donating through her open car window.

"Barely able to move, she went through the effort of picking out a turkey and bringing it to us so someone she'll never know could have a Thanksgiving meal," Irvine said. "That's compassion in action, and that's who helps us do the most good."

For awhile, it looked like



Mike Sprechter (right) and Rich Trame help put together Thanksgiving meals, including turkey and all the trimmings, for the Plymouth Salvation Army.

the Corps would have trouble meeting its Thanksgiving mission. The annual Turkey Trot event at Fox Hills, which normally produces some 70-75

turkeys each year, yielded only five this year due to inclement weather. A civic organization that generally donates some 40 turkeys a year only contributed two.

With the lagging economy

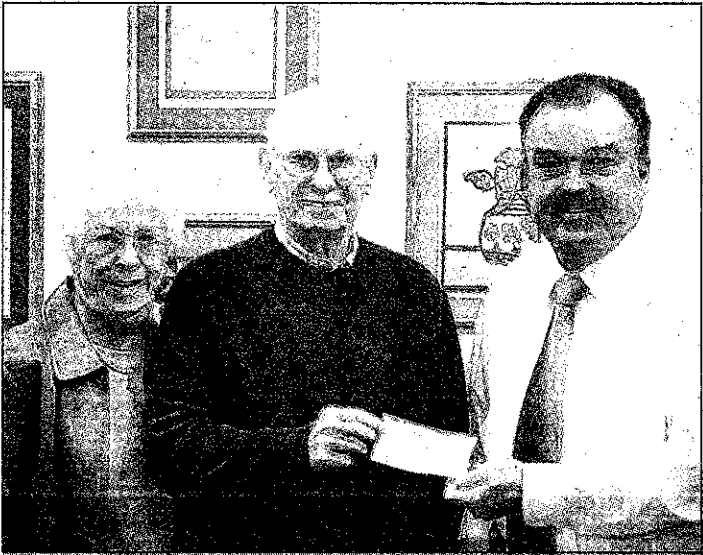
sending the need soaring — the Salvation Army ended up serving 267 families this Thanksgiving, more than double the 127 served last year — concern mounted.

When word got out the Salvation Army was lagging behind in turkey donations, people in the community responded and donations started pouring in. The Salvation Army eventually ended up with 389 turkeys and was able to feed more than 1,100 people.

"I've done this work with The Salvation Army now for 15 years as a commissioned officer and a lot longer as a volunteer before my wife and I gave up our jobs to do full-time ministry," Irvine said. "I was still overwhelmed by emotions more than once or twice as people came to our building, wave after wave, to help us help others."

According to Irvine, the extra 122 turkeys will be used to feed hungry families in the communities served by the Salvation Army — Plymouth, Northville, Canton and Belleville — between now and the Christmas holiday.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2153



Earle and Billie Chorbagan of Canton present Wayne-Westland School Supt. Greg Baracy with a check to establish the Adams School/ Wayne Memorial High School Scholarship.

PRINCIPAL

FROM PAGE A1

Wayne High Counselor Louise Karmann will coordinate the selection. The scholarship is not based on need, however. The recipient must be of good character, have good grades and have attended Adams Middle School for at least two years. The recipient almost must plan to attend a junior college, college or university.

The Chorbagians plan to meet with Karmann as well as the first student who will receive the scholarship "so they know someone actually is providing it," Chorbagan said.

"We've been thinking about doing this for quite a long time," he added. "We'd discuss it, let it drop, then discuss it again and finally decided this is the time."

"It was definitely his idea," Billie Chorbagan said. "I thought it was fine. I feel the

same way he does."

The scholarship's connection with Adams Middle School relates to Chorbagan's work with the district. He was with Wayne-Westland for 32 years, including 25 years as the assistant principal at what was then Adams Junior High School.

"They're so genteel and generous," added Aggie Kubrak, senior executive director for instruction. "It's very nice that anyone who meets the criteria can apply for it."

The idea behind the scholarship is for "youth of the neighborhood to attain their educational goals," which Chorbagan did after the war. Married, he and his wife moved to Kalamazoo so he could attend Western Michigan University. They lived in campus housing and during his freshman year, his first child was born.

"I've been very fortunate," he said. "I couldn't have done it without the GI Bill."

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AROUND CANTON

Volunteers needed

Organizers for Saturday's ShopCanton Holiday Fest are still looking for volunteers. The event, which is being put on by the Canton Chamber of Commerce, Canton DDA, and Canton Leisure Services, will take place from noon to 4 p.m. at the Willow Creek Plaza, and will include plenty of family-oriented activities. Volunteers are needed for two shifts: 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and 1:30-4 p.m. Volunteers will be outside so you will need to dress warm.

Contact Lisa at the Chamber office if you can help at (734) 453-4040 Ext. 4 or eventscoordinator@cantonchamber.com.

Candy cane week

Members of the Canton Lions Club will be at various locations throughout Canton from Dec. 12-20 to raise funds as part of the annual Candy Cane Week. Funds donated by community members will be used to assist families to purchase eye glasses for children, the Penrickton Center for Blind, multiple handicapped children and those who are hearing impaired in the community.

"Money raised will allow Lions to meet pressing needs in our community including Children who are blind or hearing impaired. Lions members thank everyone who contributes to this important work. You are truly helping Lions make a difference in our community," said Bill Van Winkle, president of the Canton Lions Club.

The Canton Lions Club has 45 members and meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill on the corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads. For more information or to get involved with the Canton Lions Club, please contact Nancy Spencer (734) 397-8975 or johnnancysp@aol.com.

Relay for Life awards

The American Cancer Society announced that the 2008 Relay For Life of Canton received three awards in the Relay For Life Nationwide Awards and Recognition Program. Relay for Life of Canton received the All American Relay 2008 award, Heart of Relay Survivorship 2008 award, and was recognized as an honorable mention for the Heart of Relay Outstanding Engagement of Youth in a Community Event award.

"We are very proud of our volunteers in Canton," said Kelsey Soper, American Cancer Society community representative. "Everyone worked extremely hard to make the Relay For Life of Canton event successful, and these awards are proof that their hard work has paid off."

Relay For Life is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones, commit to fight back through healthy lifestyle changes, and raise money for the fight against cancer. Teams of eight to 15 members gather with tents and sleeping bags to participate in the largest grassroots fundraising event in the nation.

For more information about how to form a team or become involved in Relay For Life

is available by calling the American Cancer Society at (248) 663-3441. Relay For Life of Canton information can be found by visiting www.RelayForLife.org/cantonmi.

New Corriveau office hours

Beginning in January, State Representative Marc Corriveau (D-Northville) will hold expanded office hours on the first Monday of every month to give more residents the chance to meet with him.

Corriveau will hold office hours on the first Monday of each month at the following times and locations:

- 10-11 a.m. at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady Street
- 1-2 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road

- 3-4 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street

- 6-8 p.m. at Corriveau's district office, 129 W. Liberty Street in Plymouth

Corriveau also is planning two more office hours later this month: 10-11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 5, at Northville City Hall in Meeting Room A, 215 W. Main Street; and 10-11 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 15, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street.

Corriveau also holds coffee hours and other events throughout the 20th District to talk with as many residents as possible about any issues or concerns. If your business or organization would like to schedule an event with Corriveau, please contact his office at (877) 20TH-REP.

Goodfellows help

Several local merchants are hosting fundraisers for the Canton Goodfellows. Showroom of Elegance Fine Jewelry, 6018 Canton Center Road, is continuing its annual "Goodfellows No child without a Christmas" drive through Dec. 5. The store will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable items and offering a chance to win a \$600 Visa card for bringing in your canned goods.

"This is our way to help those children in the Plymouth-Canton school district that are in need and wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas or food while out of school on the holiday break. Our need is great this year with over 600 children to provide for. We need so much help. Please join us in this mission," said Linda Robin, owner of the jewelry store. For more information, contact the store at (734) 207-1906 or e-mail lindarobin1@ameritech.net.

Also, Indigo Salon and Day Spa, located in Canton's Cherry Hill Village, will be holding a Canton Goodfellow's Gifts For Kids Charity Day on Sunday Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Indigo will be open for business with a full service menu (reservations requested) and 100 percent of the money from services rendered will go towards the Goodfellows goal of providing Christmas gifts to 600 less fortunate children in the Canton area. In addition, Indigo will be matching 50 percent of the total retail sales for the day.

To make a reservation, visit www.indigosalonanddayspa.com to view the full service menu and price lists. Contact Indigo at (734) 961-3245.



Cleaning out their junk drawers

These fourth grade students in Mrs. Wolf's math class at All Saints Catholic School recently held a junk drawer sale, and learned lessons about money and making change in the process. The students were assigned the task of bringing items to school that they found in their junk drawers at home, including fun or unique pencils, toys, games, school supplies, or items they made themselves. The students took turns being customers and salespersons, moving between the three fourth grade classrooms, where they bought and sold these small items. When the purchasing ended, the students counted their money to determine if they had made a profit, or if there was a loss.

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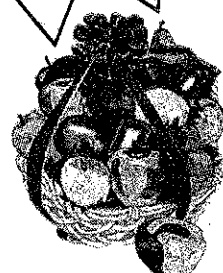
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Stock market is not a game; it's serious business

I received a letter to participate in a stock-picking contest. The organization sponsoring the contest was soliciting a variety of people in the financial world to participate. The premise was each participant would be given a \$1 million of play money. The player who had the most money at the end of a 90-day period would be the winner. According to the rules, a player could invest the money in anything and would have unlimited trades during the 90-day period.

I politely and respectfully turned down the invitation (not because it wouldn't have been fun) because it was billed as an investment contest when, in fact, it had nothing to do with investing.

I am not a fan of these so-called investment contests. As far as I am concerned, a contest like this is no different than entering a blackjack or a poker tournament. When it comes to investments, 90 days is nothing.

Many organizations have sponsored these types of investment contests and although they are fun, just as with gambling, I believe they can be dangerous. The stock market is not a game and it



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

investors think short term, it almost always leads to long-term problems.

Too many investors honestly don't know the difference between gambling and investing. Gambling is for the short run, while investing is for the long run. Investing is not an all or none proposition. Investing requires patience, something that most gamblers do not have.

There's no doubt that this has been a very difficult year for investors and certainly the conventional wisdom about investing has not panned out. However, I always remind people they are running a marathon, not a 50-yard dash. Unfortunately, stock contests promote the thought that investing is nothing more than a short race to the finish. In fact, investing is much more

difficult and challenging. Decisions made today have an impact on us many years into the future.

Of course, most people recognize that a stock market game is just that, a game. Many feel that particularly during these difficult times, we deserve to have some fun. However, there's a reason why we have warning signs on everything in our society. It seems obvious to me that people shouldn't stick their hand inside of a snow blower, however, there are warning signs to remind them of just that.

The issue regarding stock market games is that too many people may assume if the strategy wins an investment game, perhaps it will work in an individual portfolio.

Playing games should be for fun. Handling money is much more serious. Remember that experiences with a game have nothing to do with reality.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money-matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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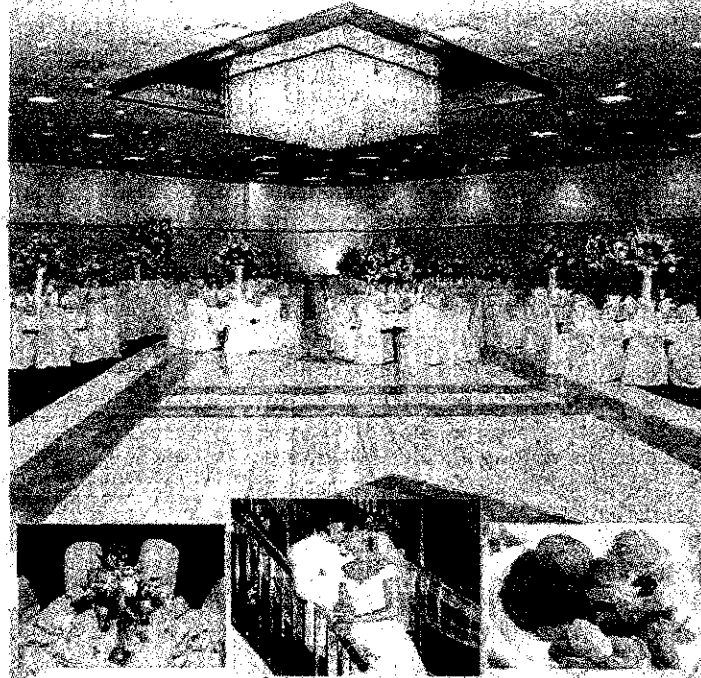
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OUR VIEWS

LaJoy still has much to do in State Legislature

Some Canton residents have raised questions about Supervisor-elect Phil LaJoy's motivation to delay his swearing in so he can continue serving in the State Legislature through the end of the legislative session.

LaJoy, who defeated political newcomer David Marsh in last month's general election, is currently serving his third term as a state representative. He was not sworn in with the rest of the new board on Nov. 20, so he could continue serving Canton (as well as Belleville and Van Buren Township) residents in Lansing during what is known as the lame-duck session, when a flurry of bills are expected to be taken up by the outgoing Legislature.

LaJoy believes it is important for his district to have representation during this important session. We don't disagree.

There are several issues that LaJoy wants to work on. First and foremost, he is a member of the state's Transportation Funding Task Force, which he says is in the process of finalizing some funding for county road projects. He wants to make sure Canton (and his district as a whole) gets its fair share. If there is something Canton needs more than anything it is funding for its roads.

LaJoy also wants to add his voice to a bill that would ban smoking in public places. He said he favors such a ban, although it has been defeated in the past. Another bill LaJoy wants to work on concerns Blue Cross Blue Shield, the state's largest health insurance provider, which is seeking relief from the growing burden of providing individual health insurance policies for those not covered by a group policy. This controversial legislation will have far-reaching consequences on the state's consumers.

In fact, LaJoy says in the next couple weeks the Legislature will take up dozens of bills. And he's committed to fulfilling his obligation to the voters who selected him to represent them.

Still people have suggested LaJoy's motivations for delaying his swearing in are more devious or self-serving. LaJoy certainly isn't doing it for the money. As supervisor, LaJoy will earn \$115,366. He currently earns \$79,650 as a state representative.

Some have said LaJoy is staying on so he can get a lifetime health insurance benefit through the state, but he would have to be serving on Jan. 1 to do so. And he has made it clear that he won't be getting the benefit because he plans to be sworn in as supervisor on Dec. 17 or 18.

We take Mr. LaJoy at his word that he is doing this because he thinks it is in Canton's best interest. If anyone has a track record of doing what is in the town's best interest it is Phil LaJoy. He has a long record of public service to this community, something he will continue when he takes over as supervisor later this month.

Christmas season glows with hometown activities

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Really, it is.

The often depressing economic news cannot diminish the holiday spirit. A rich combination of good times, generous giving and long-followed traditions make this an extra special time of year.

Wayne County Parks Lightfest was officially opened Nov. 20. The annual event turns a four-mile section of Hines Park into a fantasy land of animated lights. This always popular event includes Santa's Workshop at the Warrendale area, where children can meet the jolly fellow and post their letters in a giant mailbox. Dec. 9 and 16 will be Toy Nights. Wayne County will be lending a hand to provide toys to disadvantaged children in the county. On these nights, the community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the suggested \$5 donation fee for visiting the Lightfest. Enter Hines Park at Merriman.

This Saturday, Redford is presenting an Olde-Fashioned Christmas. The event kicks off at 2 p.m. with a parade along Five Mile and will feature horse-and-carriage rides, a petting zoo, holiday music and refreshments. Santa Claus arrives at Township Hall at 2:45 p.m.

Canton will hold its third annual Family Holiday Fest from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at Willow Creek Plaza, north side of Ford Road between Lilley and Haggerty. Santa will be the guest of honor and a photographer will take pictures. There will also be reindeer, carolers, contests and refreshments.

In Plymouth, Santa is holding court at his house on Main Street in Kellogg Park, 5-8 p.m. Fridays, noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and 5-8 p.m. Dec. 23.

Compassionate Friends' Candlelight Vigil, where friends and family gather to remember loved ones who died too soon, is set for 7 p.m. Dec. 14 in downtown Plymouth.

Go out and enjoy a hometown Christmas.



LETTERS

Volunteer in bad times

With the holidays quickly approaching and the economy quickly failing, many people are wondering exactly how they are going to stretch their ever-tightening budgets to cover their part of this year's "holiday cheer."

I'd like to reach out and remind everyone that the holidays are not about simply making purchases from stores, but coming together as one family, neighborhood or community and reaching out to lend a helping hand. Even though times are tough and money is tight, we need to be thankful for all that we have and all that we can offer. Simple things such as reaching out to help your neighbor rake the leaves or volunteering for a local community group boost our spirits and unite us in these cheerful, but difficult times.

Volunteering has been the backbone of the American way of life since the first settlers arrived in America. Times were tough then, and when people needed help, they banded together to overcome the challenges their new lives posed. Times are difficult now, and we are each facing our own individual challenges. If we reach out and support each other, in any way that we can, as our ancestors did, we can begin to rebuild the bridges to take us into the future.

Right now, with the Michigan unemployment rate reaching upward toward 9 percent, volunteering can provide anyone with some much needed emotional relief. Unemployment can be a very depressing, isolated stage in anyone's life, and by simply volunteering you can make professional contacts, receive employment references, provide advice to an organization or keep practiced in your field, and even earn internship credit hours. Volunteering can also give you a bit of stability in this crazy world, or provide some much needed adult human contact.

Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home is an organization located in Plymouth, which is dedicated to the rescue and adoption of domestic rabbits. Currently, with over 140 rabbits in the shelter, and 60 more in foster care, they need all the help they can get. Midwest is a no-kill shelter run entirely by volunteers who care about rabbits. Rabbits are playful, loving animals, and very common house pets! With the money troubles we are all facing, animals tend to be overlooked. Together we can reach and expand our networks to make sure they are not forgotten!

As you prepare your holiday feast this year, please remember the old adage "what goes around comes around." Every act of kindness will echo out and bring you not only personal satisfaction but it will leave a long lasting impression on what you helped to accomplish. Let your efforts be an oasis to someone or something in this harsh world.

Sometimes we all need a little rescuing. Reach out and help this holiday season in any way that you can.

Lisa Powell

Canton

Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home volunteer

No-brainer

Does the Board of Education committee chairperson (Dianne) Gonzales want to know what the will of the people is "District eyes election shift," (*Observer*, Nov. 20)?

Should they spend \$100,000 on a school board election when it would cost nothing if moved to the November election cycle? Well that's a no-brainer. Since when does the Plymouth-Canton school district have so much money that this is even an issue?

If the Board of Education can't figure this one out on their own we need to clean house.

Fred Portelli

Plymouth

Here's your sign

After having watched the Senate "hearings" on the request by our automakers for a bridge loan, I can easily understand why the "approval" ratings for Congress have remained consistently in the low double-digit (teens) range.

I have never seen such a group of arrogant, pompous, self-aggrandizing clowns in my life. The insulting, condescending remark about cutting the executive pay to \$1 a year struck a hollow note, coming from a bunch of incompetent ying-yangs charged with running our government efficiently.

The last time I checked, these wonderful folks have boosted the national debt to over \$10 trillion (our citizens have to pay over \$400 billion a year to service this squandering). If anyone should have their salaries cut to a buck a year ...

To borrow a phrase from the Blue Collar Comedy Tour, I hope the auto types parted with a "Here's Your Sign, guys!" on their way out the door.

Frederick J. Libbing

Plymouth

Missing the facts

In a recent *O&E* Opinions column the paper expressed its support for the Wayne-Westland school board regarding the recall of Martha Pitsenbarger and Skip Monit. I believe your paper missed many of the facts that surround this recall.

As a district, our elementary MEAP scores are on the rise. Unfortunately, that is where the good news ends. Once our children enter middle school, the scores begin to dip. By the time they reach high school, we hit rock bottom. Our MME scores (which replaced the MEAP) are basically failing. The state has found that our district is not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress at the high schools level. Our ACT scores are also below state averages. Yet, parents are being told by the administration and the board that class size is not an issue.

Meanwhile, millions of dollars have been spent on football fields, turf for the fields, libraries and gyms. Parents were told that the money for this came from the sinking fund and that sinking fund money can only be used for improvements. Yet, at the most recent school board meeting our superintendent said that a portion of the money came from the sinking fund which means the

remainder came from the general fund.

For those not aware, the general fund can pay for more teachers for our children's classrooms. Instead the administration, with the approval of the board, has focused on high-end improvements to our facilities rather than improving our children's education.

We were also told that we are losing money from the state. While that is true, the reason why is we are losing students. We are actually receiving \$96 more per student this year. At the same time, our graduation rate is decreasing and our dropout rate is on the rise. Yet, year after year, our superintendent is financially rewarded by the Board of Education for "doing a good job."

We are continually being told our district is broke, yet our superintendent is making more than \$250,000. His contract is reviewed and signed every year by the board. He also receives a \$900-per-month stipend and received a raise to cover his FICA not to mention a salary increase to cover auto allowance. There are many other perks, including more than 40 vacation days and 12 sick days which can be cashed out at the end of the year.

Yet, our district can barely keep its head above water?! What does this tell you? Not to mention, at the most recent school board meeting, the president, Martha Pitsenbarger, admitted she did not know Dr. Baracy's salary. Kind of funny she did not know seeing as she signed every one of his contracts!

As a parent and citizen of this community, I owe it to my children as well as all of the other children of this district to be informed on the issues. I assure you I have spent hours researching our district and the issues surrounding this recall. Unfortunately, what I have found has been truly disappointing.

Although the members of the Board of Education seem like nice people, nice doesn't get the job done! And while many positive things have happened throughout the years in this district, right now, the negative heavily outweighs the positive. In my opinion, as our district jingle says, if great futures are going to start right here, it will need to happen with several new board members and a new administration.

Brandi Smith

Westland

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"Even though I've done this work with The Salvation Army now for 15 years as a commissioned officer and a lot longer as a volunteer before my wife and I gave up our jobs to do full-time ministry, I was still overwhelmed by emotions more than once or twice as people came to our building, wave after wave, to help us help others."

- Maj. Jim Irvine, corps officer for the Plymouth Salvation Army, responding to the generosity people showed in helping the corps feed hungry families in Canton, Plymouth, Northville and Belleville for the Thanksgiving holiday

Millions watch Briefcase Drill Team's stroll down Broadway

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As Fred Hill waited anxiously on Broadway in New York City for his 17-member Briefcase Drill Team's turn to step off in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, he was approached by someone walking by.

"We were waiting for the parade to begin and enthralled with all the activity and up walks (actor) Alec Baldwin," Hill said. "He said, 'Old guys in dark blue suits with briefcases ... you better be good.'"

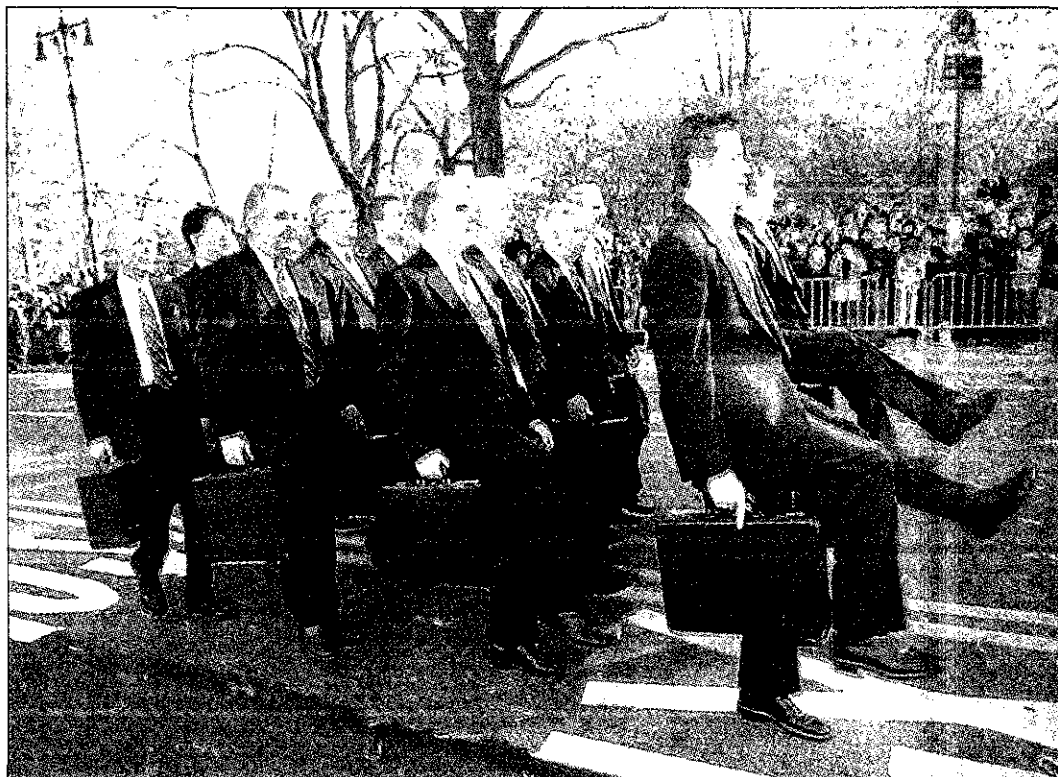
By Hill's account, the Briefcase Drill Team — a parody on men who wear business suits — never missed a beat.

"The crowd reaction was better, or more so, than we've ever had before," said Hill of the 3 million people who crowded the 2½-mile parade route. "That's something we didn't anticipate because we were new to them ... but they got it in a hurry."

"The crowd was 40-50 people deep and lined up on the side streets about half-a-block," he said. "And there were people 30 stories up watching us."

NBC-TV, which telecasts the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, gave each entry less than 30 seconds on camera at 34th and Broadway.

"During rehearsal Tuesday night, they had decided what moves they wanted us to do in about 25 seconds," Hill said. "We added a few and they loved them, so we ended up doubling the amount of time we had originally."

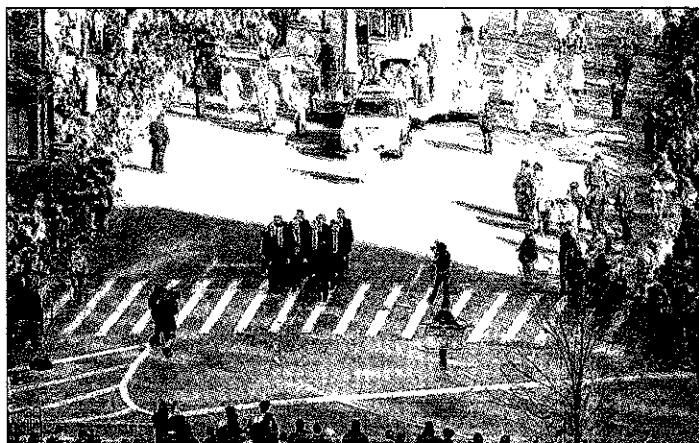


PHOTOS BY GROUPPHOTOS.COM

The Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team of Plymouth took its act to Broadway Thanksgiving Day, marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

Lee Harrison of Canton Township, who has been a member of the Drill Team for five years, said it was an exciting experience.

"I always thought the Detroit Thanksgiving parade and the others we march in were pretty special, but there's a different level at the Macy's parade," Harrison said. "It's really well done, with an enormity and excitement you don't see at the other parades. Everything in New York is bigger and more grandiose."



Millions watched as the Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team from Plymouth stepped off in New York in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

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'Tis the season for 'The Nutcracker'

Kelliisa Nordstrom, a 14-year-old Canton resident, will be featured in the upcoming 'Nutcracker' performance with the Joffrey Ballet Company at the Detroit Opera House. Kelliisa, who has been cast as a child in the Christmas party scene, dances ballet and performs character acting in her part as a child, and will be in all seven shows. Kelliisa started dancing when she was 3 and studies dance at Master's of Dance Arts in Canton. She is also active in fund raising activities, including the Canton Relay for Life. The performances begin this evening and run through Dec. 7. For more information, visit www.michiganopera.org or call (313) 237-7464.

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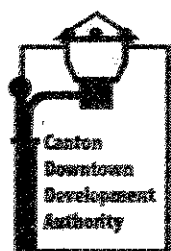
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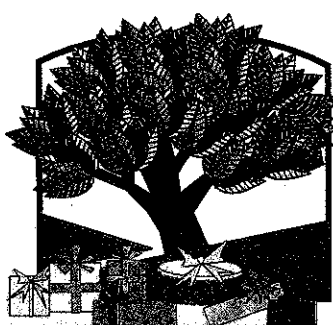
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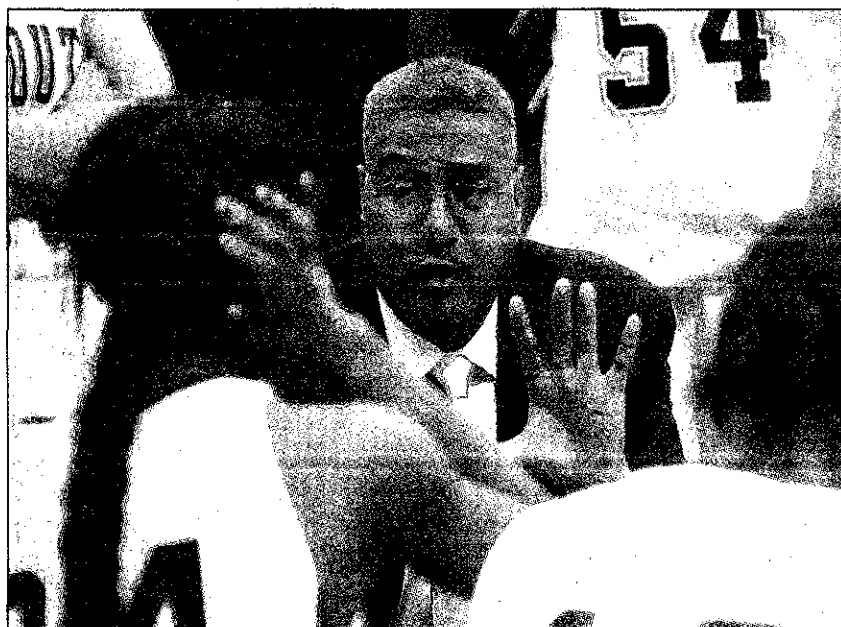
Thursday, December 4, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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GIRLS HOOP SEASON TIPS OFF



First-year Plymouth coach Ted Sturdivant discusses strategy with his team during a third-quarter timeout Tuesday night.

Robinson's clutch shots cement Wildcats' win

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There was something more valuable than a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow shot Plymouth senior guard Kelsi Robinson launched from the deep corner late in Tuesday's season opener against visiting Walled Lake Northern.

Instead of a fortune of coins, there was a clutch, back-breaking, twine-finding triple that proved to be a pivotal spark in the Wildcats' 33-32 victory over the Knights.

Robinson's three, combined with a soft baseline jumper she netted 30 seconds later, extended her team's lead to 28-23 and helped cement first-year Plymouth coach Ted Sturdivant's "W" in his high school coaching debut.

"That was exhilarating," said Sturdivant, moments after the memorable victory, which also happened to fall

on his birthday. "It's always more fun to play in tight games like tonight's than blow-outs. Plus, it gave me a great opportunity to evaluate my team."

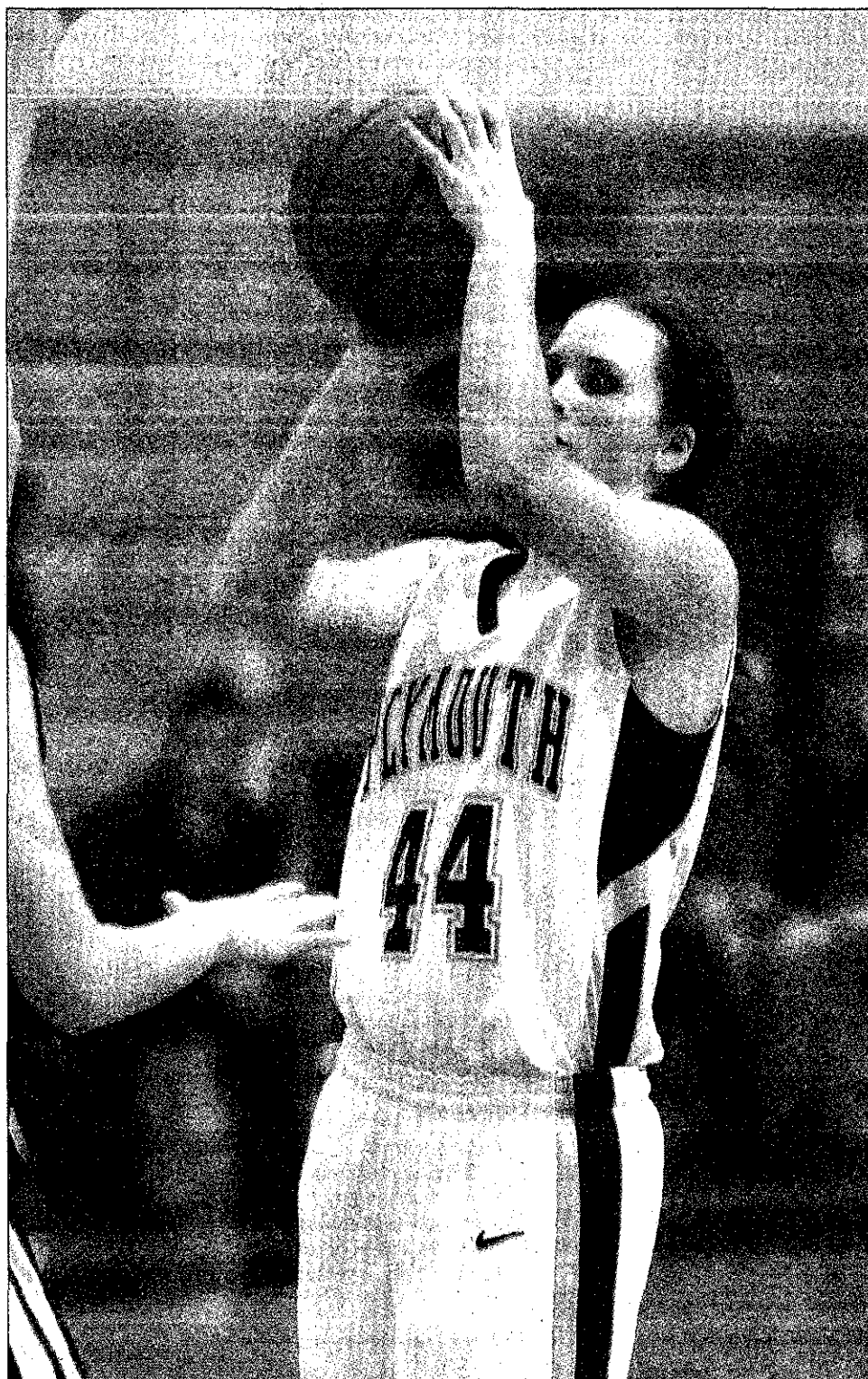
"I learned a lot about this team tonight. The No. 1 thing I learned was these girls don't quit, regardless of the circumstances."

On a night when points were hard to come by — especially from the free throw line, where both teams combined to sink just 23-of-45 attempts — the Wildcats appeared to seize an insurmountable 22-14 lead with 5:30 left in the third quarter.

However, Northern reeled off a 9-1 run over the next seven minutes to deadlock the game at 23-all on Carissa McKenna's free throw with 6:15 to play.

Plymouth's Stacey Klonowski converted a driving layup through the heart

Please see **WILDCATS, B2**



Plymouth's Stacey Klonowski takes aim at a shot during Tuesday night's 33-32 victory over Walled Lake Northern. Klonowski netted six points and five rebounds.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Signlines

Thomas scores

Former Canton High School football standout Devin Thomas scored his first NFL touchdown Sunday for the Washington Redskins.

With 8:31 left in the second quarter of Washington's 23-7 loss to the New York Giants, Thomas took a handoff on a reverse from Redskins quarterback Jason Campbell and sprinted 29 yards to paydirt. The ex-Chief and Michigan State University star eluded two Giants inside the 5-yard line and dove head-first into the end zone.

Horse business

TCM Equine Ventures, based in Canton, claimed the senior cutting reserve world championship title with Catty Starlight, a 2001 Sorrel American quarter horse stallion, during the FedEx Open competition at the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship, held Nov. 15-22 in Oklahoma City, Okla. "Winning a reserve world championship title is one of the most prestigious awards in AQHA show competition," said Bill Brewer, AQHA executive vice president.

The AQHA World Championship Show is the largest, richest single-breed world championship horse show in existence, with more than \$2.7 million awarded to 3,494 entries from 48 states, eight Canadian provinces, Brazil, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Xtreme-ly good news for Ignition

The four-team Xtreme Soccer League, which includes the Detroit Ignition, received provisional membership in the United States Soccer Federation for its inaugural season, the league announced Tuesday.

The USSF is the governing body for soccer in the United States.

Twin win: Schmitt sisters lead Canton over Saline, 46-31

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two weeks after taking their final strokes for their school's swim team, Canton's Schmitt twins — Sara and Kari — proved Tuesday night that they have pretty good strokes on the basketball court as well.

The sophomore sisters combined for 30 points in the Chiefs' 46-31 season-opening victory over visiting Saline. Sara led all scorers with 19 points (to go along with

four rebounds) while Kari contributed 11 points, seven boards and four steals.

"They're both great competitors, terrific workers," raved Canton coach Brian Samulski. "They work well together and they do a nice job around the rim. Sara made 11 of 13 free throws, too, which was huge."

Also playing major roles in the Chiefs' successful opening night were Lindsey Winters, who netted eight points; Melanie Pickert, who added four points, five assists and five steals; and Alyssa Cottrell, who

"had a nice game defensively," in Samulski's opinion.

Kayla Brothy paced the Hornets with 16 points, 12 coming on four threes.

Canton led 23-19 at the half before padding its lead to 33-25 with eight minutes to play.

"It's always nice to start out 1-0," Samulski said. "It's good for our confidence, especially with us having such a young team. Hopefully, we can build on this win."

The Chiefs actually benefitted from a

Saline time-out late in the third quarter when the Hornets had cut their deficit to two points.

"We came out of that timeout and got a couple of easy baskets and got our lead back up to eight," Samulski said.

Canton hit 19-of-30 free throws. Saline was just 4-of-12 from the charity stripe.

The Chiefs host state power Birmingham Marian on Thursday. The opening tip is scheduled for approximately 7 p.m.

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Former Canton football standout Deshon McClendon (No. 5) lowers the boom during a St. Joseph's (Ind.) College game this fall. McClendon earned All-GLFC honors after he finished second on the team in tackles.

Hits just keep on coming

Ex-Chief star McClendon carries skills over to college game

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One day, in the not-too-distant future, Deshon McClendon will pursue a career in the field of physical therapy.

But in the meantime, the former Canton gridiron standout is enjoying college life at Saint Joseph's (Ind.) College, where he is majoring in biology, playing Division II college football and delivering bone-

crunching tackles that create a need for physical therapy.

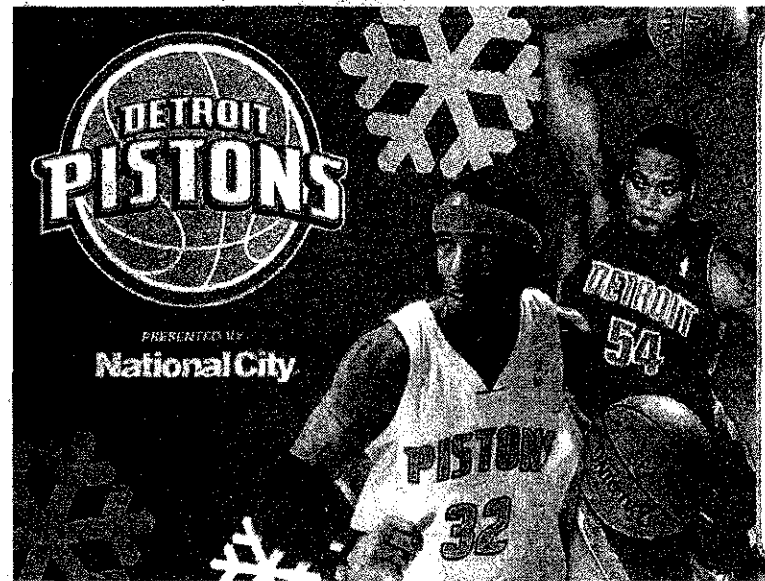
Pound-for-pound, the 5-foot-7, 190-pound McClendon was one of the hardest-hitting players to ever pull on a Canton football helmet. Things haven't changed at St. Joe's, where the ex-Chief was the Pumas' second-leading tackler this past season.

McClendon earned All-GLFC first-team honors for his defensive efforts and All-GLFC honorable mention hon-

ors for averaging 25.0 yards on kickoff returns.

During a Sept. 20 Great Lakes Football Conference game against Lake Erie College — which was played in all places Painesville, Ohio — McClendon piled up a team-high seven tackles from his inside linebacker position. He also forced a fumble, recovered a fumble and returned a kickoff 50 yards — most of which

Please see **MCCLENDON, B4**



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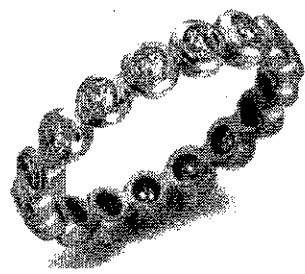
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Buckle up!

New Plymouth hoop coach likes high-speed offense

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After overseeing close to 2,000 blue-uniformed men and women who, among other things, enforce speed limits, Ted Sturdivant is ready to inspire a group of 15 black-and-silver-uniformed girls to move as fast as they can.

Although the new Plymouth High School girls basketball coach has no previous high school coaching experience, he knows plenty about leadership and game plans. Sturdivant worked 28 years for the Michigan State Police — the last three (2003-06) as the director of the state's largest law enforcement agency.

"I coached a lot of AAU basketball on the weekends when I worked for the State Police — it was a great stress reliever," he said, chuckling.

Sturdivant is well known in AAU circles in this area after having served as a coach for the Western Wayne Wolfpack the past several years. He was hired June 26 to succeed former Plymouth coach Richelle Reilly.

"I was ecstatic when I found out I got the job," said Sturdivant, a resident of Plymouth Township. "I am looking forward to this opportunity to lead the Plymouth Wildcats. This is a dream come true for me."

There will be no slow-down-or-else warnings for the Wildcats this season, their new coach emphasized.

"We're going to have an up-tempo style," Sturdivant stressed. "We're going to utilize the great athleticism we have on this team."

"Like any team with a new coach, this team has had to learn new terminology and a different way of doing things. But the girls have done a great



Megan Quinlan provides Plymouth with strong senior leadership and lock-down defensive capabilities.

job of picking things up and moving forward."

Sturdivant inherits a seasoned roster that didn't graduate one starter from last year's squad.

Leading the returners is senior center Shaakira Haywood, a 6-footer who can dominate the paint on both ends of the court.

Haywood, who recently signed a letter of intent to play college basketball at Northern Illinois University, nearly averaged a double-double last season and alters as many shots as she blocks, which is many.

"Shaakira brings a great low-post presence," said Sturdivant. "She can also run the floor very well for a big girl."

Joining Haywood on the Wildcats' starting front-court are Stacey Klonowski, a 5-9 junior, and Megan Quinlan, a 5-9 senior.

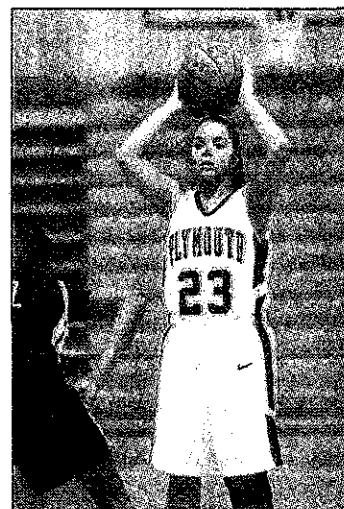
"Stacey plays an all-around steady game," said Sturdivant. "Megan gives us all-out effort and lock-down defense."

Starting in the back-court will be seniors Jalesa Moise, a 5-3 point guard who started her freshman season before missing the last two campaigns due to injuries, and Kelsi Robinson, a 5-10 shooting guard.

"Jalesa is an excellent floor general," said Sturdivant. "She has good decision-making skills."

"Kelsi is probably the quickest and fastest player on the team. She gives us a good outside presence as well."

The first three players off the



Senior Jalesa Moise, who started her freshman year at Plymouth before missing the next two years due to injury, returns to run the Wildcats' offense from the point-guard position.

bench will be Alex Roberts, a 5-7 sophomore, who can play guard and forward; Alysse Calcaterra, a 5-7 junior guard; and Katelyn Moss, a 5-9 sophomore, who can play guard and forward.

"Alex is probably our most athletic player on the team," said Sturdivant. "Katelyn is one of those even-tempered players who never gets rattled."

Providing solid depth to the Wildcats' reserve corps are 5-11 junior Tyler Buchanan, 5-3 junior Troi Davis, 5-8 senior Nicole Rottell, 5-9 senior Paige Visser, 5-8 senior Bri'annah Hightower and 5-8 junior Danielle Desilets.

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WILDCATS

FROM PAGE B1

of the lane on the Wildcats' next possession before Robinson fired her two daggers into the Knights' victory hopes a couple minutes later.

"Kelsi was money tonight," said Sturdivant. "She was our go-to player. Shaakira (Haywood) excelled in the post, it was Kelsi Robinson who brought us home."

Robinson finished with a game-high 18 points. She also netted four rebounds and three steals.

Klonowski chipped in with six points and five boards. Haywood, who drew a pair of Knight defenders throughout the night, scored just four points, but she hauled down a game-high 11 rebounds to go with three blocked shots.

"Even though Shaakira only scored four points, she was a big part of this win because she drew a lot of fouls on Northern and with them double-teaming her, it opened up the outside for Kelsi."

"I think we sent a message tonight that if teams are going to double-team Shaakira, we have some other players who will make them pay the price."

McKenna was the lone Knight to hit double-figures, registering 10. Kelli Golota added nine and Whitney Tower-Woods contributed eight.

Plymouth led 18-12 at the half. Northern surged back to knot the game at 22-all with eight minutes to play before Robinson's late flurry.

A pair of Megan Quinlan free throws padded the Wildcats' lead to 32-28 with 46.8 seconds to go.

Woods-Tower drained two free throws with 13.5 ticks left to bring the Knights to within 32-30, however, Robinson countered with a free throw with 12.4 showing on the clock.

Woods-Tower canned a driving layup with 4 seconds left to cut the deficit to 33-32, but Northern couldn't foul as the final seconds on the scoreboard evaporated into zeroes.

Neither team shot particularly well from the field: Plymouth nailed 10-of-28 shots (35.7 percent) while the Knights connected on 10-of-43 attempts (23.2 percent).

Plymouth was 0-for-7 from the floor in the third quarter.

The Wildcats turned the ball over 18 times, thanks in large part to the ball-hawking defense of Woods-Tower, who recorded four thefts.

When asked what his team needed to improve on, Sturdivant flashed a large grin, then countered the question with a question.

"How about free throw shooting," he said, referring to the 'Cats' 12-of-25 effort from the stripe. "That and moving our feet better on defense so that we can eliminate a lot of unnecessary reaching fouls."

"We have a lot to work on as a team, but that said, it's always good to get that first victory."

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Many happy returns

Salem welcomes back four starters from 20-3 title team

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of the perks of having a talented, young basketball team one year is that you're usually stocked with a talented, experienced basketball team the following season.

Case in point: the 2008-09 Salem Rocks, who return four of their five starters (and five of their top six players) from last year's 20-3 Western Lakes Activities Association championship contingent.

"We only graduated one starter from last year's team, so this is a veteran squad we have coming back," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "Obviously, the one starter we did lose — Alaya Mitchell — was a dynamite player and will be difficult to replace.

"One of the first things we're going to have to figure out is how we're going to replace her explosiveness and quickness."

The Rocks' top returner is 5-foot-11 senior post player Chelsea Davis, who recently signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Wayne State University. Davis is a double-double threat every time she steps on the court.

"Chelsea can play center and power forward equally well," said Thomann. "She can hit the mid-range jump shot and she's a good offensive rebounder. She has a nice back-to-the-basket game as well."

A pair of juniors — 5-11 Sara Stone and 5-9 Brett deBear — give the Rocks a tall and reliable back-court combination.

Both started last season as sophomores and both can handle the point-guard duties, Thomann said.

"They're both solid at handling ball-pressure situations," the veteran mentor said.

"Sara's more of a power player

while Brett's more of a finesse player, but they can both shoot and defend."

Salem's fourth returning starter is 5-10 senior forward Victoria Brotz, who may be the best perimeter shooter on the roster.

"Victoria is an outstanding perimeter shooter," Thomann confirmed. "We have to do a better job of getting her more involved in the offense this year."

The Rocks' fifth starter will be senior Tracy Whalen, a 5-11 transfer from Farmington Hills Mercy.

"She started last year for Mercy as a junior," Thomann said. "I knew right away she was a player because she scored the first eight points for Mercy when we played them last year. She's a terrific rebounder and defensive player."

The first player off the bench should be Rachel Norman, a smooth 5-9 junior forward.

"She played extremely well for us down the stretch last year and she had a nice summer for us," said Thomann.

Other key reserves include Tara Durocher, a 5-8 senior forward and Alyssa Garbarino, a 5-9 junior forward.

Salem will be competing in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's Central Division, which includes Novi, Northville, Livonia Stevenson, South Lyon and South Lyon East.

"It will be a very, very competitive division," Thomann assured.

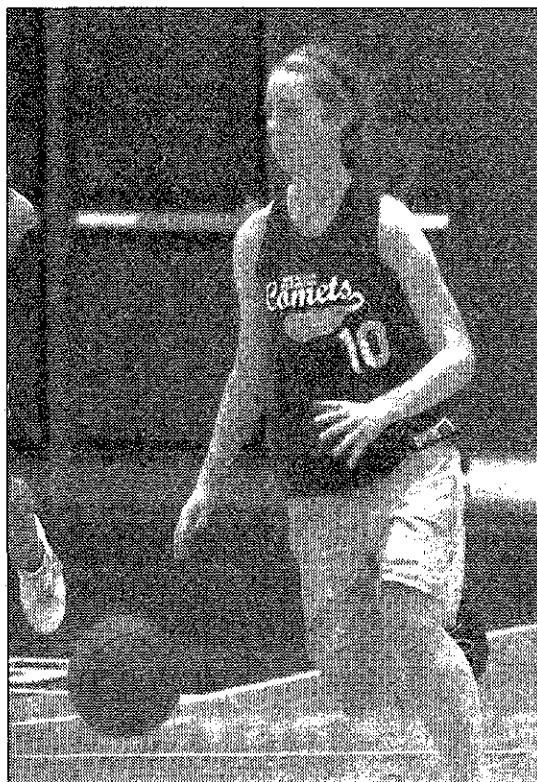
Salem opened its season Wednesday night at Ann Arbor Huron.

The Rocks' home opener is Friday, Dec. 19, against Canton.

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Salem coach Fred Thomann discusses strategy with his team during a Monday afternoon practice. The Rocks return four starters from last season's 20-3 conference championship team.



Junior Brett deBear will handle a lot of the point-guard responsibilities for the Rocks this season.

For Petes' sake: Petersborough harpoons Plymouth Whalers

Tony Romano registered two goals and an assist, and Jason Missiaen stopped 38-of-39 shots as the Petersborough Petes raced to a 4-0 first period lead and defeated the Plymouth Whalers, 6-1, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Saturday night at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

Petersborough is now 13-15-0-1. Plymouth had a two-game winning streak snapped and fell to 9-13-3-0.

Besides Romano's pair, Petersborough received singles from David Quesnele, Yves Bastien, Ryan Spooner and Sergey Korostin, and two assists each from Zack Kassian and Jamie Doornbosch.

Patrick Lee scored Plymouth's lone goal, assisted by Tyler J. Brown and Tyler G. Brown.

Petersborough took control of the game early, getting first-period goals from Quesnele at 2:47 (deflection of Doornbosch's point shot), Bastien at 7:00 (shorthanded goal, hard shot left wing), Spooner at 13:37 (deflection of Pat Daley's low point shot) and Korostin at 15:25 (one-timer from the slot after accepting Romano's right wing pass).

Trailing 4-0 in the second period, Plymouth battled back, but Missiaen stopped 23-of-24 shots and Romano scored at 4:07 and 9:18 respectively to give Petersborough a 6-0 lead midway through the game.

Lee got one back for Plymouth at 16:28, scoring on a scramble in front of the Petersborough goal and roofing the puck past Missiaen. The third period was scoreless.

Plymouth outshot Petersborough, 39-30.

Plymouth is off until tonight when it plays in Petersborough.

On Friday the Whalers travel to Oshawa before returning home Saturday to host Sault Ste. Marie at 7:05pm at Compuware Arena.

The Whalers are orchestrating a food drive on Saturday. For every nonperishable food item a fan brings to the game, they will receive a coupon good for \$2 off a ticket to a pre-selected Whalers home game.

The food collected will help stock the Salvation Army food pantry.

Tickets for all Plymouth Whalers game are available by calling the Compuware Arena box office at (734) 453-8400.

Chiefs capture puck title

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While most people were finishing off Thanksgiving left-overs Saturday afternoon, Canton's hockey team was cleaning up at the Salem Thanksgiving Tournament.

The Chiefs successfully defended their title at the four-

team tournament by doubling-up the Michigan Stars, 4-2, at the Plymouth Cultural Center. The Stars are a Midget-A travel team made up of high school-aged players. Canton improved to 3-0-1 with the victory.

Details of the game were not available at presstime.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 4
Birmingham Marian at Canton, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 5
PCA at Baptist Park, 7:30 p.m.
F.H. Mercy at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
BOYS PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 5
Novi at Canton
at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m.
Livonia Stevenson at Salem

at Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
West Bloomfield at Plymouth
at Compuware Arena, 7:40 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6
Salem at Waterford Mott, 2:20 p.m.
Plymouth at Chelsea
at Arctic Coliseum, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6
Canton at Warren Woods
Tower-Duals, 9 a.m.
Salem at Orion Invitational, 9 a.m.

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Northville Downs Race Track

Saturday, December 13, 2008

Bloomfield, MI

Covington School

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8:30 a.m. Snowman Shuffle

9:00 a.m. Race Starts

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Beyonce talks about her new album, upcoming movies and superstardom.



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McCLENDON

FROM PAGE B1

he covered with only half his foot gear. "I caught the ball at the 25-yard line and right away one of my shoes fell off," McClendon said, describing his lengthy kickoff return. "When I got to about midfield, I jumped over the kicker, but I got tackled at the other team's 25. If I wouldn't have lost my shoe, I think I would have scored, but it felt weird running with only one shoe on."

From Day 1 last fall, McClendon earned a starting berth in the Pumas' defensive secondary, despite his fresh-

man status.

However, he had to sit out the team's first two games due to a paperwork snafu that was beyond his control.

"The first game I missed last year was against Grand Valley State, so, yeah, I was bumming," McClendon reflected. "It would have been fun playing against one of the best teams in the country in front of thousands of people."

After watching from the sidelines for the first two games in 2007, McClendon made his presence felt in his debut — an 11-8 loss to Butler.

Playing strong safety, he registered six tackles and an interception while

also forcing a fumble.

"I was pretty fired up for that game after sitting out the first two," said McClendon, who was awarded the league's "Defensive Player of the Week" award.

McClendon said the collegiate game is a whole different brand of football than what he experienced in high school.

"Everybody is a lot faster, a lot stronger and there's a lot more strategy," he said.

McClendon said he is excelling in the classroom at the rural campus, which is located not far from Chicago.

"There's not a lot out here, but I like it," he said.

When he's not studying toward his biology degree, working out for the football team or hanging out with friends, McClendon takes care of the responsibilities that go along with being a resident assistant for his dormitory.

Once he earns his bachelor's degree, McClendon is prepared to transfer to another school that offers a three-year doctorate degree in biology so that he can become a practicing physical therapist.

But until then, he's satisfied making tackles that keep opposing teams' physical therapists on their toes.

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Thursday, December 4, 2008
Oakland at San Diego
Sunday, December 7, 2008
Minnesota at Detroit
Houston at Green Bay
Jacksonville at Chicago
Cincinnati at Indianapolis
Cleveland at Tennessee
Philadelphia at New York Giants
Atlanta at New Orleans
Miami at Buffalo
Kansas City at Denver
New York Jets at San Francisco
New England at Seattle
St. Louis at Arizona
Dallas at Pittsburgh
Washington at Baltimore
Monday, December 8, 2008
Tampa Bay at Carolina

SPORTS BRIEFS

High Velocity
break camps

High Velocity Sports in Canton will offer "fun days" and camps during the upcoming holiday breaks.

On "fun days", parents can drop off their kids at HVS any time between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and pay \$5 per hour for supervised care that includes sports and non-sports stations that rotate every 30 minutes. Fun days will be offered Dec. 1, Dec. 22-23; Dec. 29-31; Jan. 19; Feb. 23-27; and April 13-17. HVS camps will be offered from Feb. 23-27 and April 13-17.

The camps included basketball (10 a.m. to noon), soccer (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.) and

crafts (9 a.m. to noon).

For more information, call (734) 487-7668 or visit www.hvsports.com.

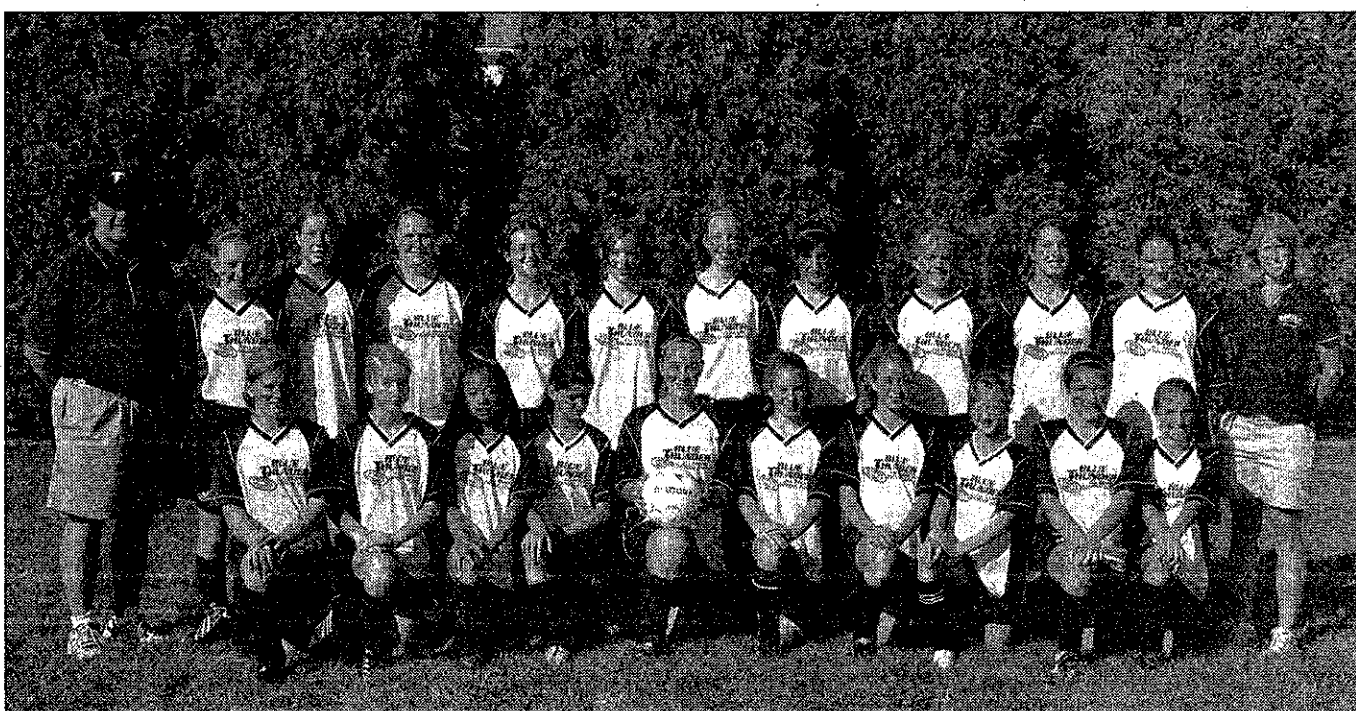
Nokes seminar

Former Detroit Tigers catcher Matt Nokes will present the seminar "The Art of Hitting Your Way" Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Precision Baseball in Canton.

The cost of the 90-minute PowerPoint seminar and 90-minute training session is \$75.

For more information, contact Precision Baseball at (734) 459-5921 or visit <http://precisionbaseballone.com>.

The indoor baseball facility is located at 7835 Market St. in Canton.



All Saints, all wins

The All Saints Catholic School varsity girls soccer team captured their division this past fall. Pictured are (front row from left) Katie Miller, Maria Wegienka, Nicole Binguet, Ashley LaFramboise, Alex Zelek, Clare Cox, Kelly Bindon, Alanna Tarnacki, (back row from left) assistant coach John Gunnis, Ella Mucci, Elena Bongiovanni, Kim Gunnis, Jordan Sutton, Brittany Layden, Alaina Stevenson, Lauren Lukens, Molly Nolan, Jessica Kuznicki, Michelle Jaskolski and coach Suzanne Bindon.

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Join us for the **ShopCanton Holiday Fest** on Saturday, December 6th, from 12:00-4:00 in the Willow Creek shopping plaza, located on Ford Rd. between Haggerty and Lilley. Color and decorate the **ShopCanton** mascot any way you like. **Be CREATIVE!**

Turn your entry in at **World of Floors** (during business hours) located at 43711 Ford Road, by noon on Friday, December 5th. You can also bring your picture to the **ShopCanton Holiday Fest** between 12-3:00 p.m. (Entries received after 3:00 are not eligible to win.) Pictures will be displayed and judged at the **World of Floors Coloring Corral** in Candyland. (It will be located in the old Bombay store at the east end of the mall.) 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners will be selected from each age group. Winners will be notified by e-mail on Wednesday, Dec. 10. For more details on the **ShopCanton Holiday Fest** event or extra coloring forms, please visit www.shopcanton.org.

Name _____

Age Group: ☐ 4-6 ☐ 7-9 ☐ 10-12

Phone _____

Coloring Contest Sponsored by:

Parent E-mail _____

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School _____

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REDFORD - Sharp 3 bdrm, enclosed porch, 2 car garage, double lot, Sec. 8 OK. \$850/mo. 734-425-3333

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WESTLAND 37172 Gilchrist, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 2 car, no pets. \$950/mo. + 1 1/2 security deposit. 734-819-3557

WESTLAND - Newly updated 3 bdrm, 1 bath, appliances, garage, fenced. Avail. now. \$825. Sec 8. (586) 273-7565

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Local gridder selected for elite national bowl game NAIA pool play starts: Crusaders denied in 5

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton resident Cameron Dillard will be banging shoulder pads with many of the best eighth-grade football players in the country early next month.

Dillard, who excelled for the Plymouth-Canton Steelers junior football program the past two years, was invited to participate in the 2009 FBU Youth All-American Bowl, which will be played Jan. 4 in San Antonio, Texas.

The game will be preceded by a week-long camp that will feature instruction provided by several NFL coaches.

Dillard and the other middle-school-aged players will train alongside high school gridgers who will be competing in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl,

an annual showcase of the nation's top prep football players that will be broadcast on NBC.

"As part of the nomination process, we put together 14 or 15 highlights from the Steelers game film this past season and sent the film to Football University, which puts together the program," explained George Dillard, Cameron's dad. "They also take into consideration the players' off-the-field contributions, like when Cameron volunteered for the Michigan Special Olympics last summer."

The Dillards received an e-mail on Nov. 20 notifying them of Cameron's selection.

"Cameron getting picked is reflection of how great the Plymouth-Canton Steelers football program is," said George Dillard. "Cameron has learned

so much since he joined that association after we moved to Canton from North Carolina two years ago."

The 5-foot-9, 170-pound Dillard played offensive tackle for the Steelers' varsity contingent this season. He was instrumental in the team's 7-2 season, which included a division title.

The future Canton High School student has also worked hard to master the art of long-snapping, a skill he also performed for the Steelers this fall.

Among the eighth-graders invited to participate in the elite camp is Ray Lewis III, the son of Baltimore Ravens line-backer Ray Lewis.

The game will be broadcast via the Web on Sunday, Jan. 4.

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



ANDY RUBENSTEIN

Canton resident Cameron Dillard was invited to play in the prestigious FBU Youth All-American Bowl Jan. 4 in San Antonio.

The Madonna University women's volleyball team now finds itself behind the eight-ball following Tuesday's setback in five games to Lewis-Clark State College (Id.) in the opening round of the NAIA National Championships held at the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Ia.

Julie Maciboba racked up 21 kills, while Anile Clemente and Dana Christianson added 15 and 12, respectively, to lead the unseeded Warriors to a come-from-behind 23-25, 22-25, 25-21, 25-20, 15-13 triumph over No. 11-seeded MU.

Clemente also had 20 digs, while Lindsay Scott and Katie Hinrichs added 18 and 11 for Lewis-Clark, which improved to 30-2 overall. Setters Abby Bruya and Lisa Davis combined for 48 assists.

MU, which fell to 35-5 overall, got a game-high 23 kills from senior Lubovj Tihomirova. Mary McGinnis added 18, while Karie Altman and Whitney Fueling added 13 each.

Setter Inta Grinvalds finished with 54 assist-to-kills, while Brynn Kerr (Livonia

Churchill/Schoolcraft College) had 33 digs. Abby Long added 14.

The Crusaders return to action Wednesday night in Pool B against 33-5 Lubbock (Tex.) Christian, which fell in four games to No. 2-seed Biola (Calif.).

"It was a great match, we had a big lead in the fifth game (8-3), but they came back and they were on fire," MU coach Jerry Abraham said. "They (Lewis-Clark) are very good. The first two games were battles. It went back and forth, both evenly matched teams. But when you're winning 2-0 (games) you should close out match and win ... and we didn't."

Madonna needs a win Wednesday to stay alive for the elimination round, which begins Friday.

"We're in a really powerful pool," Abraham said. "The competition gets harder every match. They (Lubbock) are very fast, very talented. Then we play the second-best team in the country (Biola). We'll see."

For more on Wednesday's and Thursday's Madonna matches, visit www.hometownlife.com

Lady Ocelots rebound from 1st loss of season

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team went 2-1 at the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Turkey Shootout, which was held this past weekend at the Cougar Gym in Kalamazoo.

The Ocelots (5-1) entered the tournament as the No. 3-ranked team in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division II.

Schoolcraft opened the event on Friday with a 73-72 setback to Owens CC (Ohio). It was the Ocelots' first loss to Owens since Nov. 28, 2004.

Angela Burress led the Ocelots balanced scoring ledger with 14 points and seven rebounds. Sheray Brown (12 points, nine rebounds) and Amber Avery (11 points) also turned in double-digit scoring nights for SC, which out-rebounded Owens, 44-35, but was hampered by shaky shooting (37 percent from the field; 60 percent from the charity stripe).

Schoolcraft led 33-32 at the half.

On Saturday, the Ocelots handed Kennedy-King (Ill.) its fifth loss in six games this

season, 103-73.

Schoolcraft, which led 46-38 at the half, was led by Salem grad Tayler Langham, who poured in 18 points. Six other players also scored in double-figures: Antania Shepherd (13); Avery and April Goins (12 each); Shannon Collins and Jasmine Brown (11 each) and Brittany Collins, who twined 10.

Avery and Sheray Brown both yanked down a team-high 10 boards while Brittany Collins dished out a game-high 12 assists.

The Ocelots routed

Columbus State (Ohio), 93-59, on Sunday. Led by Jasmine Brown's 17, six Ocelots cracked the double-figures scoring barrier. Goins notched a double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Shanika Morman scored just one point, but she recorded a game-high 11 assists.

Schoolcraft was red-hot from the floor, hitting 52 percent of its field-goal attempts and 57 percent of its triple tries. Jasmine Brown was 3-for-3 from beyond the arc.

Madonna kickers booted, 2-1

Second-seeded University of Rio Grande (Ohio) applied heavy pressure throughout the match en route to a 2-1 win Monday over Madonna University in the round of 16 of the 50th annual NAIA Men's Soccer National Championships hosted by Fresno (Calif.) Pacific University.

Rio Grande, now 17-3-1 overall, advances to Wednesday quarterfinal against the winner of No. 7 Notre Dame (Ohio) and No. 10 Maine-Fort Kent.

Rio's Paul Nicholson got the scoring started in the 41st minute taking a pass from Ederson Lopes. That marker was Nicholson's eighth goal of the year. The game-winner came off the foot of Sam Fairhurst in the 60th minute, which was again assisted by Lopes.

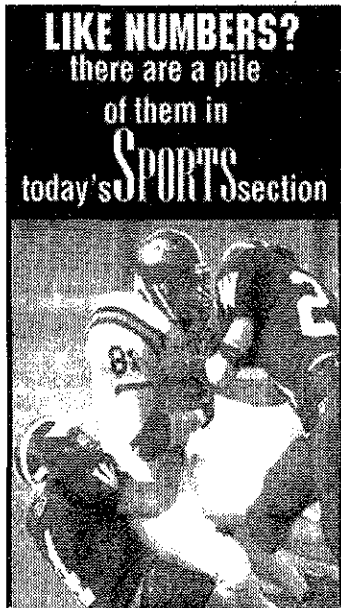
Eric Kiebert set up MU's lone goal finding Doron Draï, which resulted in Draï's third goal of the season. That brought the count to 2-1 in the 75th minute.

In the net, Madonna's

Anthony DeMarco made 13 saves. That total was the first time a goaltender posted 10 or more saves in the NAIA Tournament since Brian Cochrum of Oklahoma Christian had 10 in 2006.

Goalkeeper Nate Walzer improved to 10-2 this year in the net for the RedStorm.

The 15th-seeded Crusaders, Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference champions, end their season at 16-4-1 record in its second NAIA Championships appearance.



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of them in
today's **SPORTS** section

VISIT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Legal Notice Charter Township of Plymouth 2008 Winter Taxes

Winter Taxes are due December 1, 2008 and payable through February 17, 2009 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township 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 24 hr **WHITE DROP BOX** located along the circular drive. The Treasurer's Office will be open December 31, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

RON EDWARDS, Treasurer
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: December 4, 2008

CE0803000-242

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 18, 2008 for the following:

SWEPPER UNIT / BROOM UTILITY VEHICLE

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

Publish: December 4, 2008

CE08034428-243

CHANGE OF CONTROL NOTICE

Donald M. Soenen, as Trustee of the Donald M. Soenen Trust dated 9/14/84, Plymouth, Michigan, and Michael J. Soenen, Chicago, Illinois, have notified the Federal Reserve Board that as a group acting together they intend to retain control of a bank holding company. They intend to retain control of Plymouth Financial Corporation, 1333 West Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, Michigan. The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve such applications.

New Liberty Bank, Plymouth, Michigan is a subsidiary of Plymouth Financial Corporation.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this notice to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604. The comment period will not end before January 3, 2009 and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing notices may be found at 12 C.F.R. 225.43. To obtain a copy of the Board's procedures or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the notice, contact the Community Affairs Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Ms. Alicia Williams, (312) 322-5910. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments on the notice if they are received by the Reserve Bank on or before the last date of the comment period.

Publish: December 4, 2008

CE08034463-243.5

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 4, 2008

CE08032172-492.5

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, 12/15/08 TATE & CO. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Extra Space Storage, **6729 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187 @ NOON.**

Ray Schultz	D157 10x10	Vacuum Cleaner, 27" CRT TV, box-spring size: full, instrument case, misc. bedroom furniture, coffee table, copier and scanner, picture frame, large tote.
Jeff Krappitz	D155 10x10	Fridge, twin mattress & spring, armoire, patio furniture, toolbox, compressor, grill, misc. tools and household goods.

Publish: December 4 & 11, 2008

CE08034858-243

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 1150 S. CANTON CENTER RD. CANTON, MI 48188

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction December 9, 2008 at 10:00 A.M.

The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

Year	Make	Model	Body	VIN #
1998	Olds		4 Dr	1G3WS52K1WF323995
1995	GMC	Jimmy	S/W	1GKDT13W2S2503863
2006	Dodge	Charger	4 Dr	2B3KA43R56H394348
2004	Mazda	RX 8	2 Dr	JM1FE173240102875
1996	Nissan	Altima	4 Dr	1N4BU31D7TC171188
1998	Ford	Windstar	S/W	2FMZA5143WBC20206
2004	Pontiac	Grand Prix	4 Dr	2G2WP522941305271
1999	Ford	Windstar	S/W	2FMZA6143XRB23850
1996	Mercury	Marquis	4 Dr	2MELM7462TX605906
1992	Ford	Mustang	2 Dr	1FACP41M9NF156095
1995	Plymouth		4 Dr	1P3AA4639SF508686
1998	Pontiac	Grand Am	2 Dr	1G2NE52T9WC770611
1993	Honda	Civic	2 Dr	1HGEJ1261PL053844

Publish: December 4 and 7, 2008

CE08034901-203.5

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD Proceedings-November 25, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, November 25, 2008, at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Members Present: Anthony, Bennett, Caccamo, McLaughlin, Taj, Williams, Yack

Staff Present: Executive Director Santomauro, Director Eva, Director Conklin, Director Paas
Adoption of Agenda Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the Board Minutes of November 11, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills Motion by McLaughlin, supported by Bennett to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION: Item 1. **RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY CHIEF LAURA GOLLES' RETIREMENT.** Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution in recognition of Deputy Chief Laura Gollis' retirement. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2. **RECOGNITION FOR CANTON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION STAFF MEMBER.** Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to adopt the resolution for Canton Information Technology Services Division Staff Member. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. **RECOGNITION OF CANTON COMMUNITY TELEVISION AWARD WINNING STAFF.** Motion by Bennett, supported by Taj to adopt the resolution in recognition of the Canton Community Television Staff. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Item 1. **CONSIDER REAPPOINTMENT OF GREG TROMBLEY TO BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS.** (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to re-appoint Greg Trombley to the Building Board of Appeals. (Term expiring 12/31/2010). Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2. **RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE CDBG ADVISORY COUNCIL.** (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to reappoint Susan Wooley and Katherine Martin to the CDBG Advisory Council for two-year terms, effective January 1, 2009, and expiring December 31, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL CALENDAR: Item 1. **CONSIDER HCR MANOR CARE REZONING HEARTLAND HEALTHCARE ADDITION & WILLOW CREEK PUD AMENDMENT #4.** (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution Rezoning request of HCR Manorcare. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Bennett, supported by Williams to adopt the resolution for Willow Creek PUD Amendment #4. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Bennett, supported by Williams to adopt the resolution for the site plan for Heartland Health Care Expansion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2. **CONSIDER DEDICATION OF ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY AT CANTON CENTER AND GEDDES ROAD TO WAYNE COUNTY.** (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the dedication of a 60-foot road right-of-way for the property at 45450 Geddes Road at the intersection of Canton Center Road and Geddes Road for (parts of) parcel Tax Numbers, 71-112-99-0002-000 and 71-112-99-0003-000 and authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to sign the quit claim deeds.. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. **APPROVE BID FOR PRINTING THE 2009 SERVICE DIRECTORY AND CALENDAR.** (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Taj to approve the bid submitted by National Wholesale Printing Corporation in the amount of \$10,990 Communications Account #101-240.900.0040 Printing and Publishing) for printing of the 2009 Service Directory and Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 4. **CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A TIME, ATTENDANCE, LEAVE AND SCHEDULING SYSTEM.** (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the purchase of a Time, Attendance, Leave and Scheduling System from Stromberg Systems for an amount not to exceed \$101,000. I further move to approve the following budget amendment to the 2008 General Fund Budget. Increase Revenues: General Fund Balance - Fund Balance Appropriation #101-000.695 \$101,000 Increase Appropriations: Capital Outlay Computers and Equipment #101-258.970.0010 \$101,000, This budget adjustment increases the Information Technology Division from \$973,017 to \$1,074,017 and the General Fund from \$28,396,791 to \$28,497,791. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER: Supervisor Yack stated there will be not be a study session on December 2, 2008. The next regular Board Meeting will be December 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, First Floor, Board Room, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. **ADJOURN:** Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adjourn at 7:53 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 Board Approval.

Publish: December 4, 2008

CE08034468-2412.8

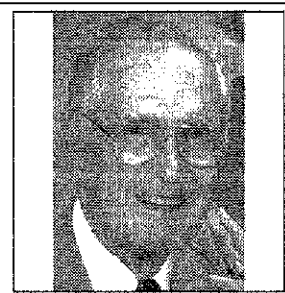
Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232

e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

View Obit On-line @ www.hometownlife.com



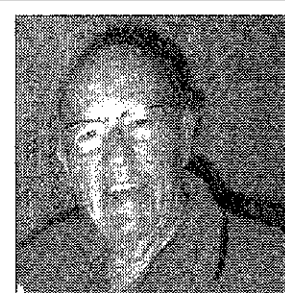
CHARLES E. LOWE

A Southern gentleman, a real Kentucky Colonel, died Dec. 1st amongst his family. He succumbed to a combination of his 93 years and a great desire to join his wife of 64 years, Bettye, who predeceased him on January 2, 2007. He is survived by generations of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and decades of friends, associates, companions and admirers. He was born dirt poor in Inez, Kentucky, in 1915, son of a lumberman, raised with his siblings by a widowed mother. He served his country in WWII and for 22 years after in the Army Reserves, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. Amongst his numerous accomplishments, he was Mayor of Garden City from 1960-62, City Attorney of Plymouth for 18 years, Past Master of Metropolitan Lodge #519, and co-founder of the Kentuckians of Michigan. His children, Rebecca Ponte (Glen), Ronald W. Lowe (Jeanine), and Charles E. Lowe Jr. (Tonya) were at his bedside. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure to have known him. A memorial visitation will be held at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main, Plymouth, Saturday, December 27, 2008, 1-5pm. A Masonic Service will take place at 4pm. Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice.



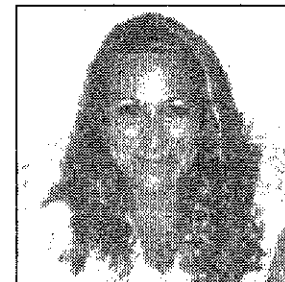
DOROTHY "DOTTIE" SHARER (NEE WIKEL)

November 29, 2008. Age 93 of Birmingham. Beloved wife of the late Edward. Dear mother of Richard (Serena) and Diana. Loving grandmother of Daniel Chichester and Sarah Chichester. Sister of Howard Wikel (Betty). Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile) Friday 4-8 p.m. Funeral service Sunday 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham. Visitation begins at church 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorial tributes to Many Voices. One Song, 1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI 48009 or Little Stone Church, Mackinac Island, MI 49757. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



DR. ALDEN EARLE VAN ORNUM, DDS

Of Batavia, NY, went to be with his Lord and Savior on November 29, 2008. Age 95. Dr. Van Ornum had a dental practice in Plymouth, MI for forty years and was active in Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, Christian Businessmen and the Wayne Baptist Church. Surviving are his wife Elizabeth Helen (Selman) Van Ornum of Batavia; two children, Ann (Mark) Van Ornum Fackler of Grand Rapids and David (Trudie) Van Ornum of Batavia; two brothers, Rev. Carlton (Jean) Van Ornum and Paul Van Ornum; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Calling 5-6 p.m. Thursday at H.E. Turner & Co. Funeral Home of Batavia, NY where services will follow at 6 p.m. Condolences to www.bataviainfuneralhomes.com.



IN MEMORY OF MELISSA (Williams) LAMBAREN 7-7-74 to 12-3-07

Like a song that remains in the heart when the music is playing no more, like a fragrance that stays in the air where a flower has blossomed before, like a star that continues to glow long after the breaking of dawn, the ones we have loved remain with us still, and the beautiful memories go on. Love you and miss you so much! Dad, Mom, Chris, Jenny, Sue, Jess and Marty



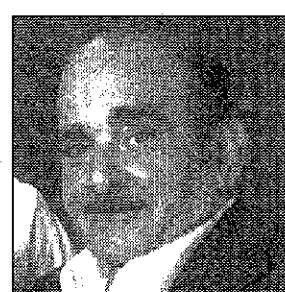
LEO E. HARRAWOOD

Of Novi. Passed away November 29, 2008 at the age of 88. Beloved husband of Beatrice, loving father of Diana (Brent) Canup and Debra (Zack) Fishman. Predeceased by Bernice who died in 1991 after 51 years of marriage. Loving grandfather of Brent Jr. (Ginger) Canup & Brenda (Michael) Daray. Great-grandfather of Morgan & Margaux Canup and Skylar & Taner Daray. Leo is survived by one sister Laura Wofford and predeceased by three brothers and two sisters Francis, Paul, Everett, Gladys Petri & Nellie. Beloved uncle to Pam and Art. Leo was a founder and active member of numerous organizations and businesses in Novi and the State of Michigan. He was a WWII veteran and recipient of two Purple Hearts with Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star w/ Arrowhead, and the WWII Victory Medal. He was a life time member of the Disabled American Veterans, Amvets and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Leo served the village of Novi in several capacities including city planning board member, Councilman and Past President Pro-Tem. He was instrumental in making Novi into a city. Mr. Harrawood was a charter member, director and Past President of the Novi Rotary Club District Governor for Rotary District Number 638. A charter member of the Farmington Elks Lodge, a charter member of St. John's Lutheran Church Farmington, Past President of the Novi Chamber of Commerce. Leo served as the illustrious Potentate of the Moslem Temple and was a member of the Walled Lake Masonic Lodge. He was the owner/operator of the Standard Oil/Amoco gas station on Grand River & Novi Road for 44 years. He was also the owner of the BP station at Novi Road and 12 mile. He was the co-owner of Shirley Cash Realty of Novi, Owner Founder of Sales Training Institute of Detroit. Leo was an avid outdoor sportsman, a licensed pilot and successful motivator and sales trainer. Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, (248) 348-1800, Wednesday 5-9pm. Masonic Service Wednesday 7:00pm and Thursday 1-9pm. In state at St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Rd., Farmington Hills Friday 9:00am until the funeral service at 10:00. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. John Lutheran Church. Online sympathy messages at: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com



WANDA M. BRACISZEWSKI

Age 80, of Westland, formerly of Plymouth passed away November 28, 2008. Born in Salem Twp., on November 1, 1928. Worked for Whitman & Barnes in Plymouth for 25 years and then for the City of Plymouth for 12 years. Loving wife of the late Frank. Devoted mother of Michele D. (Warren) Grismer and Darryl Binger. Proud grandmother of Brett (Kara) Grismer, Susan and Kaitlin Binger. Dear sister of Russell (Carol) Merritt and Rodger (Carol) Merritt. Services were held from the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, on December 2, 2008. Interment Thayer Cemetery, Northville. Share memories at schrader-howell.com.



WILLIAM JOHN CORTEZ

Age 71, passed away December 1, 2008. Bill was born on August 10, 1937 in Detroit to the late John and Angeline (Urs) Cortez. He worked in quality control for Ford Motor Company for 33 years. Bill is survived by his wife Jackie; children Bill Jr. and daughter-in-law Tracy, John, Kathy, and Angela; grandchildren Andrew, Nicolas, Samantha, Zachary, Rachel, Cheryl, and Joey; great-granddaughter Autumn; and sister Rosemary Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Frank Cortez. A Memorial Service will be held at Brighton Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 11:00 am with memorial gathering beginning at 10:00 am. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942. Arrangements by Phillips Funeral Home. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com



ROBERT E. SNYDER

November 24, 2008. Beloved husband of Joan. Dear father of Carol Jarocha (William), Susan Keller (Mike), and Robert Jr. (deceased). Loving grandfather of Stacey and Heather Jarocha, Amy, Jeffrey, Julie, and Tommy Keller and Ashley, Steven, Matthew and Andrew Snyder. Retired from Ford Motor Co. A family memorial service was held at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia.



SALLY LEE BUSHA (nee Gyde)

Of Plymouth passed away from her long battle with cancer. She is survived by her best friend and husband of 52 years, Frank Busha. She has a beloved daughter and son, Susan Hoy and James Busha. Very loved are Richard Hoy, son-in-law and Lori Busha, daughter-in-law. Proud and loving grandmother of Amanda Busha, Kenny Busha, Sally Jo Hoy and Emma Hoy. She was born August 7, 1937, a sixth generation of the Plymouth-Canton area, predeceased by her father Kenneth Gyde and is survived by her mother Onalee Gyde. Her favorite activities included biking, working on her flowers and golfing (hole in one 2006). She had many friends and special neighbors of Wedgewood Village and Florida. A celebration to her life will be held, with a Gathering of Family and Friends Friday 10:30 AM until the time of the Memorial Service at 11 AM at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth. Visitation Thursday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth. (btwn Sheldon and Beck). Memorial contributions suggested to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Cancer Care Office of Development, PO Box 995, Ann Arbor MI, 48103. To share a memory with the family, please visit: www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com.



WANDA L. NORTHEN (NEE YATES)

Age 83. November 29, 2008. Beloved wife of the late Philip. Loving mother of Carol (Frederick) Smith, Diane (Michael) Burkhardt, and Gary Northen. Dear grandmother of James (Lana) Acitelli, Sharyl (Allan) Rubin, Barrie Burkhardt, step-grandmother of Chris (Crystal) and Matt Smith, and great-grandmother of Jacob, Joshua and Zachary Rubin. Wanda was an accomplished artist and a past member of the Detroit Society of Women Painters, Palette and Brush Club, and the Farmington Artists. Visitation was held Wednesday, December 3, 2008 4-9pm and today Thursday, December 4, 2008 10:00am until time of Service at 11:00am at McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills. Interment Glen Eden Memorial Park. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

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

Deadlines:

Friday 4:15 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: Obit c/o Jennifer Muszduk 586-826-7318

For more information call:

Jennifer Muszduk 586-826-7115 or Charolette Wilson 586-826-7082

or toll free

800-579-7355

ask for Jennifer or Charolette

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RELIGION CALENDAR

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.

UPCOMING

Christmas concert

The Silver Strings perform 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. No charge. Call (734) 427-3660.

Kids Christmas craft days

Deadline is today, Thursday, Dec. 4 to register for Kids Christmas Craft Day 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 6, for ages 5 years through 5th grade, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, Livonia. Kids will enjoy creating Christmas crafts to be used as gifts or decorations. All are welcome to attend. Suggested donation of \$3 per child. For more information or to sign-up, call (734) 422-1470.

Advent presentation

Through Scripture, food and drink, reflect on and delight in preparing for Christ's arrival 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, in Bixman Hall at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. No charge, but RSVP by calling (734) 425-5950. Presenter is David Conrad, M.A. Theology.

Caregiver's support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Christmas craft show

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at St. Thomas d'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley at Cherry Hill, Canton. Bake sale and lunch available at the show featuring more than 85 crafters. Admission \$2, children under age 12 free. Call (734) 981-1333.

Glory of Christmas

The theatrical production opens Thursday, Dec. 4, and runs week-ends through Sunday, Dec. 14, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 N. Territorial at Ridge, Plymouth. Tickets \$16 and \$18. Call (734) 414-7777 or visit www.northridgechurch.com. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday, and 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Holiday concert

Madrigal Choral of Southfield performs 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the historic Old St. Mary's Church in Detroit's Greektown, 646 Monroe at St. Antoine. Tickets \$18 and available by calling (248) 229-7147 or \$20 at the door. www.mcs-notes.org.

Silent Night

An Advent service for those who are grieving or unemployed 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial at Beck, Plymouth. Call (734) 453-0326. While Advent is a time to acknowledge the beauty of the Christmas season, it can also be a time of sadness. For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, struggling with an illness, caring for a terminally ill family member or facing unemployment, divorce or financial hardship, the joyfulness of the season may be overwhelming. Through stories of endurance from members of our community, inspirational music, and scripture readings we will seek together the peace, hope and love that are the true gifts of Christmas.

Christmas season events

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville, is hosting events for the Christmas Season at no charge in the sanctuary. Events include Early Childhood Christmas Concert, 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. "Angel Alert," the children's Christmas pageant, takes place 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, reception to follow. "A Gift of Hope" Christmas concert featuring the Ward Chancel Choir, Teen Choir, Orchestra, Ensembles and Handbells is 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, includes audience singalong of favorite Christmas carols. The Combined Choirs and Orchestra with guest conductors and soloists perform 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21.

Christmas music

"A Christmas Pageant" features The Praisemakers Choir (ages 4-5) 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, and "Repeat the Resounding Joy" Christmas Dinner Theater Dec. 12-14, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. The Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, performances begin at 7 p.m. and a full dinner will be served. Sunday night's program, Dec. 14, begins at 6 p.m. with a dessert table only. For tickets, visit www.5milechurch.org or call (734) 464-6722.

Grief workshop

Getting Through the Holidays, a workshop for those grieving the loss of a

loved one at what can be an extremely difficult time of year, sponsored by St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Convent Meeting Room, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Guest speaker is Certified Hospice Trainer and Pastoral Associate, Dianne Fessler. To R.S.V.P., call (734) 261-1455, ext. 207. All are welcome.

Music at St. John's

A Festival of Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7, with the parish's music groups: Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2009, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, 2009, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

Detroit Lutheran Singers

Celebrate CHRISTmas concerts 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Antioch Lutheran Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets \$10 (\$7 for seniors and students age 12 and older) and will be available at the door. For advance tickets, call (248) 988-6715. For more information, visit www.detroitlutheransingers.com.

Evenings of Evangelization

With Rev. Alex Kratz, 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. The evening begins with a Holy Hour followed by small-group discussions, teaching and fellowship. All interested Catholics welcome. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Holiday cookie walk

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 13, at First United Methodist Church of Wayne (across from Wayne Post Office). Holiday cookies, breads, pies and candies, specialty gift baskets. Cost is \$5 for small container, \$9 medium, \$13 large. For information, call (734) 721-4801.

Christmas Cookie Walk

Too busy to bake? Buy cookies by the pound from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13 at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 West Chicago Road, between Beech-Daly and Inkster Road, in Redford. (313) 937-2120.

Choirs concert

The Choirs of St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia invites the public to a special Christmas concert, "Ring In The Holidays," 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. The concert features the Felician Sisters Choir as well as St. Michael's Handbell Choirs and the Mikapellas, a women's a cappella choir. No charge. For more information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200, or visit www.livoniaarchangel.org.

Bethany monthly dance

8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Dec. 13, at Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (this is the I-96 service drive), east of Inkster Rd., Redford. Dance lesson this month, dancers choice, cost \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call (734) 261-5716 for details.

Adult choir concert

The St. Aidan Adult Choir, directed by Ray Schmidt, presents its 27th Annual Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. The cost is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. This event is held annually to assist the St. Aidan Christian Service Commission to aid those in need during the holiday season. Call (734) 425-5950. Tickets will be available at the door on the day of event.

Christmas worship

Special Christmas service 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, with the choir at First United Methodist Church of Wayne singing "Music from around the World." All welcome. Church is located at 3 Towne Square, across from Wayne Post Office. Regular services 9 a.m. traditional, 10:30 a.m. contemporary. Call (734) 721-4801.

All-you-can-eat pancakes

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its more than 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Eve services

7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster Road and Middlebelt, Garden City. All are welcome. Call (734) 427-3660.

Christmas worship

5:30 p.m. family worship, children's pageant; 7:30 p.m. candlelight communion service (Contemporary Worship Ensemble); 10:30 p.m. Christmas music prelude, and 11 p.m. candlelight community service with Chancel Choir and Trinity Belis

Wednesday, Dec. 24, and 10 a.m. Christmas worship Thursday, Dec. 25, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. All are invited.

Clothing bank

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of each month (Dec. 27), at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley. For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

Sunday school

Takes place at 9:30 a.m. with worship service and communion at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. Bible study 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Call (734) 427-3660.

Hall rental

Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

ONGOING

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelts and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information visit www.oa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

Mid-week Service

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church offers a Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Leverne, Redford. Communion is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m.

ENDOW

St. Michael the Archangel Parish is hosting two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Based on Pope John Paul II's "Letter to Women", the Course I groups meet 9:30-11 a.m. Mondays, and 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays. Course V, called "Aquinas for Beginners", is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available locally only at St. Michael's 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays. All meet in the convent basement meeting room. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or online at www.endowonline.com. St. Michael's is at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Choral rehearsals

Oakland Choral Society has begun Tuesday evening rehearsals for its Christmas concerts with professional soloists and orchestra. On Dec. 6 the group performs Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicolas," and J.S. Bach's "Cantata Wachet auf," and on Dec. 14 Handel's "Messiah." Registration begins at 7:00 p.m., with rehearsal 7:30-9 p.m., at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. All singers who can read music are welcome. Membership dues \$55 for fall season (\$30 for students age 30 and under). Music cost additional. For information, call (248) 391-0184.

New worship schedule

Worship 8 a.m. Sunday, Faith Forum & Other Options at 9 a.m., and Worship and Sunday school at 10 a.m. Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Visitors welcome. For information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Bible study

St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard Roads, continues its regular evening Bible Study program with an in-depth study of The Gospel of Luke 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in the rectory. The informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

Time change

Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia, returned to its fall-spring worship schedule. Services are at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for all ages. For information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Wednesday activities

Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace

Please see **CALENDAR, B9**

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B8

Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt, one block south of Six Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebraic Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore. For information, visit www.gcfellowship.org or call (734) 525-6019.

Thursday fellowship dinner

All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8. Call (313) 534-7730.

Eucharistic adoration

St. Michael the Archangel Church in Livonia continues its monthly program of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration on the third Wednesday of each month. The church is open for prayer and private worship from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Benediction service in the evening. Call (734) 261-1455.

Worship schedule

11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday (9:45 a.m. Sunday School), at Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland. Wednesday prayer and Bible study is 7 p.m. Youth fellowship every other Friday at 7 p.m.

Sunday worship

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 will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive. The Web site is www.hischurch.us.

Reformed Protestant services

The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are preached by the Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean.humby@att.net, or visit www.members.aol.com/rsiworship/detroit.html.

Sanskrit chanting

An ongoing, weekly class taught by Ania Kopczynski, 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, at Renaissance Unity, 11200 E. 11 Mile, Warren. No pre-registration required. A free-will collection taken at the session. For information, call (586) 353-2300 or visit www.renaissanceunity.org.

Church schedule

Garden City Presbyterian Church continues its 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music (fellowship follows). Youth Sunday School and nursery care also available at 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. Informal gathering 6 p.m. every Sunday with scriptures and discussion at the church on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Rd. Call (734) 421-7620.

Single Place Ministry

Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org. Cost is \$5.

Prince of Peace Church

Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Tai Chi and strength classes

Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drop-ins welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Tai Chi class

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

Thrift store

Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

New schedule

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 Six Mile, Livonia. All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Day of service

A Day of Service and Spirituality is available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, meet and have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

Grief workshops help during the holidays

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is difficult at any time of the year, but especially during the holidays.

While Advent is a time to acknowledge the beauty of the Christmas season, it can also be a time of sadness. For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, struggling with an illness, caring for a terminally ill family member or facing unemployment, divorce or financial hardship, the joyfulness of the season may be overwhelming. Through stories of endurance from members of the community, inspirational music, and scripture readings all can seek the peace, hope and love that are the true gifts of

Christmas during Silent Night, an Advent Service for those who are grieving or unemployed 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial at Beck, Plymouth. Call (734) 453-0326 for more information.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish holds a grief workshop as well, Getting Through the Holidays, 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Convent Meeting Room, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. The guest speaker is Certified Hospice Trainer and Pastoral Associate, Dianne Fessler. To R.S.V.P., call (734) 261-1455, ext. 207. All are welcome.

Blankets needed for homeless shelters

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is collecting blankets for the homeless through Monday, Dec. 15.

Once collected, the blankets will be distributed to homeless shelters in the Metro Detroit area with the assistance of the American Red Cross.

New or slightly used twin size

blankets may be placed in the plastic bins outside of the church. Blankets may also be dropped off inside the church from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is located at 16360 Hubbard, between Farmington and Merriman roads, Livonia.

Your Invitation to Worship

CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Immemorial Latin Mass
Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570
St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8
28310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan
6 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121
Mass Schedule:
Fri. 7:00 p.m.
Sat. 11:00 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

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

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

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
46801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 458-1525
Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER
(734) 458-3196

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall
36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia
Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided
www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills
(248) 661-9191
Sunday Worship
and Children's Church
9:15 a.m. Contemporary
11:00 a.m. Traditional
Child Care provided for all services
Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church
33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135
(1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880
Pastor: Eddie Petreaca
Meetings on Saturdays for:
Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m.
Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m.
Bible Studies English & Spanish
(All Ages) 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays:
Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Timothy Lutheran Church
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
6820 Wayne Rd.
(Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)
Livonia • 427-2290
Jill Heather, Pastor
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
(Nursery Available)

UNITED METHODIST

Clarenceville United Methodist
20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
248-474-3444
Pastor Beth Librande
Worship Service 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Nursery Provided

Cherry Hill United Methodist
381 S. Ridge Road
Canton, MI
734-495-0035
Rev. Merlin Pratt
Worship 10:30
Prayer Hour Thursday 7
www.cherryhillumc.org

"More than Sunday Services"
Worship Services
9:00 a.m. & 11:30 AM
Sunday School & Nursery
9:00, 10:30 & 11:30 AM
Pastor:
Dr. John Grenfell III
Associate Pastor:
Rev. David Wichert

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth
45201 North Territorial Road
(West of Sheldon Road)
(734) 453-5280
www.pfumc.org

Redford Aldersgate
United Methodist
10000 Beech Daly
2 blocks South of Plymouth
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch.
11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"Open Hearts, Minds & Doors"
36500 Ann Arbor Trail
between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.
734-422-0149
Worship Service and
Sunday School
9:15 a.m & 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley
Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

NON DENOMINATIONAL

BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH
Casual, Contemporary,
Excellent Children's
Program
Meets at Franklin H.S. in
Livonia on Joy Road
(Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads)
at 10:00 a.m.
734-425-1174
Join us for coffee, bagels and
donuts after the service!

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0970
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30
p.m.
Reading Room located at church
Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
734-453-0970

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96
734-522-6830
Sunday Worship
8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional
Staffed Nursery Available
Sunday/Bible Class
9:45 am
Early Childhood Center
Phone 734-513-8413
Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ
Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY
313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.
Worship Service
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery Provided
The Rev. Timothy P. Haliboth, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Haliboth, Assistant Pastor

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
40000 Six Mile Road
"just west of I-275"
Northville, MI
248-374-7400
Traditional Worship
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Contemporary Worship
9:30 A.M.
Nursery & Sunday School During
the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours
Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.
Service Broadcast
11:00 A.M. Sunday
WRDT-AM 580
The WMU2 Word Station
For additional information
visit www.wardchurch.org

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
9800 Levern • So. Redford • 313-937-2424
Pastor - Reverend Paul Lindlin
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Service 7 p.m.
Education Hour 10:45 a.m.
Christian School
Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade
For more information call
313-937-2233

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Pastor Milton Schenn
27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights
(just East of Inkster Road)
(313) 278-5755
Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
<http://ourchurch.com/member/immanueldhnhts>
The Friendly Church on the Trail

Risen Christ Lutheran
David W. Martin, Pastor
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth
(1 Mile W. of Sheldon)
(734) 453-5252
Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am
Sunday School 9:30
Adult Bible Study 9:30
Nursery Care Available
All are welcome. Come as you are.
www.risenchrist.info

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
David W. Martin, Pastor
17810 FARMINGTON ROAD
LIVONIA (734) 261-1360
WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.
website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

070003198



Santa Has Arrived!

and is in the east court

Entertainment this Month...

December 5 Fri.	MADD Holiday Mocktail Mixer 11am-1pm – East Court
December 6 Sat.	Safety While You Shop 12pm – 4pm – East Court
December 8 Mon.	Ladywood High School Choir Group 12.45pm – 1.30pm – JC Penney Court
December 9 Tues.	Phil Gram All Stars 6pm – 8pm – East Court
December 10 Wed.	3D's & W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm – Throughout the center
December 12 Fri.	Our Lady of Good Counsel 10.45am – 11.30am – JC Penney Court
	3D's & W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm – Throughout the center
December 16 Tues.	Phil Gram All Stars 6pm – 8pm – East Court
December 17 Wed.	3D's & W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm – Throughout the center
December 19 Fri.	3D's & W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm – Throughout the center
December 23 Tues.	Phil Gram All Stars 6pm – 8pm – East Court
December 25	Christmas Day

For all of your holiday shopping fun visit the

WESTLAND

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Macy's, JC Penney, Sears, Kohls & Over 80 Specialty Stores

Warren & Wayne Roads (734) 421-0291

www.westlandcenter.com



Thursday, December 4, 2008

www.hometownlife.com

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor . (734) 953-2111. jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Real Estate

At the 2008 Realtors Conference & Expo Nov. 7, Federal Housing Finance Agency Director James B. Lockhart III assured Realtors that government-sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks will continue to play a critical role in the country's economic recovery.

"As director of FHFA, I am using the authorities established in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 to ensure that the housing GSEs (government-sponsored enterprises) provide stability and liquidity to the mortgage market, support affordable housing and operate safely and soundly," said Lockhart.

FHFA is a newly created independent federal agency that was granted expanded legal and regulatory authority to take actions that would strengthen Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks. Lockhart told Realtors that placing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into conservatorship was unavoidable and was necessary primarily because of "an inherent conflict and flawed business model embedded in the GSE structure."

"Our members see firsthand the impact that an unstable housing market is having on communities all across the country," said National Association of Realtors President Richard F. Gaylord, a broker with RE/MAX Real Estate Specialists, Long Beach, Calif. "Ensuring that the nation has a strong secondary mortgage market and continued affordable financing will certainly help stabilize housing prices."

NAR sent a letter on Oct. 16 to U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson calling on the Treasury Department and the FHFA to refocus their efforts on restoring strength to the mortgage-backed securities market, which would help lower mortgage rates for all home buyers and for those needing to refinance.

"The administration and Congress need to work together to ensure that the American people — not Wall Street and large banks — benefit from the economic recovery plan, and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac play an important role in this recovery," Gaylord said.



Gordon McCann, president of the Farmington-based Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors, was at the November conference of Realtors in Orlando, Fla. McCann agreed with the four-point stimulus plan presented: "We want to make it available to all homeowners," the Coldwell Banker Schweitzer-Bake of Plymouth Realtor said.

In 2008, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loan limits were raised, a move McCann and many colleagues would like to see continue. "We're trying to make those programs permanent," McCann said.

"It didn't really have as much of an effect on us," said Walt Baczkowski, CEO of the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors, serving Oakland and Macomb Realtors from offices in Troy and Clinton Township. MCAR has some higher end properties less impacted by that particular provision.

Baczkowski and colleagues are pushing for 4.5 percent financing for any first-time buyer to be made permanent.

"We feel that would be a good

stimulus," he said, noting it doesn't apply to those refinancing. "The whole thing is to get new people into the marketplace. That seemed to be a good stimulus. They still have to qualify" for a mortgage.

Also being advocated by MCAR is the \$7,500 tax credit proposed for one time. "If we could couple that with the ability to get financing," that would help the housing market significantly. "It's getting new people to come forward," said Baczkowski, also in Orlando for the conference along with many other real estate pros.

"Anything they can do to stimulate the economy right now is a good thing," he said.

In the interests of stimulating the housing market and the economy, NAR supports making the 2008 GSE loan limits for high-cost areas passed in February as part of the Economic Stimulus Act permanent. In addition, NAR submitted a stimulus plan to Congress and the administration in October calling on Congress to enact a new housing stimulus package that would help boost the economy.

The plan includes consumer-driv-

en provisions that would eliminate repayment of the first-time home-buyer tax credit and expand the credit to all homebuyers, make the 2008 increased mortgage loan limits permanent, focus the economic stabilization efforts on supporting the housing and mortgage markets instead of providing capital to banks with no strings attached, and permanently ban banks from entering into real estate brokerage or development.

According to an NAR economic analysis presented in October, a reduction, or a buydown, of interest rates by just 1 percentage point could result in up to 840,000 additional home sales and reduce the inventory of homes by as much as 20 percent. Inventories currently at a 9.9-month supply would decrease to approximately a 7.5-month supply.

NAR reported that reducing the interest rate, combined with removing the home buyer tax credit repayment, would reduce inventory by an additional 10 percent, down to a 6.5-month supply, and would produce modest home price gains of 2 to 4 percent. Such price gains would provide up to \$760 billion in housing equity for the nation's 75 million homeowners.

"Stabilizing home prices would not only improve the housing market but also would bring clarity to the valuations of mortgage-backed securities, removing uncertainty in the financial markets and positively affecting the overall U.S. economy," Gaylord said.

Reacting to the Nov. 25 announcement by the Federal Reserve on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said purchasing debt obligations of Fannie and Freddie is an important move. "We commend the Fed decision because it will directly bring down long-term interest rates," he said. "The level of investment should be aggressive enough to bring interest rates down in a meaningful manner. As we've seen in past recessions, home sales rise when mortgage interest rates fall."

O&E staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

Interpreter usually not required

Q: We have a member of our condominium association who wishes to attend our board meetings but is hearing impaired. He wants us to have an interpreter at those meetings so that he can follow the events. What is your view on that?

A: That of course depends upon what state you are talking about but in Michigan, by way of example, members are not entitled to attend board meetings. If, however, the association has a policy of allowing members to attend board meetings, then I do not believe that it



Robert Meisner

is absolutely necessary for them to provide an interpreter, and the cost of same should be borne by the co-owner. That is, if a co-owner is allowed to attend a board meeting, and needs an interpreter, he should pay for same. On the other hand, it could be argued that since the

policy of the association is to allow "open board meetings," the board may have some responsibility to accommodate that co-owner. This is a difficult question, and you are best advised to consult with the association's attorney and/or a Fair Housing expert in connection with this issue. Generally speaking, reasonable accommodations need only be at the expense of the disabled owner. The board, of course, has the discretion to decide whether to cover the cost, or it may be able to get a sign language interpreter to volunteer at no cost. Of course, special and annual meetings of the association might result in a different decision because the co-owner would have a right to attend those meetings.

Q: I am a landlord and I am concerned about my liability because a black tenant is claiming that another (white) tenant has been verbally clashing with him in the hallway. The lease signed by the white tenant gave the landlord authority to evict a tenant who disturbs another tenant's peaceful enjoyment of their accommodations.

A: While each state may have their own views, in a case similar to your facts, the Supreme Court of Ohio said that a landlord is not liable under state law for creating a hostile housing environment by failing to prevent one tenant's racial harassment of another tenant. In that case, the state's statute prohibited discriminating against any person in terms of their housing because of race, but did not specifically provide for a cause of action against a landlord who fails to take corrective action regarding a hostile housing environment created by another tenant. The court indicated that while the conduct of the tenant was reprehensible, it declined to extend liability to behavior so far beyond the reach of the statutory language, especially in light of the absence of an agency relationship between the landlord and his tenants and the landlord's comparative lack of control over his tenants. Moreover the court suggested that the power of eviction alone is insufficient to hold a landlord liable for the tenant's tortious actions against another tenant. I would advise to consult with your own attorney.

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.

BRIEFS

Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

Thinking about a career in real estate? Is working in real estate your dream? Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or non-experienced people in the real estate field. The candidates must be hard working and have a passion for learning.

There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331.

For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

Tips for buyers

Realtor Paul Schwartz of Prudential Cranbrook Realtors in Birmingham will review the things a buyer needs to know and accepting new buyer clients on a space available basis at a presentation Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at his office, 34122 Woodward Ave. in Birmingham. Reservations are needed.

Topics to be covered: What to look for? What to avoid? Financing red flags. What is the property worth? What to do with it after you own it? How to add value to it? What will it be worth in the future? Condo or house? What is the best area?

For reservations, e-mail: paul4realtor@yahoo.com (www.paul4realtor.com).

His phone numbers are — direct: (248) 539-7283, office: (248) 647-6400, fax: (248) 258-1024.

Investors

Learn about "The Art of House Foreclosure Short Sales"

Please see **BRIEFS, C2**

HOMES SOLD

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of August 11-15, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton

42683 Addison Ave \$175,000
2159 Arcadia Dr \$120,000
2249 Arcadia Dr \$117,000
2674 Brookfield St \$156,000
327 Cherry Hill Pointe Dr \$178,000
50650 Colchester Ct \$450,000
1955 E Franklin Dr \$114,000
46499 E Oak Manor Ct \$239,000
7463 Embassy Dr \$205,000
48229 Inveraray Rd \$420,000
2458 Lancelot Ct \$197,000
8356 Orhan St \$153,000
44443 Penny St \$210,000
201 Scarlett Dr \$255,000
3509 Shepherd Ln \$130,000
1567 Valentine St \$195,000
44245 Vassar St \$230,000
1440 Walnut Ridge Cir \$175,000
7056 Willow Creek Dr \$160,000

Farmington

34821 Arundel Dr \$305,000
35610 Tall Pine Rd \$240,000
Farmington Hills
29567 Eastfield St \$80,000
28262 Farmington Rd \$150,000
20891 Gill Rd \$105,000
24955 Lakeland St \$135,000
39115 Lancaster Dr \$200,000

21623 Lundy Dr \$210,000
32442 Sprucewood St \$175,000
Garden City
1815 Henry Ruff Rd \$122,000
28515 John Hawk St \$109,000
31545 John Hawk St \$95,000

Livonia

35964 Ann Arbor Trl \$85,000
9913 Berwick St \$225,000
15956 Brentwood St \$147,000
31548 Bridge St \$85,000
28528 Cleveland St \$125,000
9918 Fairfield St \$146,000
11690 Farmington Rd \$110,000
18225 Glastonbury Dr \$315,000
16872 Golfview St \$150,000
9043 Hanlon St \$150,000
14939 Marsha St \$165,000
11060 Milburn St \$134,000
20034 Parkville St \$75,000
19915 Pollyanna Dr \$270,000
29654 Ravine Dr \$149,000
38618 Richland St \$135,000
18810 Shadyside St \$142,000
37138 Turnbury Dr \$157,000
32212 Wisconsin St \$140,000

Milford

753 Byron Dr \$123,000
1643 Hidden Pond \$340,000

Northville

18100 Devonshire Ct \$1,338,000
39598 Dun Roan Dr \$240,000
927 Millpond Ct \$425,000
16502 Mulberry Way \$345,000
15726 Penderbrook Ln \$366,000
18085 Ridgeview Dr \$555,000
488 Welch Rd \$235,000
39884 Woodside Dr \$407,000

Novi
45144 Bartlett Dr \$119,000
22098 Edgewater \$74,000
45760 Galway Dr \$230,000
28019 Hopkins Dr \$135,000
44895 Linderbergh \$300,000
24160 N Le Bost \$140,000
24762 Olde Orchard St \$103,000
45760 Remington Ln \$373,000
1301 S Lake Dr \$250,000
23560 Valley Starr \$160,000
21156 Wheaton Ln \$465,000

Plymouth

48131 Brewster Ct \$268,000
42732 Gateway \$240,000
44576 Marc Trl \$190,000
175 N Mill St \$150,000

Redford

16866 Centralia \$89,000
11675 Farley \$69,000
19547 Garfield \$48,000
8919 Robindale \$88,000
9034 Sioux \$105,000
8869 Woodbine \$82,000
9551 Wormer \$115,000

Westland

36112 Abbey Dr \$208,000
1331 Berkshire St \$56,000
1904 Eagle Ct # 06 \$70,000
7760 Gary Ave \$125,000
29785 Lacy Dr \$120,000
8453 Liberty Blvd \$148,000
30246 Matthew St \$43,000
914 Mitchell Dr \$166,000
31640 Parkwood St \$115,000
35856 Rolf St \$95,000
33900 Tawas Trl \$144,000
38976 Willow Creek Pkwy \$195,000



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BRIEFS

FROM PAGE C1

from Steve Dillon. Sponsored by the Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5:30-9:30 p.m. at MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. Seminar free to members. \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742.

BIA

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a Certified Graduate "Business Management for Building Professionals" course on Monday, Dec. 8, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills. The course is part of the National Association of Home Builders' Certified Graduate series and counts toward Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder (CGB), Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR), Certified Aging-In-Place (CAPS), Master Certified Sales Professional (MCSP) and Certified Green Professional (CGP) designations.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS of Builders Professional Services Group, will teach management skills that give industry leaders a solid foundation in the best business practices for planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling smaller businesses. Case studies and sample forms will be used to provide practical and applicable tools for manage-

ment success.

Registration fees are \$155 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its National Association of Home Builders' Professional Remodelers Council (NAHBR) will sponsor Certified Aging-in-Place (CAPS) seminars: "CAPS I: Marketing and Communication Strategies for Aging and Accessibility" on Wednesday, Dec. 10; "CAPS II: Design/Build Solutions for Aging and Accessibility" on Thursday, Dec. 11. The seminars will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Don Pratt, CAPS, CGB, CGR of Wake-Pratt Construction will teach strategies and techniques for marketing, designing and building aesthetically enriching, barrier-free living environments.

Registration fees are \$155 per course for NAHBR members, \$200 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$250 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) is sponsoring a Certified Graduate seminar "Risk Management

& Insurance for Building Professionals" on Tuesday, Dec. 16, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills.

Chuck Breidenstein of Madison Heights-based Builders Professional Services Group, Inc. will provide comprehensive risk management strategies to reduce construction risks and other exposures for residential and commercial builders, developers and remodelers. From overarching principles to practical solutions on obtaining the most competitive insurance quotes, this course provides the tools to manage risk. This course is not intended to take the place of legal counsel.

Registration fees are \$155 for National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Professional Remodeler Council members, \$175 for BIA and Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$200 guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

Tours, classes

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. Sunday. Call (248) 787-7325 or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Real estate investors can learn from experts in a two-day class, \$99 includes classroom and field experience. Contact AddedValueRealty.com, (248) 787-7325.

Tours are Sunday at 1 p.m. Meeting place is the Home Depot parking lot at I-96/Telegraph.

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4 Bed/5 baths, kitchen w/nook, HWD, cherry cabinets, granite & SS appl's. Family rm w/tp, study w/tp & granite surround, fin w/o LL w/wet bar, rec rm & GR, 2.5 car garage w/carriage house, sunroom w/marble floor, in-ground heated pool w/new filter, waterfall, landscape w/pond. \$475,000 (jgseven)



A RESORT STYLE HOME IN HEART OF NOVI!
5 Bed/3.1 bath, over 6,700 sq. ft. incl. ll, remodeled kitchen w/granite (08), new cpt. v/o, new siding, Anderson windows, 2x6 const., int. freshly painted, in-ground pool, fin w/p w/2nd kitchen, 8 pp hot tub, dry sauna, office w/sep. entrance, 3.5 car garage on 3 acres. \$625,000 (jgten488)



TOTALLY UPDATED NOVI CONDO!
2 Bed/1 bath, cherry cab's in kitchen w/self closing drawers, new elec. serv., updated bath w/granite look tub/shower liner, new windows & doorways, new hardwood floor in living rm, tennis court, clubhouse & common pool in complex. Gas & water included in association dues. \$120,000 (jgloredch)



BUILDER'S OWN HOME DEEP IN SUB!
3 Bed/2.1 bath, large corner lot, great room concept w/18' ceiling w/natural fireplace & gas log, 2 story foyer, finished w/o with rec. rm. & fam rm., huge first floor laundry, 3.5 car garage w/8' doors, c/a, master suite w/adj. room for nursery or large w.c. \$315,000 (jgpenb)



CAPE COD BACKS TO FAIRWAY #1!
3 Bed/2.1 bath, first floor master, 2 story foyer w/hardwood, 9' ceilings in first floor, 2 story great rm w/bridge above, study w/built-in bookshelves, gourmet kitchen w/maple cabinets, granite counters & tile floor, jack & jill bath, common pool & clubhouse in golf community. \$410,000 (jgriveira)



DECORATOR PERFECT STONEMASTER HOME!
5 Bed/4.2 bath, 2 story foyer, family rm w/2 story cherry f/p, gourmet kitchen w/maple cab's, ss appliances, stunning finished w/o with brick arches, 2nd kitchen, 5th bdrm, 3 laundry rooms, 3.5 car garage, state of the art landscaping, in-ground granite pool w/stamped concrete patio. \$665,000 (jgstoner)

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 <p>ANN ARBOR \$204,900 PUT THIS ON YOUR WISH LIST! Fabulous 4 BR, 2.5 BA on quiet cul-de-sac near park. Updated kit, fin bsmt, landscaped yd w/privacy fence, home warranty. MLS #28185023 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>FARMINGTON \$159,900 Great neighborhood! New roof(2007). New heating/cooling (2007). Replacement wndws t/o. Updated kit with oak cnts. Formal BR. LR w/nat FP. Cozy FR. MLS #28183671 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>FARMINGTON HILLS \$150,000 Rare find! Brick Tri-Level Architecture 1800+ Sq ft 3 bdrm 2 full ba home nestled on oversized private wooded lot! Subject to short sale approval. MLS #28183314 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>LINCOLN PARK \$79,900 Super clean 1-owner brick ranch in great neighborhood. Fireplace, updated kitchen/bath, newer furnace/HWH, some hardwood floors, all appliances stay. MLS #28182986 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$249,900 Many updates to this 4 bedroom colonial. New kit cab & counters, carpet in fin basement, roof, doorways, siding & gutters. Inground pool w/wet bar. A must see. MLS #28184826 734-453-6800</p>
 <p>LIVONIA \$249,900 Beautiful Francavilla Sub. 4 bedrooms over 2,400 sq. ft. side entry garage great location. MLS #28158957 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$99,900 Charming home on double corner lot. 3 BR, 2 BTHS, 1st fl master, oak cab kit, doorwall in lg liv rm, new roof & furnace. MLS #28184796 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>NORTHVILLE \$475,000 4 Bed/5 Bath, totally remodeled, 2 t/p's, kitchen w/granite & cherry cab's, sun rm w/marble floor, multi-tier deck to backyard w/inground pool. MLS #28189826 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>NORTHVILLE \$465,000 5 Bed/3.1 bath, large tree lined lot w/creek, part fin ll w/5th bdrm, remod. gourmet kit w/granite, updated landscaping, 3 car garage, walk to h.s. MLS #28182439 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>NORTHVILLE \$480,000 5 Bed/3.2 Bath, kit w/cherry cabinets, walnut floors & granite island, new carpet, fin. daylight lower level with fireplace, in-ground pool, patio w/veranda. MLS #28193033 248-347-3050</p>
 <p>NORTHVILLE \$334,900 Beautiful home, still like new. Formal liv & din rms, hardwood flrs, gorgeous granite kit w/stainless appls, master ste w/granite & jetted tub. MLS #28183661 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>NORTHVILLE \$249,900 Golf course community - Newer construction, 3 bedroom, 2 Bath, Open floor plan, Daylight basement. MLS #28066671 Karen Foy 586-268-6174</p>	 <p>NOVI \$465,000 4 Bed/3.1 bath, mste ste w/cath ceiling, ext wood trim detail, spacious kitchen w/granite, built-in speakers t/o, central vac, intercom, 3 car garage. MLS #28193032 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>NOVI \$435,900 Over 3,000 sq.ft. - 4 bedroom, 2 Bath, granite countertops, some hardwood flooring, Premium location. MLS #28116207 Karen Foy 586-268-6174</p>	 <p>NOVI \$375,000 Builders own home! 2-story foyer, crown mldg t/o 1st fl, kit w/hwd, 1st fl mstr w/cust wic. Prof fin LL w/new cpt, 5th BR, kit, lav, office & pool table. MLS #28185633 248-347-3050</p>
 <p>NOVI \$105,000 Best price and super condition! 2 bedroom condo. Private entry, 1-car garage. Updated oak kitchen. View at kim-belz.com. MLS #28184880 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$549,900 4-5 BR, 3.1 BA cape backing to priv woods. Endless upgrades! Lots of hwd flrs. 1st fl mstr. Grmt kit w/corlan & granite. Prem cpts t/o. Full w/out. MLS #28179816 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$475,000 Custom cape cod has 4 Bdrms, 4 Baths. Open floor plan boasts grmt kit w/granite cnts, 1st fl master ste, GR w/FP, bridge overlooks FR. Overlooks nature preserve. MLS #28182577 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$469,900 Truly Spectacular! 4 BR, 3.2 bath Colonial. Estate size lot. Grmt kit w/granite. 2-story FR w/FP. MS w/vltd clg & fash bath. Fab fin bsmt with bath. MLS #28184395 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>SUPERIOR TWP. \$975,000 4 Bed/3.2 bath, 2 story gr rm w/2 way f/p, 6 acres, 4 car garage w/stairs to unfn daylight bsmt, kitchen w/hearth rm, mstr bath w/radiant heat. MLS #28193115 248-347-3050</p>
 <p>WATERFORD \$119,900 3 BR brick ranch with poss 4th BR/Office in fin bsmt. Home has HW flrs, entertainment rm w/bar, C/A, pull down storage attic, 2 car gar. Nearly 1/3 acre lot. MLS #28188930 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>WEST BLOOMFIELD \$320,000/\$2,400 mo lease 4 Bed/2.1 bath, backs to wetlands, kitchen w/cherry cabs, upgraded carpet & pad, mstr ste w/vaulted ceil, fam rm off kitchen w/ fireplace, 2 car gar. MLS #28189522 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>TOYS FOR TOTS</p>		

Thursday

PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Vain fellow
- 4 Do pull-ups
- 8 About 2.2 lbs.
- 12 Night
- 13 Mystique
- 14 Classical face
- 15 "Orinoco" Flow singer
- 17 Kindhearted
- 18 Copenhagen native
- 19 Robins' bills
- 21 John, Paul, George and —
- 22 Not wholly
- 25 Potpie veggie
- 26 Curved mold-ing
- 27 Old car
- 30 Payable
- 31 Sloping trough
- 33 — Wieder-sehen
- 35 Not sinking
- 37 A Guthrie
- 38 Jacket feature
- 39 Flue plate

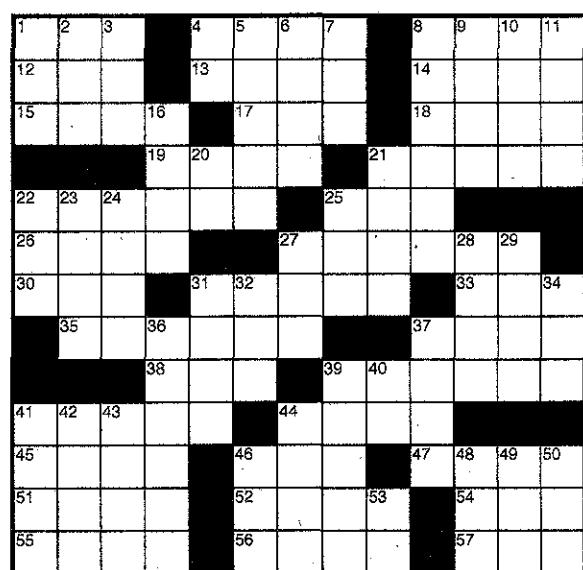
DOWN

- 1 Enemy
- 2 Purchase
- 3 Wield, as oars
- 4 West Coast st.
- 5 Wifey's mate
- 6 Orchid-like flower
- 7 Find fault
- 8 Ferocious bear
- 9 Pavlov's name
- 10 Ger. or Fr.
- 41 Chipmunk snack
- 44 Handle problems
- 45 Twig juncture
- 46 Made tracks
- 47 Kind of portrait
- 51 Pirate captain
- 52 Bard's river
- 54 Gehrig of base-ball
- 55 To boot
- 56 Just
- 57 Sports enthusiast

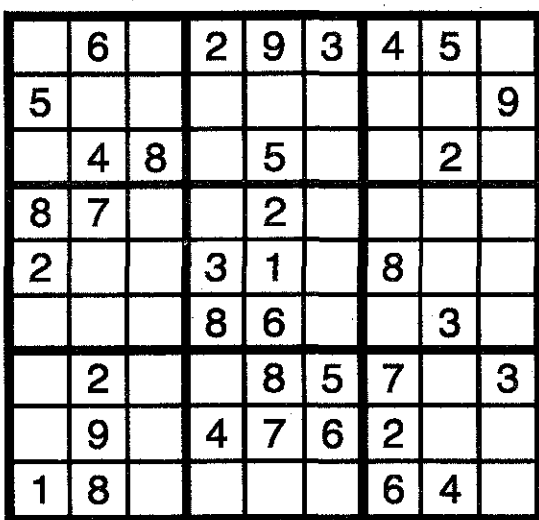
Answer to Previous Puzzle

DAP EMM A ABBA
ELY MAIN BAIL
JAR BURN JYNO
ANEMONE HEDGE
IDA LAC
EMPTY PANTING
DOS DEW LEA
SEISMIC IRKED
CUP PRO
ADDED BROWSED
GOON COIN HIE
OGRE OOZE ORB
GEMS BRED DES

- 11 Diet spread
- 16 Before, in
- 20 Prairie st.
- 21 Magritte or Russo
- 22 Seed container
- 23 Water, in Baja
- 24 Yachting hazard
- 25 Stock option
- 27 Overhang
- 28 Dodge City marshal
- 29 Criterion
- 31 Toe woe
- 32 Buffet standby
- 34 Not opposed
- 36 Border town
- 37 "Rag Mop" brothers
- 39 Benefactor
- 40 News agcy.
- 41 "Diana" singer
- 42 Spring
- 43 Vegas numbers
- 44 Stalactite site
- 46 Woolly animal
- 48 Gnome
- 49 Hawaii's Mauna —
- 50 Recreation
- 53 Compass pt.



SUDOKU



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SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

AMIALE CHARMING CORDIAL DELIGHTFUL
GENEROUS GENIAL GOOD GRACIOUS
KIND LIKABLE NICE PLEASANT

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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

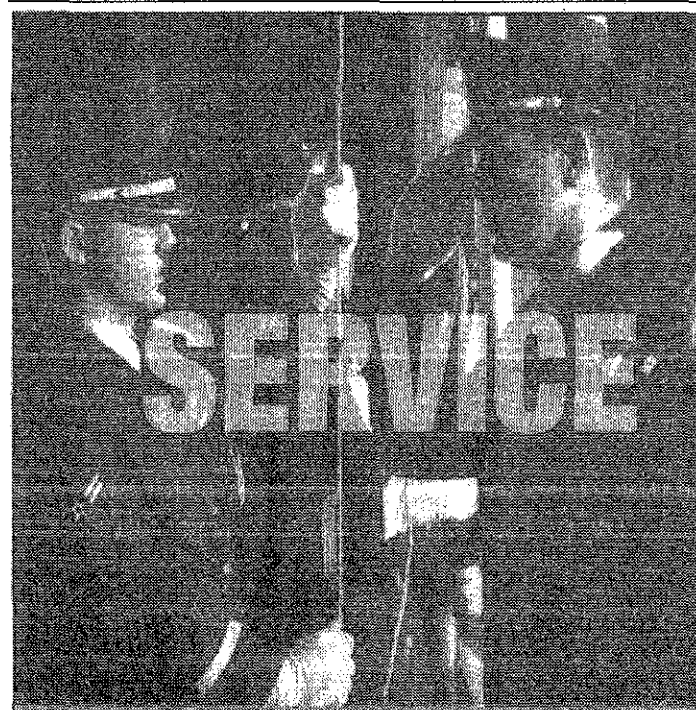
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SUDOKU
9 7 9 2 6 7 8 1
1 8 2 9 7 4 6 3
6 6 2 9 8 1 7 9
2 6 9 2 9 8 6 1 4
4 2 8 6 1 8 9 9 2
9 1 6 7 2 9 8 2 8
7 2 8 1 9 9 8 7 6
6 9 1 8 7 2 2 8 9
8 9 4 8 6 2 1 9 7

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SEEK AND FIND
S U O R E N E G E L X
B G N F L I D C U G
O T S K I B C A V R
I I I V G C A A L V
M A V O N I M W R C H
R I L I O M W O O I
J N V S V T E F I O
L N K V B E G U
S E C H A R M I G N
U L I K A B L E E Q
O I P L E A S A N T
I G O O D M D T I R
C H A R M I N G A W
A T Y U E A I I L O
R F A V C B K S M P
G U C D I L F N G B
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Cornerstone Community Financial	(800) 777-5728	5.375	1	5.25	1	J/A/F
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Deartem Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	5.25	0	6	0	A
DFCU Financial	(800) 739-2770	5.375	2.25	4.75	2.25	J/A
Film Trust Bank	(800) 792-8830	5.5	0.375	5.375	0.125	J/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(800) 203-1546	5.25	0	5.125	0	J/A/N/F
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9922	5.25	0.125	5.125	0	J/A/N/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	5.875	0	6	0	J/A/N/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	5.375	0	5.125	0.25	J/A/N/F
Michigan United Mortgage	(810) 844-2222	5.125	0.5	5	0.375	J/A
National City Bank	(866) 825-0825	5.25	1	4.75	1.5	J/A
Northlawn Financial	(248) 988-8488	5.25	0	5.125	0	J/A/N/F
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Above information available as of 11/26/08 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com. Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032 / © 2008 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved



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2009 Toyota RAV4 Sport: Great power, great price

Advertising Feature

CAReport

By Dave Menard
Avanti News Features

Downsizing because of the down economy is in, particularly when it comes to SUVs. If you're one of those buyers looking to downsize from a big SUV into something that will cost you less to drive, without giving up the benefits of an SUV, the 2009 Toyota RAV4 Sport might be something that works for you.

The RAV4 has been around since the 1996 model and was one of the first of the small crossover SUVs. It's built on a car platform, instead of a truck platform, like most SUVs. For 2009, Toyota has done some restyling of the RAV4, and the Sport (one of three versions of the RAV4) looks pretty sharp.

The grille has been redone, as have the front bumper, fog light trims and the tail lamps. The fog lights are standard, as are 18-inch alloy wheels, a full-size spare and rear spoiler. A roof rack is optional (\$220). It's a good-looking package.

The RAV4 Sport is a 4x2, but AWD is available. It's powered by a 3.5-liter 6-cylinder DOHC 24-valve engine, and it's a good one. Rated at 269 horsepower at 6200 rpm, and 246 lb.-ft. of torque, you can go 0-60 in under 7 seconds. You won't give up fuel economy for performance, either, as the V6 RAV4 is rated at 19 mpg in city driving and 27 along the highway and it takes regular fuel.

This V6 is mated to a gated-shift five-speed automatic transmission with automatic transmission (a four-speed goes with the smaller 4-cylinder engine of the base RAV4).

Being built on a car platform has its advantages when compared to some of the bigger SUVs, particularly in the way it handles. The RAV4 is easier to maneuver, with power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering. Equipped with Vehicle Stability Control, it corners well and is easier to get into tight spaces. The Sport provides plenty of road feel, but the ride is still comfortable. The front suspension system features independent MacPherson struts with stabilizer bar, and in the rear it's a double-wishbone system, with coil springs and stabilizer bar.

Inside, the RAV4 Sport is nicely done. Controls are



Good choice if you're downsizing from a full-size SUV

nicely laid out and the cabin is attractive. The standard seats are cloth; leather-trimmed seats are available as part of a package that includes heated front seats, and an eight-way power adjustable driver's seat, with power lumbar support (\$1,930).

The seats are comfortable and provide good support. There's plenty of leg and shoulder room, as well, and there are storage areas throughout the cabin. The only issue I had with the interior was a lack of a place to rest my left arm on longer trips. I'm sure it's just me, but the actual armrest was situated too low and the driver's window ledge was a bit too high to put my arm on. A minor annoyance that only really comes up on longer trips.

There plenty of cargo room, as small SUVs go -- 73 cubic feet of cargo space with all the rear seats down. The second row seats split 60/40; on the Base and Limited models there is an option to add a third-row seat, but so much option exists for the Sport.

The RAV4 Sport comes with climate control, tilt-steering wheel, power windows and locks, foldable power mirrors, cruise control and two front 12-volt power outlets, handy for powering your iPod and your GPS.

Unless, of course, you get the optional navigation system (\$1,550). This is a touch screen navigations system, with integrated audio (AM/FM/CD/aux, with satellite radio capability and six speakers). The system sounds very good and the navigation system is very easy to use. If you want it to, it can display icons for restaurants, ATMs, gas stations and hotel (in any combination). Touch the icon and you can get directions

to it.

I like what Toyota did with the optional rear back-up camera (\$474). Instead of using the navigation/audio screen like most versions I've seen, the Toyota version uses a portion of the rear view mirror to display the image. That makes sense; that's what you should be looking at when you back up, anyway. Plus, that allows buyers who don't want the navigation system to still opt for the back-up camera.

Other safety features of the RAV4 Sport include anti-lock brakes, driver and front-passenger advanced airbags, driver and front-seat passenger seat-mounted side airbags, second-row side curtain airbags, and a tire pressure monitoring system.

The 2009 Toyota RAV4 Sport starts at a little over \$25,000. Add the upgraded seats, the navigation system, roof rack and the back-up camera and you're at a still-reasonable \$30,000 or so.

If you're following the downsizing trend and need to trade that large SUV for something a little more practical, the RAV4 is a good choice. Good mileage, plenty of cargo space and excellent power make this one a winner.

Write Avanti NewsFeatures and allopinionsallthetime.com auto critic Dave Menard at Avanti1054@aol.com.

2009 Toyota RAV4 Sport
Vehicle class: Small SUV.

Power: 3.5-liter DOHC 6-cylinder engine.

Mileage: 19 city / 27 highway.

Where built: Japan.

Base price: \$25,130.

Price as tested: \$30,369.

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