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THURSDAY
December 11, 2008

CANTON Observer

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School district shifts election dates to save money

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton Schools Board of Education voted Tuesday night to move its odd-year May school board elections to every November.

As a result, the May 2009 election is now scheduled for November 2009.

Plymouth-Canton had been splitting the \$100,000 cost of an odd-year May election with Schoolcraft College. However, Schoolcraft trustees recently voted to move to even-year November elections to reduce their cost to zero.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should the school district have switched to even-year November elections in order to save more money? E-mail your thoughts to editor Kurt Kuban at kkuban@hometownlife.com

Under the new timetable, trustees said elections in odd-numbered years will cost Plymouth-Canton \$84,000 per election as it shares costs with the city of Plymouth. On even-numbered years, the district won't have to pay any election-associated costs because

the five municipalities within the district's boundaries will already have a national election ballot.

Trustees approved the motion on a 6-1 vote, passing on an option to hold elections only on even-year Novembers which would have cost them nothing.

"I'm a little shocked," said Trustee Dianne Gonzalez, the lone dissenting vote. "It's still a huge expense on the district, and it's only saving a small amount of money in changing to every November. The only true savings to the district and to the budget and to the students of this district is to do it even-November."

Trustee Nancy Eggenberger said she didn't want to wait until 2010 to hold the next school board election.

"If we choose to do (even-November) right now we're putting 2½ years onto people's terms, and I think that's unfair to the community," said Eggenberger. "We need to give them the opportunity to vote on school board members."

The four seats up for re-election in November next year are those currently held by President Judy Mardigian, Barry Simescu, Tom Wysocki and John Jackson. Jackson, who was appointed to the seat vacated by Mark Slavens

in 2007, is slated to seek re-election on the next scheduled election date, which now has been pushed to November 2009.

Trustee Steven Sneiderman said he's concerned the even-November elections in the cycle will become political.

"Holding even-year November elections will encourage political parties to influence our elections," said Sneiderman. "When they're the ones that are in Lansing deciding how much money we get every year, I think that's a recipe for disaster."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2172



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A carriage ride through the snow

Carriage rides were just some of the activities available during Shop Canton's third annual Family Holiday Fest on Saturday, which attracted more than 4,000 people. Most of the activities took place at the Willow Creek Plaza at Lilley and Ford. "It was a fun, family outing for everyone that participated," said Canton DDA Director Kathleen Salla. "People were festive and they were happy to be milling about." The festivities also included games and entertainment, but the biggest hit was an appearance by Santa Claus. "It was very exciting when he arrived," Salla said.

Saying goodbye is so hard for Yack

Final board meeting gets emotional

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tuesday night marked Tom Yack's last evening at the helm of township government.

Yack, Canton's longest serving supervisor, was honored at Tuesday's Township Board meeting by state Sen. Bruce Patterson and state Rep. Phil LaJoy, who will take over for Yack next week.

Patterson, who teared up while speaking of Yack's accomplishments, said the township has evolved since his family moved to the community 32 years ago and credited Yack for its positive growth.

"When my wife and I moved here, Canton was a different place. It was not a bad place, but a different place," he said, before offering thanks to Yack for his service to the area. "I'm very pleased to call Canton my home and I feel honored to be in the community."

Patterson then had LaJoy read a resolution honoring Yack.



Yack

The resolution called Yack, elected supervisor in 1988, a "true visionary" and said he has moved the township forward.

The resolution, signed by Patterson, also offered Yack well wishes for the future and called for the days ahead to be "filled with pleasurable pursuits."

Yack, who playfully asked Patterson not to become sentimental for fear that he would respond in kind, then thanked Patterson and LaJoy for their commitment to Canton.

The township ushered in a commercial and upscale housing boom, created the Pheasant Run golf course community, built Summit on the Park, revamped Cherry Hill Village and breathed new commercial life into Michigan Avenue.

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Company specializes in lighting up the season

Pros bring light, life to season

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Whenever 3-year-old Alexis Hack passes a home or business with twinkling lights, it's a guarantee that she will attribute the sparkly designs to her father.

"She's a riot," said Bill Hack, owner of Christmas Decor and Bill's Outdoor Care, with a laugh. "She thinks we do everyone's home."

Hack, who started his lawn care business at age 12 and still has two of his original customers 18 years later, bought a local branch of

the Texas-based Christmas Decor company eight years ago.

"I learned about it at a trade show in Chicago and it took me about a year to decide to do it," he said. "It was a big investment, but it's been well worth it."

During his first year with the company, Hack nabbed a contract to decorate 25 fast food restaurants. Since that time, he has averaged a 95-percent retention rate for returned customers.

"This has filled a big void between the seasons for us," Hack said. "When I first started thinking about this, I asked myself 'Would people actually pay for this?' and you know what, they do."

Touted on its national Web site, www.ChristmasDecor.com.

CHRISTMAS DECOR & BILL'S OUTDOOR CARE

Owner: Bill Hack
Web site: www.ChristmasDecor.net
Address: 1421 Heritage Drive, Canton
Telephone: (734) 397-8219

net, as the nation's largest professional holiday decorating firm, the company specializes in transforming homes and businesses into winter wonderlands.

"We do everything for you," said Hack, noting that the company provides lights, supplies, any decorations and maintenance. "A lot of people choose us because they are either afraid of heights, can't get the lights to look the way they want or are too busy to do it themselves."

The Real Life Farm on Geddes Road and The Showroom of Elegance on Canton Center Road are among Hack's favorite places to decorate.

"This is our third or fourth year going with (Hack) and before that, we were doing it ourselves but it wasn't nearly as nice because we weren't climbing on the roof," said Linda Robin, Showroom of Elegance owner. "We try to support local businesses as much as we can and he does good work."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bill Hack bought a local branch of the Texas-based Christmas Decor company eight years ago.

Hack, who is still accepting order for this holiday season, is able to customize packages but said average prices range from \$500 up to several thousand.

"Even with this economy, a lot of my customers have

told me that the lights make them feel good," he said. "They make the kids happy and have become a bright spot for families."

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Officials baffled by decision not to make Ford a plowing priority

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Department of Transportation said something had to give this winter and has decided it will be a possible reduction in overtime for plowing and salting certain stretches of roadway.

"We are not saying that we are not going to be plowing and salting, we are adjusting operations because revenue keeps declining but the cost

of the possibility of overtime. Blue roads would be plowed and salted once and after that, Morosi said operators would make a "judgement call" on whether to go over the road a second time.

"We are hoping to curtail, to a reasonable amount, the extent of overtime," he said.

While Michigan Avenue is in the orange-road bracket, Ford Road, west of I-275, is in the blue category.

At Tuesday's Township Board meeting, Canton officials expressed disbelief at Ford Road's designation.

"We are not rural America anymore," said Treasurer

Melissa McLaughlin. "We are the 11th largest community in Michigan."

Retired Township Supervisor Tom Yack agreed and called the designation "pretty illogical."

Morosi said the orange and blue categories were based on traffic volume, but insisted that blue roads will be safe for motorists.

"We are not putting the public at peril," he said. "The roads are not going to go unattended."

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MILITARY NEWS

Admitted to West Point

Connor P. McKinney, a senior at Plymouth High School, has received a Presidential Appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. This distinctive accomplishment is awarded only to outstanding students deserving an offer of admission based on top grades, test scores, athletics, extracurricular activities, community service and leadership potential.

The West Point education is a full scholarship covering tuition, room and board and a monthly stipend to each cadet for other expenses. After graduation, cadets serve on active duty for five years as a junior officer.

Connor is the son of Blaine and Becky McKinney of Canton. Cadet McKinney will be in the USMA Class of 2013.

McKinney

CORRECTION

The story that ran in Sunday's *Observer* about the Wayne County Commission passing a new ordinance that will transfer some of the county's parks millage back to local communities, indicated that the four commissioners who voted against the measure were from Detroit, which is incorrect. Commissioner Joseph Palamara represents several Downriver communities, and Commissioner Ilona Varga's district includes Lincoln Park, as well as a portion of Detroit.

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Unto the Peaks - Shushanpangma, Tibet - Photo: Kristoffer Erickson

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Canton Observer offices move from Livonia location Friday

Beginning Friday, Dec. 12, readers who wish to purchase back copies of the *Canton Observer* can do so at our circulation office at 41304 Concept Drive in Plymouth Township. (see related map).

Customers can also place a classified ad and order photo and page reprints at the new office located in the Metro Plymouth Business Park off Haggerty Road between Schoolcraft and Plymouth roads.

The *Observer* office at 36251 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia is now closed.

Customer service representatives are available on site weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and until 6 p.m. on Thursdays in the new Plymouth Township office.

Customers can also call toll free (866) 887-2737 for delivery service and information regarding photos reprints weekdays and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to noon or visit us anytime online at www.hometownlife.com (click on customer service at the top of homepage).

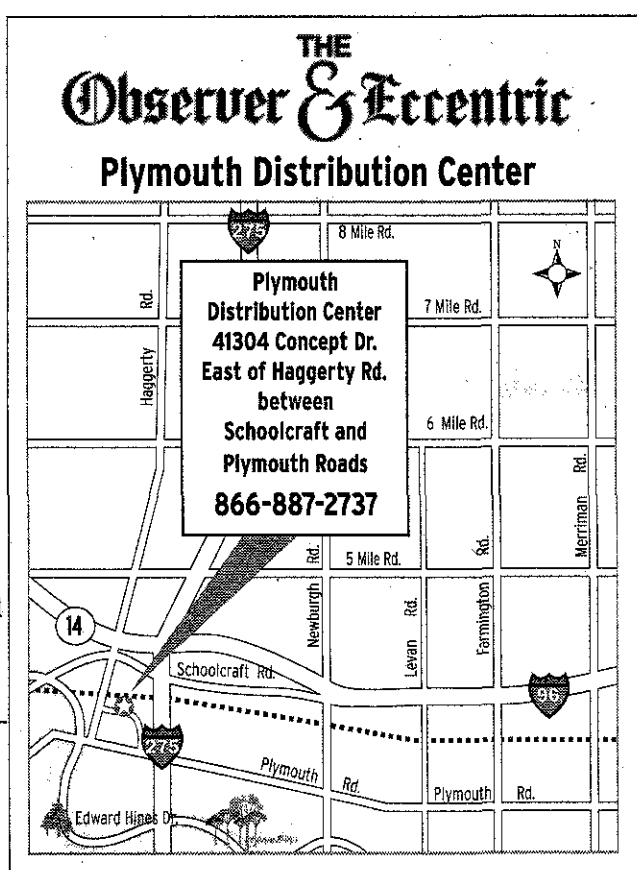
Readers can also use www.hometownlife.com to contact any member of the editorial staff, send a letter to the editor, community calendar item, photograph or press release.

Fax a letter to the editor, press release or item for the community calendar to (313) 223-3318.

The *Observer* also maintains a local retail advertising office in Plymouth Township. To contact an advertising representative, call (734) 582-8363.

To reach the following editorial staff members call:

■ Editor Kurt Kuban: (313) 222-6714
 ■ Canton reporter Tiffany Parks: (313) 222-5379
 ■ Canton reporter Tony Bruscatto: (313) 222-2637
 ■ Plymouth-Canton sports editor Ed Wright: (313) 222-2047



Family pets killed in house fire

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sunday was a busy day for the Canton Fire Department, which responded to 21 calls, including three fires. The most serious call was a house fire on the 43000 block of Barchester, which resulted in the deaths of two dogs that were trapped inside the home.

The department received the call at 9:44 p.m., and first arriving units reported fire visible coming from the home.

Fortunately, the home's owner, Patti Balint, and her 13-year-old daughter, Sara, were not home at the time of the fire.

Canton Fire Chief Michael Rorabacher said the fire is being viewed as accidental and that the home is no longer livable. He said the house sustained significant fire and

smoke damage.

"Unfortunately, the dogs were probably gone by the time we got the call," he said, adding that firefighters were able to extinguish the flames soon after arriving at the home.

Balint and her daughter, who attends Pioneer Middle School, moved to the home about four years ago, after her husband passed away from cancer and toxic mold was found in their home in Farmington.

"I haven't had too much luck with homes," she said.

Balint and her daughter are currently staying in a local hotel, and will soon be moving into an apartment until their house is rebuilt, which she said will take about 4-6 months.

Balint said her two poodles, Santa and Teddy, will be truly missed.

"They were like family.

They had their own room, ate at the table, and even played Scrabble with us," she said.

Although there isn't much fire damage on the exterior of the home, Balint said the inside is mostly ashes, especially Sara's room.

"I've been in a dream the last couple days," Balint said Wednesday. "The only thing keeping me sane right now is the fact that had we been in the home, we wouldn't have been able to get out because of where the fire started. God was truly looking out for us."

Balint said fire officials told her the cause of the fire was an electrical problem in one of the walls.

The fire marked the end of a busy day for the Canton Fire Department, which responded to two other fire calls and 18 medical calls on Sunday.

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Toy exhibit

The Canton Historical Museum will have a new exhibition called "Go Play! Toys from Different Times and Places" that will run from Dec. 12-Feb. 27. The theme of the show is the diversity of objects children have used in playing across time and place. The goal is to engage children, parents, and teachers in viewing and thinking about toys and playing-for adults, the visit can be a "walk down memory lane", encouraging adults to reminisce with other adults, and tell stories to children.

Call the museum at (734) 397-0088 for museum hours and directions.

Christmas in the Village

The Christmas in the Village Home Tour and more will take place in Cherry Hill Village from 3-8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13. Take a self-guided tour of eight beautiful seasonally-decorated homes in the Cherry Hill Village and then venture outside to enjoy carriage rides though the park, carolers, and other seasonal entertainment, including a holiday activity for children, warming stations with hot cocoa and spiced cider available for purchase, and visits with Santa Claus.

The Bartlett-Travis House will also be decorated and open to the public free of charge. Members from the Cherry Hill Village Homeowners Association and Canton Leisure Services are working together to make this event happen, as well as raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan. All proceeds from this event will benefit this nonprofit organization that grants wishes to children with life-threatening



Posters promote fire prevention

The Canton Fire Department's Annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest winners were honored on Tuesday during a small ceremony at the Canton Administration Building. The contest is a cooperative effort with local elementary schools to educate children on fire prevention awareness. This year's theme was "Prevent Home Fires." Posters were judged in two categories: first-third grade, and fourth-sixth grade. Pictured are first place winners (at left) Ryan Berger (a second grader at Dodson Elementary) and Natasha Pietruschka (a fifth grader at Tonda Elementary), along with Fire Marshal Frank Barrett and Fire Inspector Nichole Hamilton.

illnesses.

Advance tickets can be purchased for \$15 at the Summit on the Park, or the Village Theater Box Office; by visiting www.canton-mi.org/village-theater or by calling (734) 394-5460. Participants touring the homes must be 12 years of age and older.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend these outdoor festivities. For those not wishing to attend the home tour, there is no admission fee for these winter attractions, but some activities may require a nominal fee. Dress for the weather and come enjoy Christmas in the Village and Home Tour. Shuttles will be available for your parking convenience.

Yard waste collection

Canton's yard waste collection season has ended and will not resume until April 6. For residents who missed the last pickup, Canton Waste Recycling (CWR), located at 42100 Van Born Road, will have a yard waste truck available at their facility on Friday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 8-11 a.m.

There is no charge for dropping of the yard waste and residents are required to place all yard waste inside the truck themselves.

Call CWR at (734) 397-5801 and schedule a special pick-up. Residents will be charged \$1/bag of yard waste picked-up.

Charity hockey game

The 4th Annual Canton Fire Fighters vs. Canton Coaches Charity Hockey Game will take place at 6 p.m., Dec. 13 at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton. The event will benefit the Canton Fire Fighters Charity Foundation and "No Child Without A Christmas" program. The cost is \$2, and people can also donate an unwrapped gift.

The event will feature raffles, and a Chuck a Puck contest — purchase a puck to throw on the ice, and the closest puck to center ice face off circle will win four Detroit Red Wing tickets.

The Canton Fire Department will have fire engines on display before the game for the kids. Between the first and second period, the Canton Mini Mites will have a mini game.

Candy cane week

Members of the Canton Lions 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 com-

munity 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.

Christmas Spectacular

Central City Dance Center will stage its 5th annual Christmas Spectacular later

this month at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. There will be five shows: 6 p.m., Dec. 18; 6 p.m., Dec. 19; 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., Dec. 20; and 4 p.m., Dec. 21. The cast will include 125 singers, dancers, and gymnasts from Canton and the surrounding area.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at Central City Dance Center, 8004 Sheldon Center Road, Canton. For more information, call (734) 459-0400 or visit www.centralcitydance.com. Tickets are reserved seating and will not be sold the day of the show.

Pizza with Santa

The Canton Rotary Club's Pizza with Santa event will take place from 1-4 p.m., Dec. 13, at the Roman Forum restaurant, 41601 Ford Road, Canton. Santa's elves will be serving pizza while children and parents enjoy a visit with Santa. Each child will receive a photo with Santa — the first 200 children will receive a frame of craft. Santa will fly in on a helicopter at 1:30 p.m.

Cost is \$5 for children 3-13, \$7 for adults, and free for children under 3.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10am-7pm Dec. 7	10am-9pm Dec. 8	10am-9pm Dec. 9	9am-9pm Dec. 10	9am-9pm Dec. 11	9am-9pm Dec. 12	8am-10pm Dec. 13
8am-10pm Dec. 14	8am-10pm Dec. 15	8am-10pm Dec. 16	8am-10pm Dec. 17	8am-10pm Dec. 18	8am-11pm Dec. 19	7am-11pm Dec. 20

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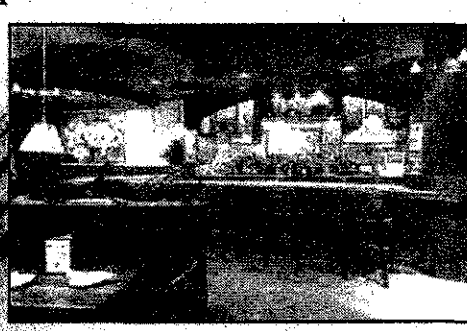
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Sun 1pm-10pm

OUR VIEWS

Take advantage of new business page

Small business is the economic engine of our local area. It's important to support local business — and in a down economy, it's even more crucial to be informed about the local business scene.

That's why the *Canton Observer* started a new page, called *Strictly Business*, which debuts in today's paper. And that's where you — the local business owner — come in.

Strictly Business will include a roundup of local business events, promotions, anniversaries, openings, closings and other changes at local area businesses.

We will also feature a business profile in a "question and answer" format, with a nice photo. Also look for a roundup of local business newsmakers and items from the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

And we'll be counting heavily on you to help us keep our readers informed about what's going on in the business community. It's a local business blitz every Thursday in your *Canton Observer*, and business owners can take advantage of it simply by e-mailing information to us to be included on this page.

You don't have to be a member of the Canton Chamber of Commerce (although it's a membership we highly recommend) to take advantage of this new offering, which gives owners an interactive chance to get the word out about the good things happening in their businesses.

And it's so simple: Just e-mail information about events, grand openings, staff changes with photos, and requests to receive a Q&A form to fill out for the business profile piece. All information should be e-mailed to editor Kurt Kuban at kkuban@hometownlife.com.

The business page will also be posted on our Web site (www.hometownlife.com), which gets thousands of hits a day (and where, by the way, you can read daily news updates and get other important information).

It seems an obvious point, yet it's a point worth making again: As small business goes, so goes the local community. This new information tool is one more way to help keep it going in the right direction.

Put that flu shot at the top of the list

It's not too late to get a flu shot.

Even though Dr. Heather Jackson reports no official cases of influenza at Beaumont Hospital it's just a matter of time before patients start coming into the ER complaining of muscle aches, fever and headaches.

Misery isn't the only price we pay for catching the flu. While lost productivity costs employers, the flu can also be deadly. Some 36,000 people die annually from influenza, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This year, the CDC is expanding its recommendations for vaccinations from the elderly and chronically ill to children ages 6 months to 18 years. But the warning doesn't stop there. Jackson, who practices family medicine in Southfield, says parents as well as anyone who works around children should get a flu shot as well.

And remember flu season runs all the way through the beginning of April so we still have a long road ahead of us. Many people wisely rush to the doctor in October when the serum arrives, but there's still time.

It's especially important to protect ourselves from the infectious disease during the holidays. With all of the hustle and bustle of the season it's easy to push making that appointment to the bottom of the list, but if you've ever been sick with the flu it's not a wise move. It usually takes about two weeks to develop protection from this nasty bug.

Flu season runs all the way through the beginning of April so we still have a long road ahead of us. Many people wisely rush to the doctor in October when the serum arrives, but there's still time.

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LETTERS

A job well done

With less than a week in office left, a huge thank you is in order for Tom Yack for his 20 years of service to the Canton community! You have served this community with vision, honesty, integrity and humility. I am not only proud because you are my father, but because of the wonderful community you have built that my family will now get to enjoy.

I have watched your dedication to this job since you first entered office my freshman year in high school. Always putting this community first, you have sacrificed so much of yourself, your time and your own interests. Seeing the value of being present and available for the residents and business owners in Canton, you were often missing at family functions, kid's sporting events and at times even put your health second. The people who know you best will miss your contributions to this community.

I am so proud of you, Dad! Congratulations on your retirement and the amazing legacy you leave behind.

Elizabeth Knoll
Canton

Looking forward

Within the next couple of weeks, I will be sworn in as supervisor of Canton Township. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who supported and voted for me. I'm thankful for the chance to continue serving the residents of Canton. We have a community with services second to none and my goal is to make this transition as seamless as possible. I look forward to working in our great community with excellent employees and a township board committed to maintaining our quality of life. If I can ever be of service, or if you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me in the supervisor's office. I wish you a happy holiday season and best wishes for 2009.

Phil LaJoy
Canton

Glass exhibit is great

Holy Toledo! A few years ago, words to describe a fantastic happening. Well that pretty well describes what is presently happening at the Canton Village Theater. The Toledo Hot Glass Exhibition that opened Dec. 3rd and continues until Jan. 4th is fantastic and deserves "Holy Toledo" in describing the works, the quality, originality and just the plain beauty of the pieces exhibited.

Four generations of original glass artists works are on display and every Canton resident young and old should take advantage of enjoying these fragile yet original, elegant pieces produced by the Toledo glass artists. Each piece demonstrates a masterful implementation of glass form, color and texture in an inventive and unique way. Corning would be pleased as were we who had the privilege to view the works on the opening night.

I urge Canton residents to take a few moments from their busy holiday lives and visit the Village Theater to experi-

ence a different form of visual art. I promise you that it will be well worth the visit and most likely will bring out the response "Holy Toledo" just as it did for me. Go there.

Ron DePentu
Canton

So long, Vic

Many folks living and working in Canton are simply unaware of the work, the planning, the strategizing, and the care that longtime Canton Planning Commissioner and outgoing commission chairman Vic Gustafson, along with others, have put into the township's development.

The transformation from a predominant farming community to a well-rounded, thriving suburban environment has been about a two decade or more journey. It has had its challenges, to say the least. Vic has been a part of and involved in most of it, and has helped lead the charge to Canton's respectability that we enjoy today.

He will be the first to tell you that he didn't do it by himself, but I know that his leadership from the planning side set the stage time and again to "raise the bar" of excellence.

For Canton there is much more ahead in this journey, and we will miss his insight, his wisdom, and his strength after these 20 years, but he has decided to do other things on the first and the third Monday nights of each month.

Vic, thanks again for your service to the Canton community. Your leadership and friendship have been cherished by those of us who have been fortunate enough to know you. Good luck in all that you do.

Greg Greene
Canton

Many reasons for bad economy

I am a seventh-grade, middle school student. I have done some research and the conclusion that I have come to about this economic crisis is many things. First and foremost, I think the major reason for this crisis is the fear of the people. As it said in a *New York Times* article, "Forget Logic; Fear Appears to Have Edge," two psychologists did a search that proved the fear is a problem. Most people feared potentially losing money than having a chance to potentially make money. Secondly, many people are losing their jobs and cannot pay their bills anymore. This causes them to be in debt. Since the people have all this debt, there are now steep losses in the financial industry. Lastly, many people are spending more than they earn. This leads to the economic crisis, so in the end the people that are spending more than they earn, have more debt, and also high interest rates and fees.

Jaclyn Schaumburger
Canton

Fear is a problem

Fear is not the answer. Even a middle school student like me can tell that fear

will take over our lives. We all need a little hope, or consumer confidence, in the economy. Maybe, just maybe, we can bring this economic crisis back to normal. By normal I mean not as many foreclosures, not as much bailout, and certainly not as much fear.

I have proof that people are fearful at the time because in the article entitled "Forget Logic; Fear Appears to Have Edge" published in *The New York Times*, they have tested if people would rather gain \$3,000 or a 20 percent chance of gaining \$4,000. People chose the \$3,000, when in another test they did, they asked the same people if they would rather lose \$3,000, or have a 20 percent chance of losing \$4,000. When people chose to take that chance, that proved that people are fearful with money.

For example, if people have enough faith to invest some money in the stock market, then maybe that will be the spark to start the ignition to a better future. If people have enough consumer confidence to support large companies and small companies, then just maybe we, the fellow citizens, all the companies will get the support they need.

Now I know I'm just a middle school student, and my hopes are high, but don't we need some hope in all of us?

Sami Abdulhadi
Canton

Economy will turn around

I am a seventh-grade, middle school student, and this is what I think about the economy. I would agree with the article, "Forget Logic; Fear Appears to Have Edge" (*New York Times*).

I noticed that banks have been closing down. Everyone is taking their money out of them, and as it was mentioned in the article I am talking about, I think it's all because they fear that if they leave the money in, they will lose all of it. I do think that the economy will go back to normal soon. I do trust Barack Obama and I hope he will save our economy. Hopefully it will go back to normal in a year or two, but I do hope people won't get so scared all of them will take out their money from the banks.

Chantel Maja Serafimovski
Canton

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"Each of the administrators based at the buildings will work with a student caseload. They'll be able to focus on student achievement, track attendance and behavior. The plan is to have greater contact with students and their parents, and for greater accessibility by parents to administrators."

— Mike Bender, director of secondary education for Plymouth-Canton schools, on a proposal to restructure the administrator level at the high school park, leaving one overall principal and an associate and three assistant principals at each school

CANTON
Observer

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

Sheldon opening comes ahead of schedule

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Wayne County closed Sheldon Road to start the railroad underpass project in January 2007, there were many who doubted the project would be completed within the two years projected by Wayne County officials.

And, after a plethora of first-year delays left work at a standstill for extended periods of time, there were few — besides Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp — who believed the underpass would be finished by the end of this month.

Helmkamp plans to make good on his promise to reopen

Sheldon Road — a couple of weeks early — on Friday afternoon. At 2 p.m. Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano will say a few words on the south (Plymouth Township) side of the project, followed by words from any dignitaries who want to chime in on what is forecast by Accuweather.com to be a mostly cloudy day with a high of 28, even lower at 14 degrees if you consider the wind chill factor.

"I'm not going to put a program together, and I foresee brief remarks because of the cold weather," said Helmkamp. "Instead of a ribbon cutting, we'll have the ceremonial driving of a vehicle through a ribbon. We'll have

some people holding the ribbon and some riding in the car going north. As we're driving through, we'll have people pulling the barrels away."

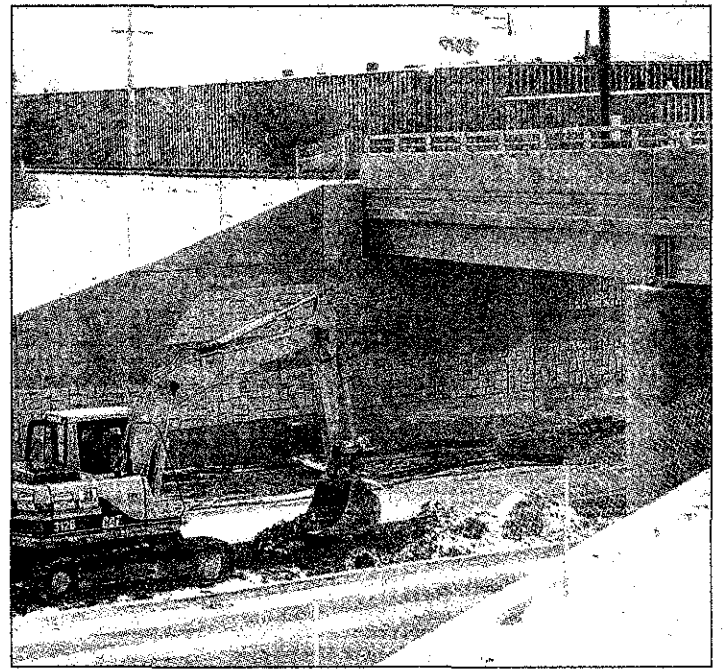
Helmkamp said Wayne County crews need one dry day to put down lane markers on the newly constructed Sheldon Road. However, if that doesn't happen, he'll improvise with Plan B.

"If we don't get that dry day, we're going to open at least one lane in each direction and use the barrels for delineators until we can get a dry day to stripe it," said Helmkamp. "That will at least give another weekend for the community and businesses before Christmas."

The first vehicle will be one furnished by Bob Jeannotte Pontiac-GMC — in Plymouth Township on the north side of the project — which saw sales drop during the past two years of construction. Bob Jeannotte, Jr. said it will be either a GMC Yukon hybrid or a Yukon flex-fuel hybrid.

"I didn't think it would ever be done by the deadline, especially after all the delays in the first year," said Jeannotte. "I would look at the south side through our showroom and for the first six to eight months there was a crane that never moved an inch."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2172



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crews put the finishing touches on the underpass on Sheldon Road, which is scheduled to re-open Friday.

Judge blocks release of WWEA union president's e-mails

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Wayne County Circuit Court judge has stopped the release of messages sent by the president of the Wayne-Westland Education Association to a west Michigan education watchdog group.

Last week, Judge Kathleen McDonald blocked the release of the e-mails to the Education Action Group which requested them through a Freedom of Information Act request filed Nov. 11 with the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

"The EAG was completely bush-

whacked," said Kyle Olsen, EAG vice president of strategy. "We did not obtain legal counsel because the issue was between EAG and the school district and the district never gave any indication that it would be unable to fill the request."

Olsen also called McDonald's decision "totally unfair" and "illegal," and said it denied the group due process.

EAG had requested copies of communications WWEA President Nancy Strachan had sent using a "taxpayer-funded e-mail account." According to Olsen, the request was to determine the union's communications with the Michigan Education

Association during a four-day teacher strike in October as well as the extent of union involvement in the recall effort of Wayne-Westland school board members Martha Pitsenbarger and Skip Monit.

"We have no interest in Strachan's communications with teachers regarding the education of Wayne-Westland kids," he said. "We're simply trying to get to the bottom of the union's involvement in the recall effort the organizers say stems from the union's 'illegal withholding of services' related to the four-day strike."

The e-mails were set to be released

last Friday, however, McDonald sided with the Michigan Education Association which filed a lawsuit against the school district last Wednesday to stop the release of the e-mails.

The MEA declined comment on the lawsuit, citing an agreement to refrain from comment engineered by administrative law Judge Doyle O'Connor of the Michigan Employee Relations Commission. The school district and the WWEA are engaged in fact-finding in an effort to hammer out a new contract.

McDonald issued a temporary restraining order last Thursday, a

move Olsen called "unprecedented" in that a nongovernment plaintiff was given standing as a plaintiff in a FOIA case.

Referring to the text messaging scandal in Detroit, Olsen said the public's right to make fair judgments should outweigh the union's attempt to cover up their president's "careless use of taxpayer-funded equipment."

Olsen said that EAG is evaluating its options, adding that the nonprofit, nonpartisan group "will fight the union every step of the way" to get the information released.

smason@hometownlife.com

Self-directed IRA is best option for transferring retirement money

The U.S. economy lost over 500,000 jobs last month. So far this year, over one million Americans have lost their jobs. Unfortunately, next year doesn't look much better. Even if the auto companies receive bailout money, about 90,000 Michiganders will lose their jobs.

Those who lose their job face a variety of issues. Not only do they have to be concerned about paying bills, but health care and retirement accounts need to be addressed. My general rule is when you leave an employer, you should take your retirement money. There are a number of reasons and factors that enter into the decision, but for the great majority of people it pays to take the money.

One issue that has come up regarding 401(k)



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

managing it with the investment options. You will continue to receive statements on a regular basis. You are still subject to the employer's rules.

plans is what happens if your employer files for bankruptcy protection or just goes out of business. It is important to recognize that a retirement account is not an asset of the employer. Creditors of an employer cannot go after a retirement account.

Most employers will allow you to keep your money in the current retirement account. In those situations you can't add new money to the account, however, you can continue

Another option, for those lucky to find a new job, is the potential to directly transfer the money from their former employer into the new plan. Although employers are not required to allow new employees to transfer existing retirement money, many employers are accommodating. To complete this transaction, have the money from the old retirement plan directly transferred into the new plan.

The third option — and the one that I recommend — is to transfer retirement money into a self-directed IRA. A self-directed IRA may be opened at companies like Schwab, Fidelity and Vanguard. There are no tax consequences and the money is totally under the individual's control.

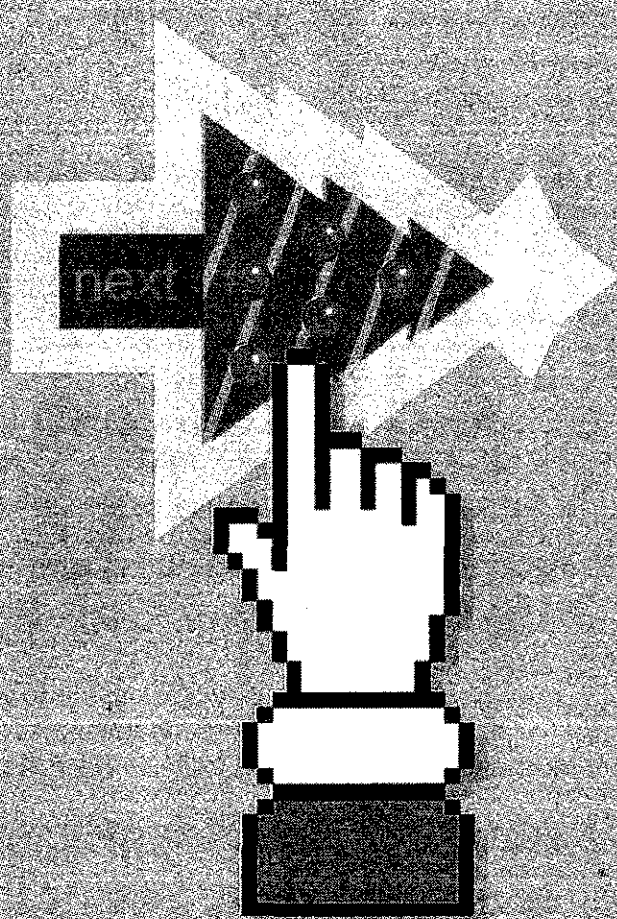
The different options each have pros and cons.

The pros of leaving your money with your former employer are that you are familiar with their plan and it is easy because you do not have to make any changes. The downside is that employers frequently make changes to their salary deferral programs and you would be subject to those changes.

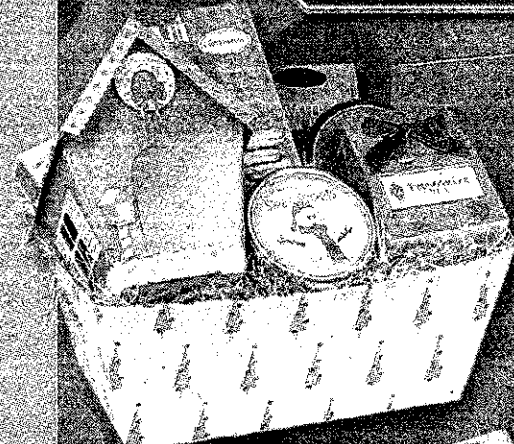
Be very careful about where you transfer your retirement money. Don't let anyone pressure you or intimidate you and always find out about the costs.

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

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Canton Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

New location, new name
The Hamzavi Dermatology clinic in Canton (49650 Cherry Hill Road) will be moving to a new location in Canton on Dec. 22. The new clinic will be located in its own building at 285 N. Lilley Road in Canton. The clinic will also have a new name: Dermatology Specialist of Canton. For more information about the clinic, call (734) 495-1506.

Gold standard
Sporting goods retailer Play It Again Sports® in Canton, located at 42079 Ford Road, has been recognized for achieving a 'Gold Standard' for customer satisfaction, store operations and product quality standards. The "Gold Standard" is presented by Play It Again Sports® corporate officials. "Being recognized as a 'Gold Standard' store is a very significant accomplishment, but even more, it means we're succeeding in providing our customers the best shopping experience possible," said Chuck Jones, owner of Play It Again Sports® in Canton. "Portraying a standardized look and maintaining product

quality standards helps ensure a consistent brand appearance, which in turn contributes to a more positive shopping experience."

Play It Again Sports® in Canton sells a wide selection of new name brand sports and fitness sports equipment as well as buys, sells and trades quality used sports and fitness gear. For more information about the store, contact Chuck Jones at (734) 844-8591, or visit <http://playitagainsportscanton.com>.

New music classes
Harmony And Me will be hosting a new round of mixed age Music Together classes for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and kindergartners, as well as adults, beginning in Canton on Jan. 3, 7, 8, and 10, and will run for nine weeks until March 14. Plymouth Play Cafe classes begin Jan. 6 through March 14. The classes explore singing, dancing, instrument play and rhythms together. Parents, grandparents, siblings can join in these family-style classes. Register by phone at (248) 489-9330 or visit www.HarmonyAndMeKids.com.

Ribbon cutting
The Allen May Salon & Day Spa, 1687 N. Canton Center Road, will host a ribbon cutting at 4:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12 at its location in the Centre Village shopping plaza. The public is invited. Allen May specializes in hair, skin and makeup, nails, waxing, and spa packages. For more information, call (734) 981-8223 or visit www.allenmay.net.

Third anniversary
Sammy and Amy Hesano, owners of Discount Beverage (8673 S. Lilley Road in Canton), are celebrating their store's third anniversary. They have increased the variety of liquors, wines, and beer, as well as non-alcoholic beverages they have in stock. "We just love being part of the Canton community. And we hope to be around for a long time to come," said Sam Hesano. "Please stop in and say hello." The store is located in the Golden Gate Shopping Plaza, across from Mettetal Airport. For more information, contact the store at (734) 451-1222.



Get in on the new Strictly Business page of the Canton Observer by sending us your business news, promotions, events or milestones. It's simple. Just e-mail all of the details to Editor Kurt Kuban at kurban@hometownlife.com and he will take care of the rest. Our new local business page runs each Thursday in your Canton Observer. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Melissa Kirkpatrick-Huetter in the salon.

Indigo Salon a perfect fit in Cherry Hill Village

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.
Indigo: Indigo Salon and Day Spa is a award winning 3,200 square foot full service salon and spa. Indigo, which is located in the heart of Canton's Cherry Hill Village, is a state of the art facility producing exceptional results while never losing "that hometown feel" — where we provide experiences not "just services." We specialize in: hair color/cutting/treatments, manicures/pedicures, massage therapy, body treatments, facials, peels, waxing, permanent make up application, and great lengths hair extensions.

Observer: What makes your business unique?
Indigo: At Indigo Salon and Day Spa it is all about our "Indigo Extras" — as we like to call them — that provide an extraordinary client experience, not just the service the client is receiving. Whether it be a warm neck wrap and hand warmers, a glass of Frappe Vino coffee-flavored water or herbal tea, or a complimentary chair massage, paraffin wax dip, or wash and style, we strive to exceed the clients expectations

INDIGO SALON AND DAY SPA
Business: Indigo Salon and Day Spa
Address: 50545 Cherry Hill Road (Suite 300), Canton
Owner: Melissa Kirkpatrick-Huetter, of Wolverine Lake (grew up in Wayne-Westland)
Business opened: October, 2005
Number of employees: 30
Business specialty: Full-service salon and day spa
Hours of operation: Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Phone and Web site: (734) 961-3245; www.indigosalonanddayspa.com

every time they visit.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?
Indigo: As a salon and spa industry coach/ massage therapist for five years prior to being an owner, I spent a lot of time in other salons and spas all over the U.S. coaching owners how to be successful in this industry, and teaching their teams that this is their career not just a "job." One day I decided that it was time for me to implement my skills, and create that ultimate work

environment for my team that I'd always wanted for myself.

Observer: How did you decide to locate in the Canton community?
Indigo: I loved the "feel" of the Cherry Hill Village. It fit my vision so well — the small town feel with upscale living is the perfect fit for us. Growing up in the area, I have always known that Canton had a great business community and when we came about our perfect spot in Cherry Hill Village, I was excited to have the opportunity to be a part of it.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business owner?
Indigo: Opening up in Michigan's worst economy in a long time, I will admit that I was petrified, but I knew I could do it. I knew it was not going to be shy of hard work or shy of extreme dedication to success or with out large trials and tribulations in order to get myself where I wanted to be. I knew I could make it happen. I look at us now and can only say — if this is where we are at today, in the worst situation we as a community have faced in many, many years, we can only hope for where we will be when things turn around.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Cheri L. R. Taylor
Cheri L. R. Taylor, a poet from Canton, and owner of the Blushing Sky Writer's Playground, has been awarded a residency at the Ragdale Foundation in the winter/spring season of 2009. Ragdale is a non-profit, internationally acclaimed artists' community located 30 miles north of Chicago. Acceptance to Ragdale is highly competitive. Recipients are chosen through an application process, with primary emphasis placed on anonymous evaluation of the applicant's work sample by professionals in each genre. Ragdale is located on the grounds of architect Howard Van Doren Shaw's Arts and Crafts style home, which was built in 1897. The Ragdale experience includes the natural surroundings of meadow and prairie that enhance Ragdale's beauty and seclusion. Each year,

Ragdale provides residencies for nearly 200 emerging and established artists, writers and composers from all over the world. In addition, Ragdale provides workshops and programs to those in the surrounding communities. Taylor received her MFA in Writing from Vermont College January of 2005 and is currently working as a writer in residence with the Inside Out Literary Arts Project conducting poetry workshops in the Detroit public schools. She has four chapbooks of poetry and has been published in Rattle, Awakenings Review, The Café Review, Reintegration Today, Clean Sheets, Current Magazine, Ellipsis, Third Wednesday and others. Her latest chapbook, "Wolf Maiden Moon, a tale in thirteen poems" was just released from Pudding House Press. She is the recipient of the 2006 Farban Walloon Writer's Retreat Scholarship for a Meritorious Teacher of Writing and a 2007 RARE Foundation Every Day Heroes Award winner for her work with healing and cathartic potential in the writing community. For more information about her or the Blushing Sky Writer's Playground, call (734) 459-2613 or e-mail Cherrion@aol.com.

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CHAMBER CHAT

Networking luncheon

The Chamber will host its first networking luncheon of the new year at 11 a.m., Jan. 14 at Summit on the Park. The program for the luncheon is "Who's Who & What Can I do!" There will be information tables set up that will be staffed by committee chairs, directors and members, allowing you the opportunity to ask questions and get information about Chamber committees, sponsorships and events. In addition, after lunch, 35th District Court Judge Mike Gerou will swear in the Chamber's

2009 Board of Directors, which will be followed by "Words of Wisdom" by new Chairman of the Board Terry Jobbitt of Choice Insurance Agency. The Chamber is looking for presenting and hosting sponsors for its networking breakfasts and after-hours as well as sponsors for its luncheons, auction, golf outing and other events. For more information or to make a reservation for lunch, contact the Chamber at (734) 453-4040. The January luncheon is being sponsored by Bovitz, CPA and Xuereb Snow PC.

SPORTS

B (CP)

Thursday, December 11, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Wildcat cagers prevail over Cougars, 74-34

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Newly opened South Lyon East doesn't have any seniors yet, but its boys basketball team's starting five still had more experience than Plymouth's Tuesday night in the season opener for both squads.

Relying heavily on three starting sophomores, the Wildcats prevailed 74-34 over the visiting Cougars.

Led by junior guard Marquee Taylor's 16 points, the Wildcats featured a level scoring attack that pleased coach Tom Van Wagoner.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

"We had four kids score in double figures tonight, which is something we didn't do much last year," said Van Wagoner. "I love the balance this team has. I know South Lyon East is young and they don't have seniors, but our starters may have been even younger than theirs."

Joining Taylor in the double-figure-scoring department were sophomore Justin Moss, who twined 12; Cliff Buttermore and Dion Johnson, both of whom added 10.

Senior captain Brad Lineberry had a productive night, chipping in with four points, four assists and a team-high nine rebounds.

Moss added seven boards while sophomore forward Brennen Beyer contributed eight caroms.

Zach Hamed came off the bench to register six points and five steals for Plymouth.

Blake Jones led the Cougars with 15 points.

Plymouth surged to a 10-0 first-quarter advantage and 31-9 halftime bulge. The 'Cats stretched the gap to 48-21 with eight minutes to play.

Plymouth struggled from the free-throw line, nailing just 8-of-17 attempts. East was better, draining 9-of-13 freebies.

"Marquee provided us with a

Please see **WILDCATS, B2**

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth-Canton-Salem's Kelsey Nikkila prepares to unleash a shot during Tuesday night's game against Grosse Pointe North. North's Nikki Capizzo and Plymouth's Lauren Smith trail the play.

No quit in Penguins

PCS skaters battle Grosse Pointe North to the final horn

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team lost to powerful Grosse Pointe North Tuesday night, but the Penguins earned a moral victory they won't soon forget.

The Norsemen, who are stocked with two of the top six scorers from last season's Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League, skated to a 7-1 triumph against their hustling hosts in a game played at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton.

Although PCS dropped to 1-4, it outscored the Norsemen in the third period, 1-0, after trailing 7-0 after the second intermission.

The Penguins' lone goal came with one second left when sophomore forward Jennifer Fedon wristed a shot past



Plymouth-Canton-Salem's Chelsea Osburn steers the puck away from Grosse Pointe North's Taylor Moody during Tuesday night's 7-1 Norsemen victory. The Penguins outscored North in the third period after falling into a 7-0 hole during the opening 30 minutes.

North's back-up goalie.

If ever a hockey player deserved one of the top three stars in a 7-1 loss, it was

PCS net-minder Michelle Shaffer. The senior knocked away 37 shots, many from close range. Her slickest stop came mid-way through the second period when she denied North's Lauren Walsh, who had eluded the Penguins' defenders on a break-away.

The Norsemen outshot the Penguins, 44-7, and 31-4 over the opening 30 minutes.

Angela Giorgio opened the scoring 4:20 into the contest with a short-handed lamp-lighter.

Walsh added a pair of goals to stake the Norsemen to a 5-0 first-period advantage. PCS's first shot on goal came with 30 seconds left in the first period when Chelsea Osburn fired a slapper at Lindsey Smith.

The Penguins' Jessie Hazlett delivered

Please see **PENGUINS, B2**

Balanced scoring ledger is key to Rocks' success

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Instead of the traditional gifts of silver to commemorate his 25th year as Salem's head basketball coach, Bob Brodie is hoping to receive a few things money can't buy from this year's contingent of Rocks.

Precious commodities like balanced scoring, tenacious defense and error-free ball distribution would be nice — and they don't even have to be wrapped.

"I'm cautiously optimistic about this team," said Brodie, the dean of all area boys basketball coaches. "From what I've seen so far, we're going to play well as a team and we have chemistry. Everybody is getting along."

"What we need to be successful this season is scoring from a lot of different

people. We lost our two big scorers from last season — Grant Stone (Lansing Community College) and Ross Davis (Oakland Community College) — so some other people are going to have to step up. We need to do a better job defending, too."

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

"It's going to be different not playing teams like John Glenn that we've played the past 30 years," said Brodie, whose

Please see **ROCKS, B3**

PREP HOOP PREVIEW



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem basketball coach Bob Brodie talks strategy with senior forward Joe Posler during a practice earlier this month. Brodie is entering his 25th year as the Rocks' head coach.

Sidelines

Turkey Trot results

A record-setting 400-plus runners competed in the Canton Leisure Services "Turkey Trot" event on Thanksgiving morning.

The men's and women's overall winners were Justin Huey (16:45) and Angela Justice, who covered the 5K course in 20:59.

J.C. Collins captured the men's masters title in 18:45 while Tina Alagna won the women's masters gold medal in 23:50.

The 18U men's and women's titlists were Joe Pocari (16:45) and Mackenzie Brewis (21:23).

Calille shines

Former Canton two-sport athlete David Calille is making a name for himself in Big 10 track-and-field circles.

Calille, a 2005 graduate of Canton and currently a member of the Michigan State University men's track-and-field team, won the 300-meter race with a time of 34.96 at the MSU Invitational Dec. 5 at Jenison Fieldhouse in East Lansing.

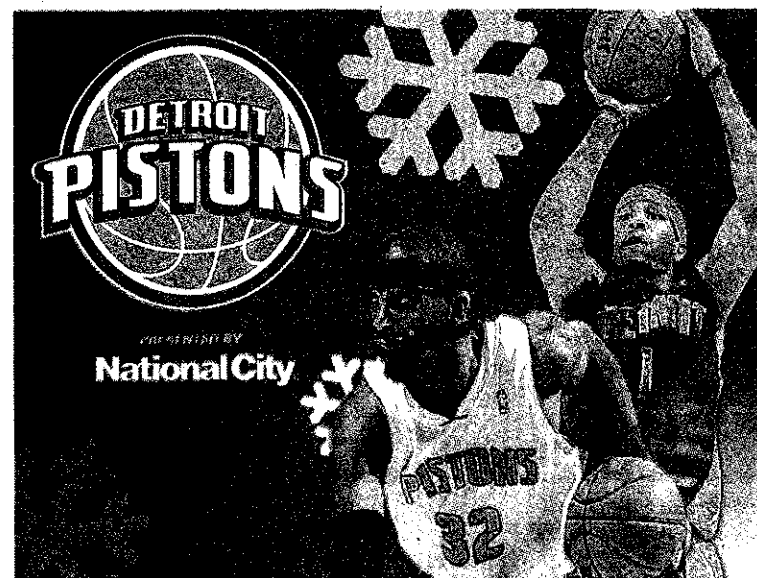
It was Calille's first meet for the Spartans. He was red-shirted last season after suffering a stress fracture in his foot.

Calille transferred to MSU after competing two years at Lansing Community College, where the former Chief holds the record in the 200-meter event.

Waza Flo Pro

The Detroit Waza Flo Pro, a professional indoor soccer team that will compete in the Professional Arena Soccer League (PASL), will play its first home match against the Springfield Spirits at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

Waza's roster consists of almost entirely home-grown talent, including several former Schoolcraft College and Madonna University standouts.



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WILDCATS

FROM PAGE B1

nice spark off the bench," said Van Wagoner, referring to Taylor's effort. "He scored a couple quick baskets when he came in late in the first quarter, then he hit a couple threes in the second.

"I like the way we're sharing the ball. We had more assists tonight than we had in three games combined last year." Plymouth hosts Dexter on Friday at 7 p.m.

PCA 66, CALVARY CHRISTIAN 42: On Tuesday in the season opener

for both teams, the Eagles never trailed after establishing a 20-10 first-quarter edge.

Senior guard Brent Zinn led the winners with 14 points. Reid Barber added 10, and Travis DeKruyter chipped in with nine, the result of 3-of-4 shooting from beyond the three-point arc.

Spencer Wiard led Plymouth Christian with nine rebounds. Jay Langonberger paced Calvary with 13 points.

"We're using a fast-break style this year, so it was important that we rotated a lot and kept fresh guys in there," said PCA coach Mike Doyle. "It's

hard to defend a team that's running the entire game.

"I thought our young guys played really well tonight. A couple sophomores — Travis DeKruyter and Matt Dodson — both shot well from outside."

Dodson hit two of his triple attempts and finished with six points. As a team, PCA swished 10-of-18 three-point attempts.

Both teams struggled from the stripe. PCA hit 8-of-14 free throws while Calvary was 6-of-14 from the line.

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PENGUINS

FROM PAGE B1

the check of the night when she unloaded on North's Nikki Capizzo with 6:20 left in the second period.

Less than a minute later, North executed a perfect three-pass scoring sequence when Alexa Quinlan lit the lamp following crisp assists

from Megan Bergeron and Walsh.

PCS's Rhianna Fleisher nearly broke her team's scoring drought, but her three-quarters-length-of-the-ice rush was stymied by Smith.

North's Alexis Lucheso capped the second-period scoring when she beat Shaffer from the top of the face-off circle with a low heater with 11.8 seconds on the clock.

Shaffer was spectacular in the third period as she knocked away all 13 shots the Norsemen ripped at her. If any of the shots would have found the net, the game would have ended due to the eight-goal mercy rule.

Also playing well for PCS were Sarah Coleman and Amanda Heisler.

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Talented PCA cagers ready to 'break' down opponents

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After dialing up a 9-11 record in 2007-08, the Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball team is prepared to make every fast-break situation an emergency for opposing defenses.

PCA coach Carol Gerulis' roster is stocked with a healthy blend of solid back- and front-court players who are ready to run the court at a quick pace.

"I think we'll do fairly well," said Gerulis. "We have two solid post players in Kristin Malcolm and Megan Greve, so they'll give us a nice inside presence down low.

And we have seven seniors on our roster, six of whom received a lot of playing time last year. We should be one of the older teams in the conference."

Malcolm is only a freshman, but she plays much older. The 5-foot-11 player is blessed with the poise and skills of a senior, Gerulis said.

"She has a great understanding of the game," Gerulis said. "She runs the floor like a guard, which will help our transition game."

Greve is a two-year starter who will team with Malcolm to give the Eagles' a potent one-two punch down low.

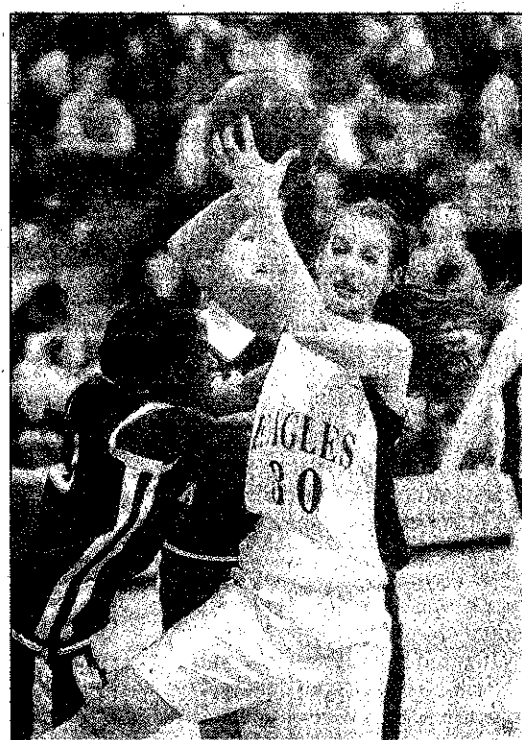
"Megan is a good rebounder and she can score in the low post as well," Gerulis said of her senior captain.

Also serving as captains will be seniors Autumn McKenzie, a 5-3 point guard; and Peggy Abraham, a 5-9 power forward.

"Autumn brings us a lot of intensity," said Gerulis. "She's also very fast, so she'll spark our upbeat pace, and she's solid defensively."

Jessica Murphy, a 5-7 senior guard, provides the Eagles with a nice outside shooting touch.

Other key players include Brooke Williams, a 5-8 senior forward, and Briana Harris, a 5-4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior captain Megan Greve will play a key role in the fortunes of the Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball team this season.

sophomore guard, who will be eligible to play in mid-January after transferring from Southfield Christian.

Providing depth to the talented roster will be Michaela Wheeler, a 5-7 junior forward; Allyson DeKruyter, a 5-6 senior guard; Jessica Soblesky, a 5-foot junior guard; and Elizabeth Somercik, a 5-7 senior forward.

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PREP HOOP PREVIEW

Agape hoopsters drop opener

The Canton Agape girls basketball team opened its season on Tuesday with a 24-22 loss to Detroit Urban Lutheran.

Brooke Purcell excelled in

the setback, scoring a team-high 10 points while grabbing four rebounds and swatting away three Urban Lutheran shots.

Iana Martin netted five points, five rebounds and four steals for the Wolverines. Madison Miller contributed six rebounds.

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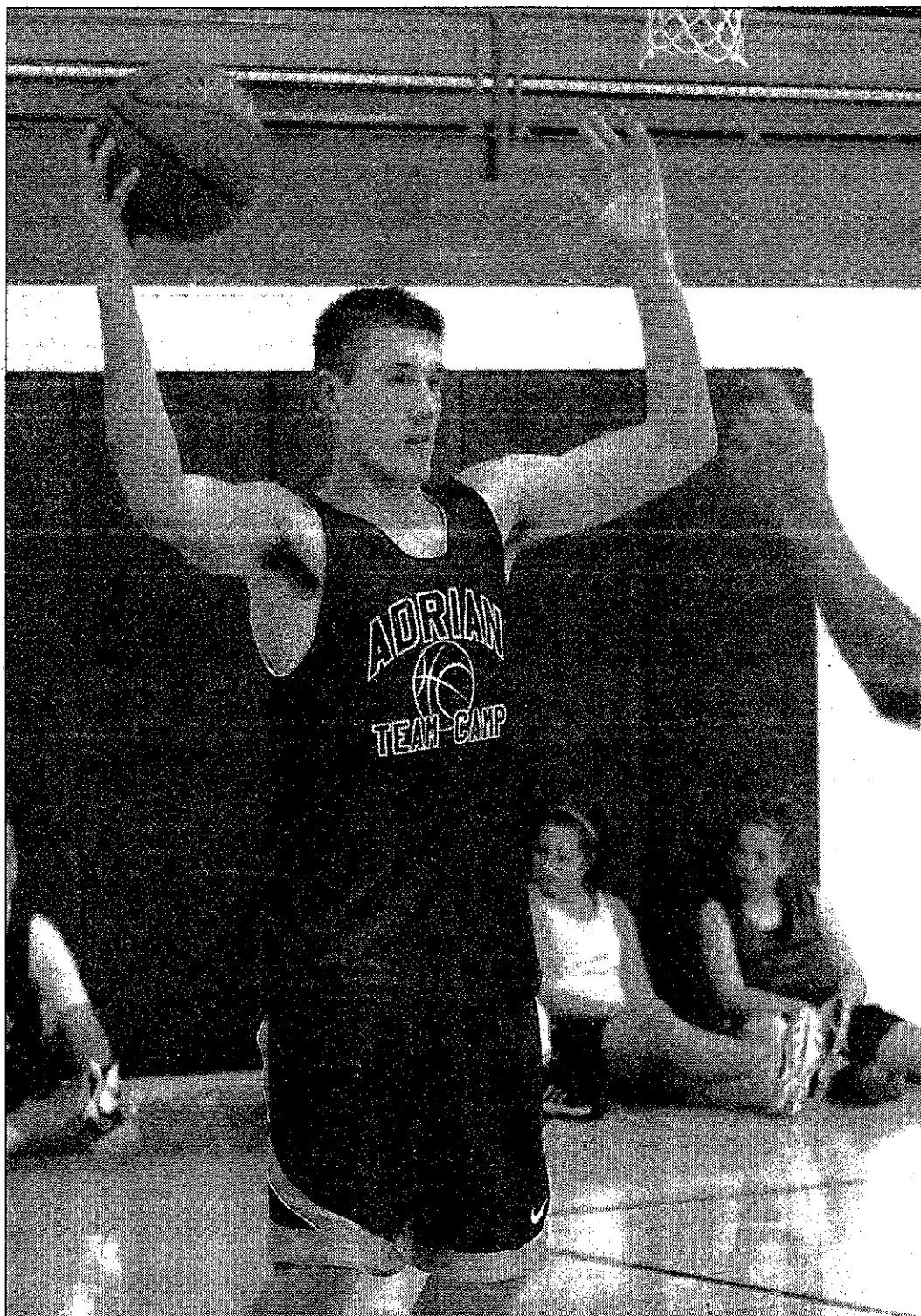
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Whalers hitting stride under Vellucci

The Whalers enjoyed a "Sweeps Week" during the first weekend of December. And although they didn't win awards or move to the top of the charts, they inched closer towards a Western Conference playoff berth.

Plymouth went on the road and defeated Peterborough, 3-2, on Thursday and Oshawa, 4-2, the next evening. The Whalers completed their best weekend of the season with a well-earned 3-1 victory over the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds on Saturday.

The three-game sweep left Plymouth with a record of 12-13-3-0 and just one point out of the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

The conference is so tightly packed that the Whalers are also just four points out of claiming fifth place overall.

The Whalers have improved to 6-2-1 under President and General Manager Mike Vellucci, who stepped back behind the bench on Nov. 10.

One area Vellucci has concentrated on is improving the Whalers' special teams. The penalty kill and power play are starting to show signs of life.

The Whalers have scored power play goals in six of the nine games so far with Vellucci behind the bench (going 7-for-51), while the penalty killers have shut down the opposition's power play in five of the nine games in Vellucci's return while going 44-for-54, for 81.5 percent.

Rookie Tyler Seguin was named first star in both the Peterborough and Oshawa games tallying 2 goals and 3 assists between the 2 games. "Our penalty kill has

improved quite a bit," Vellucci said. "Our power play has a lot better puck movement, more shots from the point, more deflections and more traffic. The power play has been a slower process, but the penalty kill has gotten better and better."

Indeed, subtract London going 5-for-9 on the power play in a 6-2 victory over Plymouth on November 15 and the Whalers penalty killing is 39-for-45 for 86.7 percent.

With captain Chris Terry missing six games in November due to mononucleosis, the Whalers received a major shot of offense from first-round pick Tyler Seguin, who was named the game's first star in three games during Vellucci's return behind the bench - all Plymouth victories.

Seguin was the game's first star in a 5-1 win over Saginaw on November 14 and then the first star in Peterborough and Oshawa.

Welcome aboard, Caria

Plymouth Whalers President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci announced the acquisition of 20-year-old center Matt Caria from the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds.

Caria (pronounced CARY-ah) was acquired for Windsor's 3rd round pick in the 2009 Ontario Hockey League Draft, Plymouth's 2nd round pick in 2010 and the Whalers 6th round selection in 2011.

Ontario Hockey League teams can carry three over-age players, or 1988 birth-days, on its roster. Caria joins right wing Patrick Lee as the Whalers' second over-age player.

Caria - originally taken in the sixth round (118th overall) in the 2004 draft by the Toronto St. Michael's Majors (now in Mississauga) - is currently 11th in scoring in the OHL with 10 goals and 25 assists for 35 points in 30 games. He is a proven offensive player with 75 goals and 125 assists for 200 points in 202 career games. In 18 career playoff games, Caria has eight goals with nine assists for 17 points. Caria's best offensive season came in 2006-07 when he scored 33 goals with 42 assists for 75 points in 59 games and was named to the OHL Eastern Conference All-Star team.

"Anytime you can acquire a talent of Caria's caliber without giving up a player from your lineup, it's a plus," Vellucci said. "I'm really excited to see how Caria and (Plymouth captain) Chris Terry mesh together."

Terry is the only other Whaler player with 200 points in his career. Terry is currently 11th on the Whalers all-time career scoring list with 88 goals and 133 assists for 221 points in 220 games.

Vellucci has been stockpiling draft choices since the Whalers' Championship season in 2006-07 and that fact made the deal possible.

Even with Caria's acquisition, Plymouth still has an ample allotment of draft choices remaining.

Caria was expected to report to Plymouth in time for the Whalers game Wednesday when they host Saginaw at 7:05 p.m. at Compuware Arena. Tickets are available by calling the Compuware Arena box office at (734) 453-8400.

ROCKS

FROM PAGE B1

team finished 9-12 last season. "But teams like South Lyon and Novi bring in some new blood, so it should be interesting."

Although Stone and Davis have departed, the Rocks are still blessed with several experienced players. Both starting guards - seniors Anthony Mullins (6-foot) and Heath Parling (6-2) - logged substantial minutes last winter.

"Both Anthony and Heath started quite a bit last year," said Brodie. "They can both handle the ball and shoot."

The first guard off the bench is expected to be Blake Hayes, a 6-2 junior.

"He shoots well and is a very smart player," said Brodie of Hayes.

Salem's top returning scorer is senior forward Joe Posler, a 6-3 slasher who excels at creating shots.

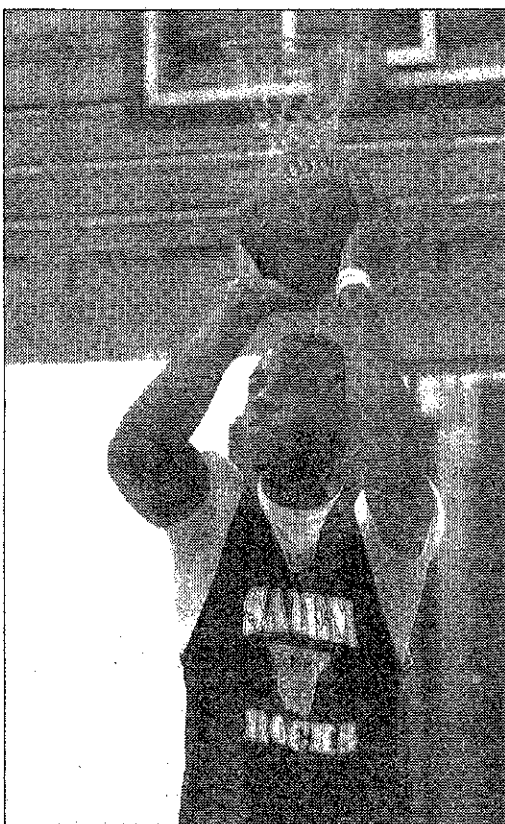
He'll be joined in the starting front-court by Cortney Frazier, a 6-6 senior forward, and Jimmy Dexter, a 6-3 power forward.

"All three of these guys give us a nice inside presence," Brodie said. "Cortney has improved a little bit all three years he's been on varsity. Jim's a tough kid inside who can also score from outside."

One of the first big men off the bench will be junior Jake Peterson, a 6-6 forward who excelled for the Rocks' junior-varsity squad last year.

Providing back-court depth will be senior guard Alex Murray (6-foot), 5-10 junior guard Fred Carlock and 5-11 junior guard Chuckie Williams.

Junior Dominique Williams (6-2) and Andrew Daniels (6-4) will spell the Rocks' starting post



At 6-foot-6, senior Cortney Frazier will be tough to defend in the paint this season.

players.

Salem opens its season Tuesday at home against Redford Union.

The opening tip is set for approximately 7 p.m.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 12
Lutheran South at Canton Agape, 7:30 p.m.
D.H. Crestwood at Canton, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13
Lutheran Westland at PCA, 3:30 p.m.

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 12
Lutheran South at Canton Agape, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13
Lutheran Westland at PCA, 2 p.m.

Salem at F.H. Mercy, 4 p.m.

BOYS PREP HOCKEY

Thursday, Dec. 11
Salem at Country Day, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12
Livonia Stevenson at Canton at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m.

W.L. Western at Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 7:40 p.m.

GIRLS PREP HOCKEY
Saturday, Dec. 13
PCS at Ladywood at Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 6 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Saturday, Dec. 13
Canton at EMU Varsity Wrestling Tournament, 9 a.m.

Salem "10" Invite, 9 a.m.

Plymouth at Bedford Invitational, 10 a.m.

BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Dec. 11
Monroe at Plymouth at Canton pool, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13
Canton, Salem at EMU Relays, 11 a.m.

PREP GYMNASICS
Saturday, Dec. 13
Canton at Vassar, noon

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CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction December 19, 2008 at 9:00 AM. 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.

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1998	Mercury	Sable	4-DR	1MEFM53S1WA650501
1994	Ford	Taurus	4-DR	1FALP52U3RG232429
1998	Plymouth	Neon	4-DR	1P3ES47C1WD581047
1993	Ford	Taurus	4-DR	1FACP52U8PG169809
1991	Ford	Escort	4-DR	1FAPP14J3MW378602
1999	Ford	Windstar	S/W	2FMAZ5143XBB23850
1996	Mercury	Marquis	4-DR	2MELM7462TX605960

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a **Bid for Site-work at Bentley and Tonda Elementary Schools, East Middle School, Transportation Building, EJ McClendon Educational Center, and Tanger Center.** Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335 or (248) 427-8400; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; and the Builders Exchange, Lansing.

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at the East Middle School Construction Trailer located at 1042 S. Mill Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the bidding requirements, schedule, project scopes of work, and to answer any question that bidders may have. **Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.** This Bid Package will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions:

- 101:Earthwork / Site Utilities
- 102:Asphalt Paving / Exterior Concrete
- 143:Electrical
- 148:Landscaping

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract. Bid securities may be in the form of a Bid Bond or Certified Check.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 1 original and 1 copy and the Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. **Bids are due to the PCCS EJ McClendon Educational Center on or before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2009 where they will be opened and read publicly.** These projects are to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Thomas Wysocki, Secretary

Publish: December 11 and 18, 2008

OE080388-3 2x7.5

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

OE983488-2x3



NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WINTER TAXES - 2008

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2008 and payable through February 28, 2009 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be made at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED from Wednesday, December 24, 2008 through Thursday, January 1, 2009 for the Christmas Holidays.

The Treasurer's office will be **OPEN TO ACCEPT TAX PAYMENTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS on Monday, December 29th, and Tuesday, December 30th.**

Teresa Cischke, CPFA
City Treasurer

Publish: December 7 and 11, 2008

OE8855108-2x3.5

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 11, 2008

OE08038401-2x2.5



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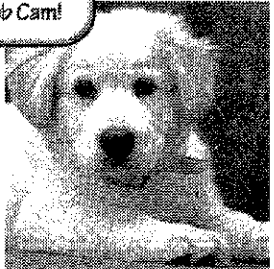
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OE0803208

Crusader kickers to get NAIA All-America honors

Senior midfielder Shannon McIntyre was among two Madonna University women's soccer players to receive 2008 Brine NAIA All-America recognition.

The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year from Woodhaven, a transfer from Eastern Michigan University, earned third-team All-America honors after scoring three goals and adding four assists.

Earning honorable mention honors was junior forward Jessica Austin (Livonia Franklin), who had 15 goals this season for the WHAC regular season champions.

Named to the NAIA All-American Scholar Athlete team from MU were: Dina Allie (Livonia Stevenson), a senior midfielder; Lauren Hess (Livonia Ladywood, a junior midfielder; Andrea Johnson (Canton), a senior defender; and Ashley Stoychoff (Salem).

Allie is a double major in English and family and consumer science; Johnson is an integrated science major; Stoychoff, a math for elementary education major; and Hess, a nursing major.

To be named to the Scholar Athlete team,

you must be a junior or senior and carry a cumulative 3.5 grade-point average or better.

MU's Drai honored

Madonna University senior midfielder Doron Drai, a native of Kfar-Yona, Israel, earned 2008 Brian NAIA All-America honorable mention honors in men's soccer.

Drai, the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the year, had three goals and nine assists as the Crusaders won both the WHAC playoff and regular season titles before being ousted in the Sweet 16

of the NAIA Nationals.

Drai was also named to the NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete team along with juniors Mark Pikula and Isaac Saint John, both of Dearborn.

Drai, a business major, is making his second appearance on the squad, while Pikula, a TV and video communication major, and Saint John, a business major, are both making their first appearances.

To be named to the Scholar Athlete team, you must be a junior or senior and carry a cumulative 3.5 grade-point average or better.

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LOCAL PERSONALITIES GO HEAD TO HEAD



Mason
WGRB
Radio

12-4
115-61

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Tennessee
Indianapolis
Green Bay
San Diego
Miami
New York Jets
St. Louis
Arizona
New England
Carolina
Pittsburgh
New York Giants
Philadelphia



Jon Bond
WMMV
Radio

12-4
108-68

Chicago
Washington
Atlanta
Tennessee
Indianapolis
Green Bay
San Diego
Miami
New York Jets
St. Louis
Arizona
New England
Carolina
Pittsburgh
New York Giants
Philadelphia



Gator
Anderson
97.1 Radio

13-3
109-67

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Tennessee
Indianapolis
Green Bay
San Diego
Miami
New York Jets
St. Louis
Arizona
New England
Carolina
Pittsburgh
New York Giants
Philadelphia



Jeff Lesson
CBS
Radio

10-6
111-65

Chicago
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Tennessee
Indianapolis
Green Bay
San Diego
Miami
New York Jets
St. Louis
Arizona
New England
Carolina
Pittsburgh
New York Giants
Philadelphia



Keith Lang
Tennyson
Chevrolet

12-4
119-57

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Tampa Bay
Tennessee
Indianapolis
Green Bay
San Diego
Miami
New York Jets
St. Louis
Arizona
New England
Carolina
Pittsburgh
New York Giants
Philadelphia



Bob Faust
Jack Demmer
Ford

12-4
118-58

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Tennessee
Indianapolis
Green Bay
San Diego
Miami
New York Jets
St. Louis
Arizona
New England
Carolina
Pittsburgh
New York Giants
Philadelphia



Ronnie Williams
Perfect
Floors

12-4
120-56

Chicago
Washington
Atlanta
Tennessee
Indianapolis
Green Bay
San Diego
Miami
New York Jets
St. Louis
Arizona
New England
Carolina
Pittsburgh
New York Giants
Philadelphia



Tom Flory
Shelton Pontiac
Buick GMC

12-4
116-60

Chicago
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San Diego
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Carolina
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Chrysler Jeep

12-4
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WEEK #15 GAMES

Thursday, December 11, 2008

New Orleans at Chicago
Sunday, December 14, 2008
Washington at Cincinnati
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
Tennessee at Houston
Detroit at Indianapolis
Green Bay at Jacksonville
San Diego at Kansas City
San Francisco at Miami
Buffalo at New York Jets
Seattle at St. Louis
Minnesota at Arizona
New England at Oakland
Denver at Carolina
Pittsburgh at Baltimore
New York Giants at Dallas
Monday, December 15, 2008
Cleveland at Philadelphia

Canton icers' strong start is worthy of superlatives

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Scorching. Sizzling. Scintillating.

Pick any upbeat adjective and chances are Canton's hockey team is worthy of the praise.

The Chiefs extended the incredible start to their 2008-09 season on Monday when they outlasted a potent South Lyon team, 8-5, at the Kensington Valley Ice House in South Lyon.

Canton will take a 6-0-1 mark into Friday's blockbuster clash against unbeaten Livonia Stevenson. The game is set to face off at 8 p.m. at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton.

"The boys are playing well right now, but they have to keep playing together and keep playing with intensity for this to continue," said Canton coach Dan Abraham.

Senior forward Nick Tomilenko continued his torrid scoring streak against the Lions, netting two goals and two assists.

The remaining six goals were evenly distributed amongst Danny Bilek, Zach Haar, Bryan Davison, Ryan Lash, Anthony Bonnett and Alex Berlin.

A.J. Rosales added a pair of assists to the Chiefs' cause.

Senior net-minder Zane Birchler continued his stellar play between the pipes.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Bryan Davison (right), pictured in a game earlier this season, scored a goal in the Chiefs' 8-5 victory over South Lyon Monday night.

Birchler turned away 40 South Lyon shots.

Canton led 4-2 after one period and 7-4 with 15 minutes to play.

CANTON 6, NOVI 1: On Dec.

5, Tomilenko registered a hat-trick while Rosales, Donny Barlow and Mark Barath added singles for the winners.

Birchler made 30 saves to earn the win in net for the surging Chiefs.

CHELSEA 5, PLYMOUTH 3: On Saturday, the Wildcats outshot

Chelsea 38-15, but suffered a two-goal setback.

Plymouth trailed 3-0 after one period and 4-1 after two.

Pat Smiatcz scored Plymouth's first goal off assists from Ryan Renault and Luke Mirandi.

John Maurer (from Smiatcz and Renault) and Taylor Currier (from Smiatcz and Maurer) also lit the lamp for the Wildcats.

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SPORTS SHORTS

PCEP hockey reunion

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park boys hockey program's 10-year anniversary will be celebrated Saturday, Dec. 20, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Plymouth VFW Hall, located at 1426 Mill St.

All current and former PCEP hockey players and their parents are invited to attend. To RSVP and/or order tickets, contact Joan Quigley at (248) 921-5175 or jquigley@gleason.com.

Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for players). Pizza and salad will be provided. Bring your own pop and dessert.

Charity hockey

The 4th Annual Canton Fire Fighters vs. Canton Coaches charity hockey game will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton.

Proceeds from the game will benefit the Canton Firefighters Association's "No Child Without a Christmas" program.

The admission charge will be \$2 or an unwrapped gift.

The Canton Fire Department will have fire engines on display before the game and the Canton Youth Hockey mini-mites will scrimmage during the first intermission.

There will also be raffle gift baskets, a 50/50 raffle and chuck-a-puck available.

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.

Chief grapplers rack up 4-1 mark at invitational

Canton's wrestling team placed third at Saturday's talent-rich Warren Woods Tower Invitational. Goodrich and Lowell were the only teams to finish ahead of the Chiefs in the 12-team field.

"I thought the team wrestled very well," said Canton coach Cory Mancuso. "We seemed to get better every dual match until we ran into Goodrich, which is just too much for us right now. Goodrich is the defending state champ and they have a very solid lineup, but I'm proud of how our guys battled them."

The Chiefs won their first seven matches against Grosse Pointe South with pins.

Wildcats finish 8th

Plymouth's wrestling team placed eighth in the 16-team Brooklyn Columbia Central Invitational on Saturday.

"Overall, I was pretty pleased with how the team performed,"

said first-year coach Quinn Guernsey.

Vince Rizzo enjoyed a spectacular day for the Wildcats, pinning all five of his opponents at 171 and 189 pounds.

Said Youssef, competing at 103, went 4-1 with a pin.

The Wildcats opened with a 48-33 victory over the hosts before falling to Mason (52-27), Waterford Kettering (60-18), Ida (54-21) and Dexter (51-27).

"There was a lot of good competition," said Guernsey. "We wrestled some very good teams."

CANTON 60

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH 18

140 pounds: Donnie Watkins (C) pinned Christian Narvios in 1:37; **145:** Brett Winekoff (C) pinned Josh Rothenbuhler in 52 seconds; **152:** Anthony Abro (C) pinned Deonta Bryant in 1:02; **160:** Austin Mach (C) pinned Jack Thomas in 1:17; **171:** Keith Zech (C) pinned David Carter in 3:36; **189:** Pat Durocher (C) pinned Stan Scott in 44 seconds; **215:** Tyler Bourcier (C) pinned Stan Scott in 5:41; **285:** Reggie Lewis (GPS) pinned Doug Pickert in 1:56; **103:** Sergio Rodriguez (GPS) pinned Danny Filippelli in 55 seconds; **112:** Tim Mijnsberger (C) pinned Paul Zamboti in 1:16; **119:** Griffin Furlon (GPS) pinned Waleed Faraj in 4:50; **125:** Carl Lucke (C) dec. Joey Konen,

10-3; **130:** Mitch Wolski (C) pinned Neil Leising in 2:33; **135:** Jeremy Filippelli (C) pinned Alex Romer in 55 seconds.

CANTON 71

SCS LAKEVIEW 10

145 pounds: Brent Winekoff (C) pinned Josh Sroka in 21 seconds; **152:** Anthony Abro (C) pinned Josh Lowis in 44 seconds; **160:** Austin Mach (C) dec. Jamson Hastings, 17-5; **171:** Keith Zech (C) pinned Brett Pirrone in 1:05; **189:** Pat Durocher (C) pinned Andrew Shank in 26 seconds; **215:** Mitch SAND (SCSL) pinned Ben Poirier in 4:29; **285:** Doug Pickert (C) won by void; **103:** Daniel Filippelli (C) dec. Scott Carey, 9-3; **112:** Tim Mijnsberger (C) pinned Alex Bayer in 1:07; **119:** Waleed Faraj (C) pinned Dan Nodon in 1:45; **125:** Nick Marino (SCSL) dec. Carl Lucke, 12-4; **130:** Mitch Wolski (C) pinned Anthony Courneur in 3:32; **135:** Jeremy Filippelli (C) def. Rob Hissong, 15-0; **140:** Donnie Watkins (C) pinned Justin DeSantis in 1:33.

CANTON 78

EAST DETROIT 6

152 pounds: Anthony Abro (C) pinned Jaymes Romanow in 1:41; **160:** Austin Mach (C) pinned Desmond Livingston in 33 seconds; **171:** Keith Zech (C) pinned Justin Powell in 49 seconds; **189:** Pat Durocher (C) won by void; **215:** Ben Poirier (C) won by void; **285:** Doug Pickert (C) pinned Kevin Sobetski in 28 seconds; **103:** Daniel Filippelli (C) pinned Eddie Bissonnette in 2:19; **112:** Mark Simmons (ED) pinned Tim Mijnsberger in 1:15; **119:** Waleed Faraj (C) pinned Brian Young in 1:16; **125:** Carl Lucke (C) pinned James Hackney in 14 seconds; **130:** Mitch Wolski (C) pinned Mark Smiles in 1:36; **135:** Jeremy Filippelli (C) pinned Dari Sharp-Smith in 41 seconds; **140:** Donnie Watkins (C)

GOODRICH 43

CANTON 20

160 pounds: Jarrad LaBelle (G) decisoned Keith Zech, 5-2; **171:** Drew Well (G) pinned Austin Mach in 2:31; **189:** Kyle March (G) pinned Pat Durocher in 3:04; **215:** Kyle Elsworth pinned Tyler Bourcier in 1:10; **285:** Nick Lovell (G) dec. Doug Pickert, 6-1; **103:** Isaac Jewell dec. Daniel Filippelli, 9-1; **112:** C.C. Weber pinned Tim Mijnsberger in 1:23; **119:** Waleed Faraj (C) dec. Evan Grzecki, 4-2; **125:** Carl Lucke (C) dec. Bryce Montgomery, 20-8; **130:** Jeremy Filippelli (C) dec. David Barr, 9-4 (OT); **135:** Donnie Watkins (C) pinned Carl Smith in 23 seconds; **140:** Kirk Britton (G) pinned Ryan Terrell in 2:15; **145:** Brent Winekoff (C) dec. Parker Lovell, 14-5; **152:** Joe Hopkins (G) dec. Anthony Abro, 5-2.

CANTON 45

HAZEL PARK 26

171 pounds: Meyer Crandall (HP) pinned Austin Mach in 4:40; **189:** Patrick Durocher (C) pinned Ty Beaudrie in 1:01; **215:** Dominic Wiggins (HP) pinned Tyler Bourcier in 55 seconds; **285:** Chris Bible (HP) pinned Doug Pickert in 1:23; **103:** Cody Vanderhagen (HP) dec. Daniel Filippelli, 5-3 (OT); **112:** Kyle Countryman (HP) pinned Tim Mijnsberger in 3:07; **119:** Waleed Faraj (C) dec. Adrian Quintero, 12-4; **125:** Carl Lucke (C) dec. Brandon Walker, 8-2; **130:** Mitch Wolski (C) pinned Jon Roberts in 32 seconds; **135:** Jeremy Filippelli (C) pinned Lance Katalis in 27 seconds; **140:** Donnie Watkins (C) dec. Ethan Soqaert, 8-2; **145:** Brent Winekoff (C) pinned Chad Hard in 1:15; **152:** Anthony Abro (C) won by void; **160:** Keith Zech (C) dec. Chuck Hill, 12-11.

Ocelot women cagers win Schoolcraft Classic

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team defeated visiting Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 95-62, in Saturday's championship game of the Schoolcraft Classic. The Ocelots advanced to the title tilt by ousting Lakeland (Ohio) CC, 74-54, on Friday.

The pair of victories improved the No. 7-ranked Ocelots' overall record to 8-1. Kalamazoo slipped to 6-2 while Lakeland dropped to 6-3.

Antania Shepherd paced the

winners in Saturday's blowout victory as she piled up 21 points, five rebounds and four assists. Shepherd was red-hot from the field, connecting on 9-of-13 field goals.

A trio of SC players also hit double-figures scoring: Jasmine Brown (14 points), April Goins (14 points, six rebounds) and Salem grad Tayler Langham, who contributed 12 points.

SC outrebounded Kalamazoo Valley, 55-31.

Jeannie Clossun led Kalamazoo

with 13 points and seven rebounds.

Schoolcraft led 43-28 at the half and was never threatened there-after.

In Friday's semifinal contest, Langham sparked, ripping the nets for a career-high 23 points. Shepherd (12 points, six rebounds) and Sheray Brown (11 points, 11 rebounds) also excelled for the Ocelots, who led 34-25 at the break.

Schoolcraft's relentless pressure forced 27 Lakeland turnovers.

Both teams combined to his

just 2-of-19 shots from beyond the three-point arc.

SCHOOLCRAFT 86, MACOMB CC 50: On Dec. 3, April Goins scored 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds as Schoolcraft College (6-1, 2-0) rocked visiting Macomb Community College (4-2, 0-1).

Salem grad Tayler Langham also sparked for the winners, registering 15 points and eight boards.

Jasmine Brown (13 points) and Shannon Collins (10) also reached double-digits scoring for SC.

Meredith Smith tallied 21 points for Macomb, which couldn't overcome a 41-17 halftime deficit.

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FIRST TEAM
Becca Refenes, Sr., MH, Luth. Westland: Refenes stood taller than her 6-foot-2 frame this season, sparking the Warriors to the Class D volleyball finals for the first time in school history.
An All-State first-teamer for the second year in a row and repeat Metro Conference MVP winner, Refenes made it happen in many categories — 740 kills, 106 blocks, 392 digs, 93 aces and 299 serving points, for example.
“Becca is a phenomenal player, probably the best I have ever coached in any sport,” Warriors coach Kevin Wade said. “She is very strong and explosive and very fun to watch. She is also very good in the back row, which surprises a lot of teams.”
Because Refenes is such a complete player, she becomes the first Division 1 athlete out of Lutheran Westland “and I know she will do great things at the next level (the University of Cincinnati).”

Kristen Nalezek, Sr., OH, Churchill: The 5-10 senior outside hitter helped the Chargers to the Class A state semifinals while earning second-team All-State honors from MIVCA. Nalezek, who finished with 595 kills (4.5 per set), also was named All-Region and All-KLAA, as well as co-team MVP. She also earned MIVCA Academic All-State recognition.
“Kristen is a great leaper, who is strong and very athletic,” Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. “There was no secret who we were giving the ball to when Kristen was on the front row. She was our workhorse all year, and a huge part of our success came from Kristen’s ability to put the ball to the floor.”
Lindsey Graciak, Sr., Libero, Churchill: The 5-6 senior libero earned first-team All-State honors by MIVCA after racking up a Churchill career-best 749 total digs (5.7 per set).
Graciak, who also had 48 aces (serv-

2008 ALL-OBSERVER VOLLEYBALL FIRST TEAM
Becca Refenes, Sr. MH, Lutheran Westland
Kristen Nalezek, Sr. OH, Liv. Churchill
Lindsey Graciak, Sr. L. Liv. Churchill
Jordan Kietly, Jr. OH, Canton
Jansan Falcusan, Sr. S. Salem
Brittany Holbrook, Sr. MH, John Glenn
Briana Beyer, Sr. L. Plymouth
Shannon Pietruszka, Sr. L. Garden City
Kately Ramthun, Sr. OH, Lutheran Westland
Danielle Campbell, Sr. MH, Garden City
Kelly MacDonald, Sr. OH, Salem
Meg Iafate, Sr. MH, Liv. Stevenson
Loran Stenzel, Sr. OH, Redford Union
Claire Dezelski, Jr. OH, Liv. Ladywood
Katie Matz, Sr. OH, Liv. Churchill

SECOND TEAM
Kacy Moran, Sr. S. Canton
Nicole Mergel, Sr. MH, Salem
Lauren Gieschen, Sr. S. Lutheran Westland
Rachael Fuller, Sr. MH, Liv. Ladywood
Stacey Truskowski, Sr. OH, John Glenn
Kellyn O’Brady, Jr. OH, Garden City
Cory Urbats, Sr. S. Liv. Churchill
Sarah Sanders, Sr. OH, Redford Union
Kristen Muir, Fr. OH, Canton
Brooke Knochel, Sr. OH, Liv. Stevenson

THIRD TEAM
Megan Greve, Sr. OH, Plymouth Christian

Cierra Yelts, Jr. MH, Liv. Churchill
Abi Gieschen, Sr. L. Lutheran Westland
Stephanie Stevens, Jr. OH, Garden City
Megan Quintan, Sr. MH, Plymouth
Julie Rhodes, Jr. S. Liv. Ladywood
Danielle Sweeney, Sr. S. Redford Union
Halle Baker, Sr. OH, John Glenn
Marlene Azar, Sr. OH, Clarenceville
Katie Sato, Jr. S. Plymouth

COACH OF THE YEAR
Kevin Wade, Lutheran Westland

HONORABLE MENTION
Churchill: Sarah Suppelsa, Kat Krupsky, Kristy DeClerco, Jessica Stroud, Franklin Ashby Butkowski, Liz Holloway, Chelsea Williams; Stevenson: Christine Armstrong, John Glenn: Brooke Zywick, Jennifer Michalek; Wayne Memorial: Caitie Badrak, Emily Roddy; Ladywood: Katy Rooney, Pippi Hogg, Caitlin McClorey; Garden City: Sam Zaleski, Brittany Bejma, Amanda Quantz; Redford Union: Alex Smedley, Tory Heber, Kristine Vulaj; Redford Thurston: Rebecca Burgess, Ashley Rone, Jessica McBay; Clarenceville: Kat Hall, Laisina Patterson, Katie Blacker; Lutheran Westland: Rachel Storck, Allyson Yankee; Huron Valley Lutheran: Kayla Stockdale, Leah Miller; Canton: Gina Waite, Janelle Burdiss, Shelby Anthony; Salem: Kerry MacDonald; Plymouth: Kelly Smoltz, Mandy McManus, Lauren Scott, Erin O’Connor; Plymouth Christian: Kristin Malcolm, Jessica Murphy.



ing at 96 percent), was also named to the All-Region and All-KLAA teams, as well as MIVCA Academic All-State.
“Lindsey is everything you look for in a libero,” Grenier said. “She is quick to the ball, she’s great at reading the hitter, and she’s a tremendous competitor.”
Jordan Kietly, Jr., OH, Canton: The junior racked up All-State, All-Region and All-Conference honors as she set a school record for kills and kill percentage with 612 and 43.2, respectively. Kietly added 56 blocks, 71 aces and 432 digs while registering a 94.4 serve percentage.
“Jordan has been a tremendous addition to the varsity team and program for the past three years,” Canton coach Jen Barnes said. “She is a hard worker and is always striving to improve. She not only works on her skills, but she takes the time to work with the younger players in our program as well. She is the type of player that every coach wishes for — she makes my job very easy.”
Jansan Falcusan, Sr., Setter, Salem: A two-time All-State honoree, Falcusan also earned All-Region and All-Conference laurels following a sensational senior season. Falcusan has earned an athletic scholarship to Division 1 University of New Hampshire.
“Jansan is the best setter in the area, and one of the best in the state in my opinion,” Salem coach Amanda Suder said.

Brittany Holbrook, Sr., MH, John Glenn: The 6-foot middle hitter, bound for Oakland University, finished the season with 313 total kills (3.8 per set) with a kill efficiency of .467 percent.
The Class A All-Region and All-KLAA selection also served 49 aces and had 389 total digs (4.7 per set) to go along with 63 solo blocks.
“Brittany has done her best over three years to build John Glenn volleyball into a successful program,” Glenn coach Julian Wargo said. “She works hard every day — on and off the court — to be a role model for our volleyballers.”
Briana Beyer, Sr., Libero, Plymouth: Beyer enjoyed a stellar senior season, recording 556 digs and a 90-percent serve reception mark while serving at a 90-percent clip. She earned All-Conference, All-Region and her team’s “Defensive Player of the Year” award for the second consecutive season.
“Being one of our captains, Bri was called upon to help lead the team both on and off the court,” Plymouth coach Kelly McCausland said. “As our libero, she was our defensive leader and one of our primary passers.”
Shannon Pietruszka, Sr., Libero, Garden City: Pietruszka’s coach, John Pace, described her as simply one of the area’s top players and the statistics seem to back up such lofty praise.
She successfully received 830 out of 856 balls (97 percent) and chalked up 693 digs, providing the foundation of Garden City’s defense — sparking the Cougars to the Mega Red co-championship. For her efforts, Pietruszka was an All-Region and All-League selection.
“Her desire and tenacity are what separates her from all the other liberos,” Pace said. “She was our primary defender and led by example.”
Kately Ramthun, Sr., OH, Luth. Westland: Although Refenes was at the top of the bill, Ramthun was right there with her to lead the Warriors to their best season in school history.
“A lot of teams breathe a sigh of relief when Becca (Refenes) goes to the back row, thinking they have it made,” Wade said. “But Kately has the athleticism and strength to put the ball down and (she) burned a lot of teams that way this year.”
Ramthun, named to the first-team All-State and All-Conference squads, delivered in many ways — 312 kills, 42 blocks, 406 serving points (97 percent serving efficiency), 59 aces and 319 digs.
Danielle Campbell, Sr., MH, Garden City: Another All-Region, All-Conference Cougar, Campbell provided a tough presence in the middle and tallied 268 kills along with 95 blocks. When healthy, Mega Red opponents couldn’t solve her.
According to Pace, the Cougars “only lost when we couldn’t get the ball to her.” Campbell’s shoulder injury during the districts probably also contributed to an early ouster from the postseason.
“Danielle has a passion for the game ... she was always aggressively looking for the ball to block,” her coach said.
Kelly MacDonald, Sr., OH, Salem: MacDonald was voted All-Conference and All-Region after finishing second on the team in kills and digs, and first in aces.
“Kelly is an explosive outside hitter and has one of the best vertical jumps I have ever seen,” Suder said. “She is an all-around great player.”
Meg Iafate, Sr., MH, Stevenson: The senior middle hitter is a three-year varsity starter and two-time team MVP who made All-KLAA and Class A All-Region 18 as a senior. She finished with a total of 234 kills and had 74 blocks while serving at 86 percent.
“From the first year she played at the varsity level I knew she was going to become a dominate volleyball player,” Stevenson coach Kelly Graham said.
Loran Stenzel, Sr., OH, Redford Union: Stenzel, named to the first All-Conference team, sparked as the Panthers finished 26-14-4 and made a strong bid for the Mega White title.
“Although I haven’t been her coach all four years (of Stenzel’s prep career), I have watched her become such a great volleyball player,” RU head coach Rachel Clair said.
Also a scholar athlete and team co-captain, Stenzel registered 238 kills and 115 serving aces, at or near the top of the list in those categories among Mega players. Her intensity also contributed to 318 digs and 42 blocks.
Claire Dezelski, Jr., OH, Ladywood: The 5-10 junior outside hitter made All-Catholic A-B Division and Class B All-Region 18 after averaging 2.94 kills, 4.7 digs and 0.82 aces per set for the Blazers.
“Claire really stepped up this year and was one of only a few all-around players,” Ladywood coach Erin Craggs said. “She has a tremendous vertical jump and became a real offensive threat as an outside hitter.”
Katie Matz, Sr., OH, Churchill: The 5-8 senior outside hitter displayed her all-around skills with 136 kills, 296 assists and 294 digs. She also serve-received over 300 balls at 91 percent en route to honorable mention All-State honors.
Matz also earned mention MIVCA Academic All-State recognition.
“Katie is a throwback player,” Grenier said. “She’s a great example of a six-rotation athlete. Katie does it all. Her biggest asset was her versatility. A lot of our success was because of Katie’s hard work, her unselfishness and being a true team player.”

COACH OF THE YEAR
Kevin Wade, Lutheran Westland: It’s been quite a year for Wade, who last spring coached the Warriors’ baseball team to the Class D finals and followed up doing the same with the volleyball team. As a result, he earned his second Observer Coach of the Year Award for 2008.
Lutheran Westland finished 46-6-5 and breezed to the Metro Conference championship, then followed up with impressive district and regional titles.
But with a deep roster of talented players, spearheaded by Becca Ramthun and Kately Ramthun, the coach downplayed his own contributions to the most successful volleyball season ever at the school.
“I am very humbled to be chosen Coach of the Year,” Wade said. “There are so many great coaches in this area and to be given this award is truly an honor. Any success I have had is only because of the great players I was privileged to coach.”
“This will go down as the best (volleyball) team in the school’s 22-year history and I am happy to have had the opportunity to coach them. They truly embodied what it meant to be a team.”

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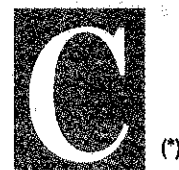
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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Real Estate

Fit fire safety into holiday celebration plans

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Lt. Denny Hughes of the Farmington Hills Fire Department has plenty of common-sense fire safety advice this holiday season.

"We see them (house fires) all the time, but I think they're kind of amplified," Hughes said of fires during the holidays. "Even at home, the hustle and bustle is going on." People may be careless and have combustibles near the kitchen stove.

Cooking fires are the No. 1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Nearly all cooking equipment fires start with the ignition of food, other cooking materials (e.g., grease, cooking oil), or other items normally found or installed in a kitchen (e.g., cabinets, wall coverings, paper or plastic bags, curtains).

"Fortunately for most of them they're not too serious," Hughes said of holiday fires.

Those marking the season also may use candles in the bath and other rooms. "Obviously they're pretty risky when they're in a room and they're not attended," he said. A pet may knock the candle over.

Sometimes alcohol is a part of holiday revelry, making people less careful. "They're accidents, but they do happen," Hughes said.

WATCH THIS

The Farmington Hills firefighters did a demonstration with a live Christmas tree that was well maintained, one not maintained, and an artificial tree. The well-maintained live tree was the best for safety.

"There are some keys to that." Live trees are for just a couple of weeks for use as they dry out. "It's really a common sense issue," he said, noting you need a lot of water, not many combustibles, and limited lights.

You should always turn tree lights off when you leave home or go to bed. "Just make sure it's well watered," the fire lieutenant said. "Try to keep it away from your floor registers." Don't have candles nearby, and don't block exits.

Watch out for gift wrap piling up near tree skirting, Hughes added, as there could be too many extension cords or lights. "That could be a source for a fire as well."

CANDLE SAFETY

■ If you decide to light candle(s), be sure the candle is always in sight. Never leave a candle unattended or in reach of children or accessible to pets.

■ Place your candle in non-tip candle holders.

■ Keep candles away from combustible materials such as curtains, Christmas trees, furniture or other



decorations. Do not place them where they may get knocked over.

■ Keep candles away from drafts, vents or other air currents (ceiling fans) in the home. This will help prevent rapid, uneven burning, or excessive dripping of the wax. Drafts can cause the flame to blow onto other combustible items nearby.

■ Trim candlewicks to a ¼ inch each time before lighting. Longer wicks cause uneven burning and drippings.

■ Never use your candle as a light during a power outage or when checking pilot lights or fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern. Use a flashlight in these instances.

■ Never place a candle on a windowsill or near an exit ... and always extinguish all candles when you leave a room or before going to sleep.

He emphasizes having a smoke detector and a carbon monoxide detector on each level of your home, as well as that important escape plan for all of where to head and where to meet.

Hughes offers these additional tips:

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

■ Test all smoke alarms in the house, and let guests know your escape plan.

■ If you or guests smoke, smoke outside. Provide large, deep ashtrays and douse them with water before calling it a night.

■ Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Never leave cooking appliances unattended for any reason or length of time.

■ Monitor your consumption of alcohol, so that you can make good, sound decisions in the event of an emergency at your home.

DECORATING

■ Purchase lights with and electrical decorations with the name of an approved independent testing lab.

■ Inspect new and used lights and replaced any damaged light strings. Read directions on how many strings may be connected to one another. Typically only three strings of lights can be connected to one another.

■ Use proper clips or hangers and do not nails to mount lights. Wire insulation can be damaged and lead to a fire.

■ Keep young children and pets away from electrical decorations.

■ Use decorations which are flame-resistant or flame retardant, or use noncombustible materials.

■ NEVER leave a candle unattended, and keep away from combustibles.

In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to 146,400 home structure fires that involved cooking equipment in 2005. These fires caused 480 civilian fire deaths, 4,690 civilian fire injuries and \$876 million in direct property damage.

Cooking equipment fires are the leading cause of home structure fires and associated civilian injuries. These fires accounted for 40 percent of all reported home structure fires in 2005 and 36 percent of home civilian injuries.

Twelve percent of the fires occurred when something that could catch fire was too close to the equipment.

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, according to NFPA's Fire Analysis and Research Division.

The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. It's important to be alert to prevent cooking fires.

SAFETY TIPS

These are NFPA safety tips on cooking:

Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

Keep the stovetop, burners and oven clean.

Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and can catch fire if it comes in contact with a gas flame or electric burner.

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Always use cooking equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

Follow manufacturer's instructions and code requirements when installing, cleaning, and operating cooking equipment.

Plug microwave ovens or other cooking appliances directly into an outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance as it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.

Check electrical cords for cracks, breaks, or damage.

IF YOU HAVE A COOKING FIRE

Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.

If you do try to fight the fire, be sure others are already getting out and you have a clear path to the exit.

Always keep a lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool.

In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. After a fire, the oven should be checked and/or serviced before being used again.

Emergency access generally allowed

Q: The neighbor adjacent to my unit refuses to give a copy of his key to the management company or any board members. I am concerned because he is often out of town and I feel as though my unit is in jeopardy if there should ever be an emergency with his unit that management is unable to deal with.

A: Most condo documents provide the association with the right to enter a

unit in the

event of an

emergency.

The

documents

should

further

provide

that the

association

not be held

responsible

for any damage incurred. If there is an emergency such as a gas leak or a severe water leak, the association should strongly consider the option of entering the unit even if they do not have the member's permission. Associations have an obligation to protect their members and property in the event of an emergency and, thus, have the right to enter a member's unit in an emergency situation, particularly if the documents give the right to do so.

Q: I am a new board member at my condo association, and I have discovered that the names of delinquent co-owners are being included in the minutes of our board meetings. Is this a good idea?

A: While many individuals who serve on condo and/or community association boards may have an in depth understanding of parliamentary procedures, they may not fully understand what they should and should not include in the minutes of their board meetings. As a practicing attorney of over 39 years, I can tell you that this is not a good idea for several reasons, but the main reason would be that if a board is incorrect in terms of what they are saying about a delinquent co-owner, they may be opening themselves up to a discrimination and/or libel claim.

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.

Investors

Learn about "The Art of House Foreclosure Short Sales" 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 for additional information on the Dec. 11 seminar.

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real-estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 18-22, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton	
43218 Barchester Rd	\$195,000
45135 Brunswick Dr	\$210,000
47891 Cardiff Ave	\$106,000
48662 Central Park Dr	\$403,000
48595 Greenwich Ln	\$235,000
50191 Harding St	\$268,000
44499 Heather Ln	\$234,000
46972 Morningside Rd	\$325,000
1990 Otter Pond Ln	\$170,000
427 Patriot St	\$183,000
3527 Riverside Dr	\$185,000
47659 Scenic Circle Dr N	\$215,000
47615 Scenic Circle Dr S	\$190,000
44124 Sheridan St	\$187,000
366 Springfield Dr	\$310,000
2261 Stanton St	\$338,000
652 Stonehenge Dr	\$177,000
49423 Taft Ln	\$418,000

6820 Tiffany Cir	\$260,000
47605 Torrington Dr N	\$358,000
1458 Tradition Dr	\$396,000
4071 Wrenwood Ln	\$170,000
Farmington	
33204 Flanders St	\$163,000
32060 Grand River Ave	\$35,000
Farmington Hills	
23208 Ashley St	\$118,000
29782 Beacontree St	\$199,000
39326 Heatherbrook Dr	\$300,000
31747 N Merklawn St	\$172,000
32402 Nestlewood St	\$188,000
23010 Purdue Ave	\$128,000
Garden City	
33072 Sheridan St	\$111,000
Livonia	
19839 Angling St	\$156,000
15423 Deering St	\$101,000
14489 Fairway St	\$210,000
18956 Glengarry Dr	\$290,000
14876 Golfview St	\$129,000
17460 Golfview St	\$210,000
15760 Green Lane Ave	\$140,000
11027 Merriman Rd	\$99,000
19746 Osmus St	\$155,000
9731 Pere Ave	\$147,000
36010 Perth St	\$170,000
9151 Stonehouse Ave	\$208,000
28505 Wentworth St	\$122,000
9374 Westwind Dr	\$155,000
Milford	

HOMES SOLD

561 Garner Road	\$356,000
Northville	
44963 Broadmoor Cir S	\$305,000
38888 Cheshire Dr	\$240,000
16108 Cog Hill Dr	\$528,000
42169 Crestview Cir	\$300,000
42169 Crestview Cir	\$300,000
17814 Devonshire Ct	\$880,000
18331 Laramie Dr	\$363,000
39582 Legend Ct	\$370,000
16721 Lyonhurst Cir	\$220,000
15334 Merion Ct	\$480,000
48984 Rainbow Ln	\$292,000
49074 Rainbow Ln	\$289,000
48783 Running Trout Ln	\$157,000
Novi	
42865 Ashbury Dr	\$327,000
30370 Balfour Dr	\$424,000
45120 Courtview Trl	\$320,000
50297 Drakes Bay Dr	\$570,000
44040 Durson St	\$145,000
24435 Nantucket Dr	\$370,000
24723 Naples Dr	\$274,000
42852 Sandstone Dr	\$290,000
24284 Warrington Ct	\$305,000
Plymouth	
9265 Ball St	\$275,000
686 Collage St	\$163,000
297 Fair St	\$213,000
9320 Mayflower Ct	\$221,000
10331 Millwood Dr	\$485,000
311 N Harvey St	\$360,000

40829 Newport Dr	\$100,000
11022 Pinehurst Rd	\$298,000
42536 Plymouth Hollow Dr	\$80,000
51229 Plymouth Ridge Ct	\$538,000
1273 S Harvey St	\$190,000
Redford	
17361 Centralia	\$72,000
16212 Ryland	\$121,000
26305 W Seven Mile Rd	\$40,000
South Lyon	
26575 Blackwood Ct	\$65,000
924 Eastcreek Dr	\$189,000
6132 Greenwood Dr	\$53,000
341 Hampton Ct	\$109,000
26578 Matland Ct	\$65,000
58286 McCormick Ct	\$65,000
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Westland	
34432 Donnelly St	\$98,000
31820 Grandview Ave	\$80,000
33530 Harvard Ave	\$112,000
31249 Mackenzie Dr	\$133,000
637 N Newburgh Rd	\$152,000
8188 Randy Dr	\$100,000
8228 Ravine Dr	\$148,000
139 S Crown St	\$130,000
32670 Sandra Ln	\$95,000
35826 Schley St	\$107,000
35046 Wallace St	\$76,000
7325 Woodview St	\$35,000
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Thursday edition..... 11:00 a.m. Wednesday

Offices and Hours:

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Observer office..... 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia
Hours..... 8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

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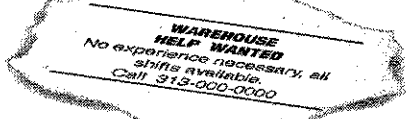
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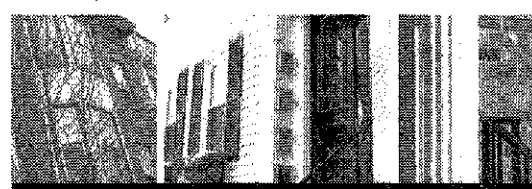
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Apartments

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Studios, 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms
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Lowest rent in the area.
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FEBRUARY!
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From \$565
\$300 Security
50% off 1st 3 Months
w/ good credit!
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Novi WESTGATE VI
Apartments

LIMITED TIME OFFER

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By 11/30/08!

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Newly updated 1 & 2 bdrm
apts. New berber carpet, new
cherry flooring, full size wash-
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bar, cable ready, storage and
laundry, very clean and cute.
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PLYMOUTH
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Full size laundry room w/
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water. Mo to mo lease. 734-
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Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms.
From \$565
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50% off 1st 3 Months
w/ good credit!
Call: (734) 453-8811

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WALLED LAKE
1 Bedroom Apartments
\$499

Reduced Deposit
Plus: 1st Month Free
Section 8 & Pets Welcome
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1 Bedroom - \$485/mo.
Immediate Occupancy
Newburgh Colonial Apts.
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"WOW"
One
Bedrooms
from \$495

No fine print in this ad!
Heat/Water included.
\$300.00 Application Fee
\$200 Deposit w/ Credit

New Resident's Only
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Mon.-Fri. 10-9pm
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1 bdrm, appliances, newer car-
pet, patio. \$550/mo incl heat.
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FREE RENT
1st month Free and
Reduced Rate
2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath
\$600, 936 Sq. Ft.
1 Bdrm, \$525
728 Sq. Ft.
Heat and Water Incl
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with approved credit
No Pets, C/A, Vertical
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Appliances include
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Very clean Apartments
Excellent Maintenance
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\$499* per mo.
2 Bedroom, 1.5 baths,
Immediate Occupancy.
Call **248-290-5380 ext 333**
*First 3 months.

TROY - Northfield Hills. 2 bed-
room, 1.5 bath condo.
Minimum 1 yr lease.
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WESTLAND CONDO
1 bdrm loft, washer/dryer in
unit, \$700/mo. + dep, incl
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Duplexes **4030**

CANTON
3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, move-in
mid December. 1741 Elm-
hurst. \$900/mo. + security
deposit. (734) 455-1215.

NORWAYNE 3 bdrm, mint
condition. 3 car garage w/
storage. Backs up to school.
\$700/mo. 248-982-3281

Flats **4040**

PLYMOUTH TWP-FREE HEAT!
Roomy upper studio flat,
includes attached garage. Pets
welcome, \$595. 248-735-5464

Homes For Rent **4050**

CANTON 4 bdrm., 2010 sq.
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\$1450/mo. 248-344-9399

Westland-LIVONIA SCHOOLS
1 & 2 bdrm, 2 baths.
Washer & dryer.
Private entrance & balcony
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1 Bedrooms From \$539
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Ypsilanti - Reduced Rent
Plus \$99 Sec Dep*
Section 8 Welcome
Large 1 & 2 bedroom
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CANTON A country setting,
furnished 1 bdrm, non-smok-
ing, incl. util., heat, & cable.
\$700/mo. + 1st mo. & sec.
dep. No pets. Avail. Dec. 1
734-495-3000/ 734-644-3104

Condos/Townhouses **4020**

BELLEVILLE-\$100 of 1st 3 mo.
2 bdrm, 2 bath, appli, laundry
rm, 1st floor, sec entrance.
\$800/mo. (734) 788-8440

BIRMINGHAM - DOWNTOWN
2 bdrm townhouse, 1.5 bath,
hardwood floors, a/c, bsmt,
washer/dryer. No pets, non-
smoking. \$1100/mo.
248-901-0425

CANTON Reduced \$1200- 1st
mo. rent free. Cherryhill
Village, 2 bdrm 2 bath, fire-
place, bsmt. 734-354-6886

CANTON, Haggerty/Palmer Rd
area. 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 800 sq.
ft. condo. All appliances incl
washer & dryer, doorwall to
private patio. Window treat-
ments & vertical blinds. \$525.
248-425-4853. See pics:
www.bekamangement.com

HOWELL 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1
car attached, pool, new paint,
carpet, hardwood, C/A, wash-
er/dryer, dishwasher, extra
storage. Pets ok. \$50/mo dis-
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LIVONIA Gorgeous 2 bdrm
updated condo, w/2 full baths.
Open floor plan. Great neigh-
borhood. Furnished option
w/ Pottery Barn decor.
\$975/mo or negotiable
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Call **248-290-5380 ext 333**
*First 3 months.

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WESTLAND CONDO
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NORWAYNE 3 bdrm, mint
condition. 3 car garage w/
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\$700/mo. 248-982-3281

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Roomy upper studio flat,
includes attached garage. Pets
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Homes For Rent **4050**

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attached garage, appliances.
\$1450/mo. 248-344-9399

Homes For Rent **4050**

CLAWSON - Sharp 2 bdrm
colonial, 2 full baths, all appli-
ances, 1 car, fenced yard.
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DEARBORN HEIGHTS, 24414
Powers. 3-4 bdrm, shed, \$795
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DEARBORN HTS 1300 sq. ft.,
3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, finished
bsmt, 2 car detached garage.
Section 8 ok. 248-808-8150

DETROIT - Lasher Rd. Area.
2 bdrm, bsmt, \$475/mo.
18971 Westbrook
3 bdrm, bsmt, garage,
\$600/mo. 20021 Chapel
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DETROIT
2 bedroom, basement,
16580 Woodbine, \$575.
Call: (248) 476-6498

FARMINGTON HILLS Newly
built 3 bdrm, 3 bath, spa tub,
fireplace, attached garage, fin-
ished bsmt, private deck.
\$1195. Call Jim 248-345-2625

FERDALE 4 bdrm,
fireplace, appliances,
bsmt, new paint,
windows, C/A, new
driveway. \$1100/mo. +
deposit. 734-968-9253

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Home \$729
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*some restrictions apply
call for details.

GARDEN CITY - 3 bdrm brick
ranch, recently updated, new
paint, clean, garage, all appli-
ances incl. Sec 8 ok.
\$950/mo. Tim: 734-891-4614

GARDEN CITY - Sharp
and remodeled 2 bdrm ranch, gar-
immed occup, option, bad
credit ok. \$700, 248-788-1823

HOMES FOR RENT
Located in Canton
Starting at \$699/mo

Sharp 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath
homes from 924 sq. ft.
Appliances included.
Pets welcome.
No rent until February 1
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*offer expires 12/31/08
OE0895022

HUNTINGTON WOODS
3 bdrm, 1.5 bath. 1350 sq. ft.,
fireplace, fenced. Walk to rec.
center/school. 248-543-4400

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FRI, SAT, SUN., Dec. 12 - Dec. 14
Holiday refreshments and a chance
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1 entry for applying and 2 entries
if you move-in before Christmas!

WIN A
Wii
System!
Come check us out for your
chance to win!

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friendly caring staff. Convenient
locations, affordable living!

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Homes For Rent **4050**

INKSTER - 3 bdrm brick,
bsmt, garage, \$650; 3 bdrm
ranch, bsmt, garage, \$550,
option on both. 248-788-1823

INKSTER-Bordering Westland
3 bdrm brick ranch w/bsmt, 2
full baths, 2.5 car garage, cor-
ner lot. \$975/mo. + sec. Must
see to appreciate!
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LIVONIA
Beautiful 3 bdrm,
1500 sq. ft. Ranch
w/master bdrm
suite. \$1395
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248-943-2963

LIVONIA - 3 bdrm brick ranch,
fin bsmt, 2 car garage, deck, 2
bath, opt/L.C. avail, bad credit
okay, \$850. (248) 788-1823



LIVONIA
2700sq. ft., 1+ acre, 3 bdrm,
3 baths, 3 fireplaces, attach
gar. Avail. Dec 1.
\$1300/mo. 248-486-4157

REDFORD - CUTE 3 bdrm cape
cod on double lot, 1 bath, cen-
tral air, appliances, washer,
dryer, bsmt, immediate occu-
pancy, no pets. \$900/mo. + 2
mo. security. 734-604-0930

REDFORD - 2 Bdrm Ranch,
Bsmt, Garage, Immediate
Occupancy, \$825/mo.
Call Don Castelli
(734) 525-7900

REDFORD - 3 bdrm,
1 bath, 1500 sq. ft.
Fireplace, basement,
fenced yard, pets ok.
\$850/mo. 313-570-2679,
313-570-2498

REDFORD - 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath,
family room, incl appliances,
1 month rent & 1 month sec dep.
\$875/mo. Call: (313) 415-8949

REDFORD - 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch,
finished bsmt, family room, 2 car.
\$1100/mo. (734) 425-3333

REDFORD - Sharp 3 bdrm,
enclosed porch, 2 car garage,
double lot. Sec. 8 OK.
\$850/mo. 248-348-2361

REDFORD 3 bdrm ranch, C/A,
garage, new appliances, newly
painted, pool, deck, no pets.
\$850 + sec. 248-348-2361

SOUTHFIELD - Section 8 OK.
3-4 bdrm, non-furnished
\$975-1100. Newly renovated,
excellent condition, new appli-
ances, no pets. 248-521-7581.

Homes For Rent **4050**

TROY FREE 2nd
Month! House newly
updated 4 bdrm, 2.5
bath, 2 car garage,
rm. w/fireplace. \$1295/mo.
248-640-1611

WARREN - Remodeled 3 bdrm
brick ranch, fin bsmt, 2 car,
deck, option to buy/L.C. bad
credit ok, \$750. 248-788-1823

WAYNE - 3 bdrm ranch, new
vinyl windows & furnace, 2 car
garage, option/LC avail, bad
credit ok, \$800. 248-788-1823

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

WESTLAND - 3 bdrm ranch, 2
car garage, freshly painted,
C/A, newer carpet, \$895 or
less. Call: (734) 837-7355

WESTLAND 2 bdrm duplex.
New paint & carpet. Fenced,
near school, small court.
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WESTLAND 3 bdrm ranch.
Huge bsmt,
garage, lg. yard.
Close to schools in a nice area.
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Observer & Eccentric Classifieds
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call away....
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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

BONITA BEACH, FL CONDO
Gulf front, 2 bdrm, 2 bath.
See www.VRBO.com #47376
\$3500/mo. 248-224-1580.

Vacation
Resort/Rentals **4110**

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Apts. ROOMMATES in MIND!
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Meijers
Livonia
Schools
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Livonia
Schools

Take advantage of
one of these great
specials today!

Thursday

PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Raucous laughs
- 5 Division word
- 9 — de mer
- 12 Skip
- 13 Rockies ski resort
- 14 Yale grad
- 15 Played in the kiddie pool
- 17 Lubricated
- 19 Make-up mishap
- 21 Draws on
- 22 Pen refills
- 24 Shoe width
- 25 Cloud backdrop
- 26 Pierre's monarch
- 27 Straightens up
- 29 PC capacity
- 31 Comic-strip prince
- 32 Mercury, in the lab
- 33 Giants org.
- 34 Worthless coin

- 35 Border st.
- 36 Type of tiger
- 38 Hoop site
- 39 Kind of humor
- 40 Worldwide org.
- 41 Vampire's tooth
- 42 Sound bounce
- 44 Keep out of sight (2 wds.)
- 46 Car trouble
- 48 On both feet
- 51 Travel choice
- 52 Russian mountains
- 54 Duffel filler
- 55 Go out with
- 56 Grass
- 57 Dust devil

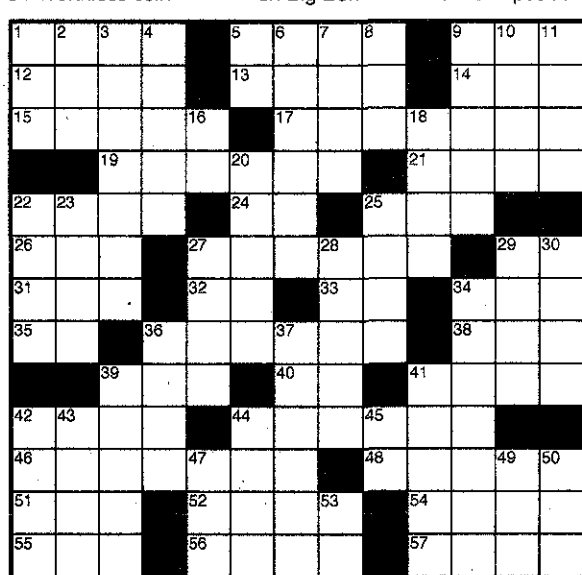
DOWN

- 1 Zippy's word
- 2 "Pulp Fiction" name
- 3 Soft leather
- 4 Wineglass parts
- 5 Numeral on Big Ben

Answer to Previous Puzzle

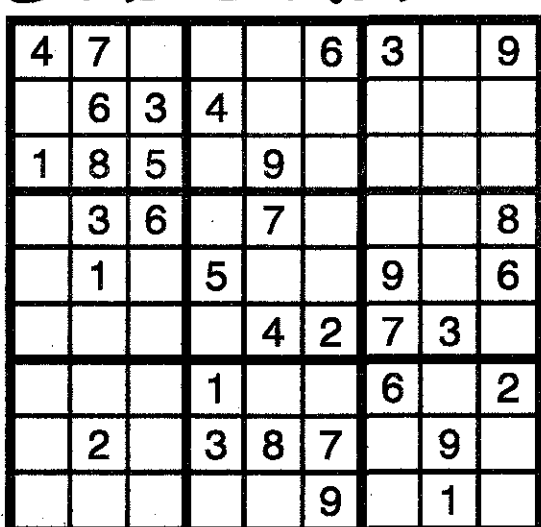
VOID LEIS FLY
EASE INFO LOA
TRAM MISO ILK
SKATED TATA
NAY GYM
CLODS AU IONS
AOL KILNS ROT
RODE ME ELEGY
ETA GAI
OGLE ORNATE
ELL EYRE BIRD
LEO NICE LENA
MOB SPAT EDEN

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- 6 Harped on
- 7 Run out of energy
- 8 Fiesta cheer
- 9 Cluttered
- 10 Helm position
- 11 Covers
- 16 Madame
- 18 Barry
- 18 Diving birds
- 20 Vouchsafe
- 22 Tehran's country
- 23 Rule of thumb
- 25 Broker's advice
- 27 He and she
- 28 Ludicrous
- 29 Zen riddle
- 30 Town
- 34 Kelp
- 36 Something to mop
- 37 Bunkhouse strings
- 39 — turn is it?
- 41 Write bad checks
- 42 Subsidies
- 43 Treasure-hunt aid
- 44 Humdinger
- 45 — Havre
- 47 Fiber-rich grain
- 49 Rascal
- 50 Hear a case
- 53 Whether

SUDOKU



Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

ARCTIC
BRISK
BRUMAL
CHILLY

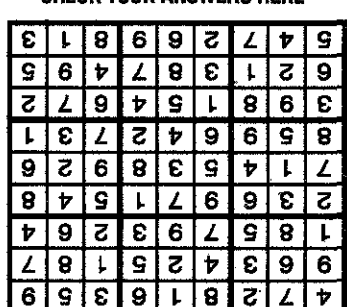
COLD
COOL
FRIGID
FROSTY

ICY
NIPPY
POLAR
WINTRY

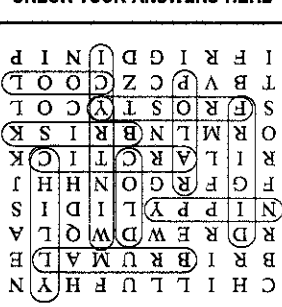
THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



SUDOKU

SEEK AND FIND

OC0863365

Market Place

6000-6880
Announcements
LOOK HERE

Personals 6000

PRAYER Pray 9 hail Marys for 9 days. On the 9th day make 3 wishes & publish this prayer. Your wishes will be granted. M

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800-579-SELL (7355)

Secret Santa needed for a family of six in Canton. Contact: 734-461-1158 GrammaKx7@aol.com

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Absolutely Free 7000

FREE White Leather Dining Room Set with 4 Chairs. Also a Belge Love Seat, like new. Also 2 Hospital Walkers. 734-367-0556

FREE YOUNG MALE CAT Gray Stripes & Full of Life. Free to Good Home, Good Person. 734-895-1253

PIANO Upright. Fair condition. You must pickup. 734-718-1895 / 734-522-6611

Antiques/Collectibles 7020

ANNUAL ANTIQUE HOLIDAY SALE 15%-30% OFF Nov. 13 th-Dec. 31st. \$100 Gift Certificate Drawing Town & Country Antique, 31650 Plymouth, Livonia. (behind East Side Mario's) 734-425-4344

CRYSTAL Must Sell Lismore Waterford Crystal & Lladro collection. Excellent prices! 248-478-4254.

MARINE MART Sat Dec 13, 10-2pm at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Dr. Flea Market for Great Lakes enthusiasts incl: unique nautical art & gifts, Christmas ornaments & more. Regular admission, \$7; early bird admission 9:30am, \$10; children 12 & under free. Call: (313) 833-1980

Auction Sales 7080

ESTATE AUCTION Saturday- Dec. 13th - 7pm Cultural Center 525 Farmer Plymouth, MI Pocket Watches Jewelry Glassware/Furniture Collectible Toys Cash/MC/Visa AmEx/Discover Bank Debit Cards No Checks Doors Open 6pm JC Auction Services 734-451-7444 jcauctionservices.com

Rummage Sale/ Flea Market 7080

LIVONIA - 12001 Farmington Rd., at Capitol St. This Saturday, 9am-3pm. Factory over-run - apparel, open to the public, cash or credit cards only. All Sales Final.

7100 Estate Sales 7100

A Great Rochester Sale! By: Everything Goes Fri., Sat., Dec. 12-13, 10-4 2710 Broadview Dr., Rochester Hills, 48309-Shadow Woods Sub, E. of Adams, N. of Walton, take Powder Horse Ridge. Complete upscale home! Furniture by Henredon, Thomasville, & Bernhardt. Great accessories, power equip., & more! See www.EstateSales.net or 248-988-1077

ANOTHER GREAT ESTATE SALE BY ANTIQUES ON MAIN & AOMestatesales.com 248-705-9665

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, DEC. 12 & 13, 10-4 31945 WEST 14 MILE, #225, HAMPSHIRE HOUSE, FARMINGTON HILLS

South side of 14 Mile, West of Orchard Lake Rd. 70's furnishings- 3 matching sofas, teal cube tables, dining set, Helsey crystal, china, silver, Fenton & Italian glass dishes, all appliances & fixtures, books, art, designer clothing & more!

For directions, photos, & a complete list of contents, visit www.AOMestatesales.com

BINGHAM FARMS, Fri. 10-4p. 70+ yr old furn & collectibles. 30200 Bristol Lane, btwn Lahser/Telegraph, off 13 Mile.

ESTATE SALE by Jamie's Attic Fri-Sat, 10-4pm 33660 Hillcrest, Farmington Off Shawwassee

Antique furniture/Duncan Phyfe tables, Herman Miller chairs, signed Joe Rosenthal photo, Mason items, artwork, rugs, glassware, knives, guns, tons of garage items, woodmaking tools, etc., larger men's clothes, 1992 Cadillac El Dorado, antique to vintage items, too much to list! For pictures: www.jamiesattic.com or (734) 771-4537

7100 Estate Sales 7100

ESTATE SALE 94 years of household of items from Everyday (\$2.00+) to Elegant (\$800.00) 29531 Fall River Road Southfield, MI 48075 Sat. Dec. 13 8:00am-5:00pm Sun. Dec. 14 8:00am-3:00pm Cash only NO checks NO credit/debit cards

ESTATE SALE BY IRIS Fri.-Sat., Dec. 13-14, 10-4pm.

22522 Hallcroft- Take 12 Mile Rd. E. of Telegraph to Ivanhoe, take Ivanhoe S. to Hallcroft.

"Home Filled with French Provincial Furniture."

Dining set w/ig, hutch & server • 3 bdrm sets • Musical instruments • Exercise equip. • Pool table • & much more! IRIS KAUFMAN 248-626-6335 JAMES ADELSON 248-240-3269 Appraisers & Liquidators for 45 Yrs in Metro Area.

FABULOUS ESTATE SALE BY BARBARA MAZER INTERIORS, BMI

Fri-Sun, Dec. 12-14, 10am-4pm. 1471 Treybourne Cir. Commerce, 48390. Great contemporary art, leather furniture, crystal, housewares, appliances, tons of menswear, hundreds of toys, new in boxes. 2006 Silver Nissan Maxima, only 8700 miles, loaded. Details on www.estatesales.net 248-225-9556

LIVONIA ESTATE SALE BY NANCY Friday-Sunday, 10-4 38656 Elsie, West of Newburgh, South of 5 Mile, enter on Houghton. Contents of home: Furniture, glassware, china sets, clocks, new electric wheelchair, household and garage items. 734-525-4603

Garage Sales 7110

NOVI ESTATE SALE - Fri-Sun 10am-6pm. 28052 Clark Novi. No Early Sales!

Household Goods 7180

ARMOIRE Excellent Condition! Cherry Wood. \$275. 248-444-1260

BEDROOM SET - Thomasville Cherry Wood, 8 piece \$2500. Incl Select Comfort Queen Bed. All in mint cond. Call: (734) 981-1652

DINING ROOM SET - 1940's style, walnut table w/ 6 chairs, matching buffet, excel cond. \$500. Also, misc end tables, dark wood. (734) 421-8092

DINING ROOM SET Oak table with 6 chairs & lighted hutch. Lovely. \$700 or best offer. 734-459-2792

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DINING ROOM SET white wash dinette or kitchen table. 5ft. extends to 8ft. Leaf storage in table. Custom made, 6 padded chairs on rollers. Original \$1,700, asking \$500. In excel. cond. 734-354-8719

Household Goods 7180

FURNITURE Ethan Allen-wall unit entertainment center, coffee table & twin headboard. Howard Miller wall clock, audio stands, framed pictures & mirror. Exc. Cond. 248-644-3295

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MATTRESS - \$85 New queen pillow-top mattress, can deliver. 734-444-7277

SOFA & TABLE Large navy blue sectional sofa, good cond., you haul, \$250. Metal dinette set w/glass top & 4 chairs, \$30. 734-697-6029.

Bargain Buys 7200

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER Solid Oak TV & Stereo unit. Fits 32" TV. \$275. 53"x54"Wx17"D. 3 shelves. 248-477-5278

FURNITURE 2 sets of matching formal chairs. Large sectional, like new. MUST SEE! 248-478-4254.

SOFA Clayton Marcus. Standard size, beige. Exc. condition - like new! \$500 or best. 248-673-6615.

TABLES - Antique table & 6 chairs \$125. Pearl table \$80 & misc items. Best offer: 734-421-8779

Miscellaneous For Sale 7500

HOUSEHOLD GOODS Treadmill \$100 - JAG Divs Seasons 1-7 \$180. Oak china cabinet \$300. Autoharp \$50. 734-459-8914.

MODINE GAS SHOP CEILING HANGING SHADE 175.000 BTU. \$400. Shop compressor: 90 gallon tank, good shape, \$400. Culligan whole house water softener system, like new, \$400. Call Fred for details: 734-777-2746

REFRIGERATOR, Oak Table & 6 chairs, ladies Riccioli Skates (new), size 7. 313-561-5018, 313-563-1541

TREADMILL & PING PONG TABLE Top notch Treadmill \$800, Ping-pong table \$150. Makes a great gift! Other furniture available at best offer. Call 248-982-4966.

TURBO AIR HOCKEY TABLE Sportcraft, 7 ft., 1 yr old. Exc. condition. Would make a great gift. \$150 or best. 734-788-6195

Cats 7630

FREE KITTENS 3 Tabble Kittens- 4 months old. Mother also needs a home- 2 years old. 566-484-0449.

KITTENS 1 calico and 4 tiger colored, looking for good homes. Found mid-November. Call 313-574-0352

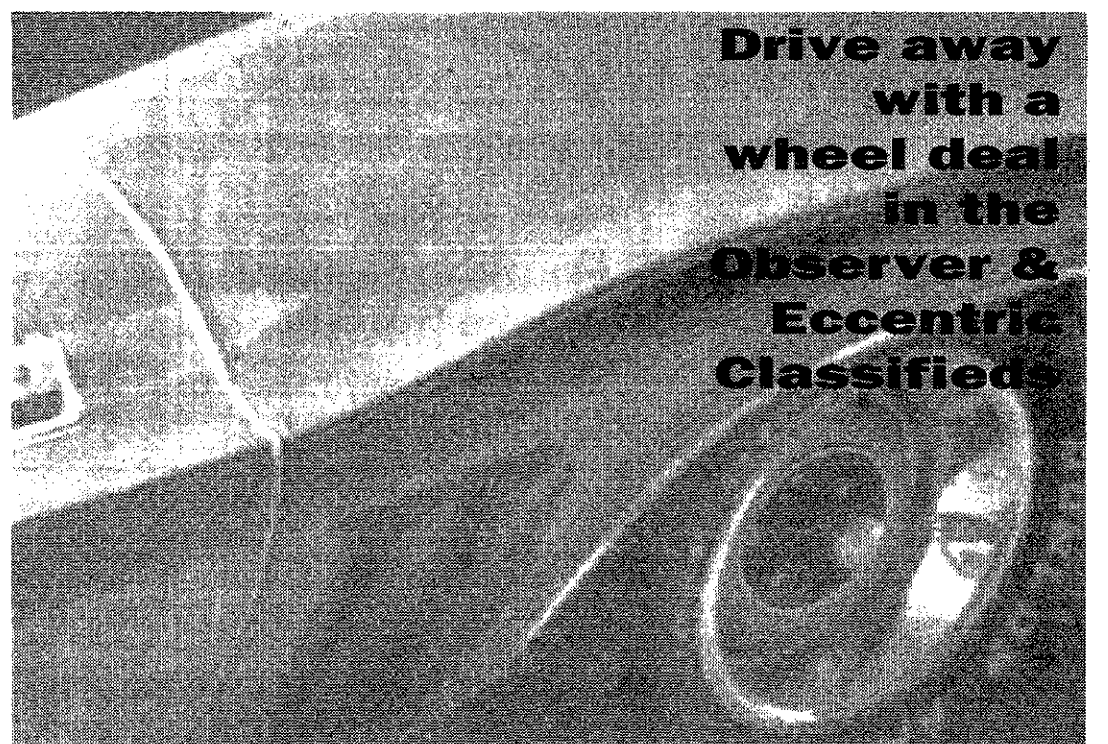
DOG Large male, possibly Golden Retriever found on Burwick, at Plymouth Rd in Livonia. Call 734-968-5540.

FOUND CAT Brown/black tabby, about 3 yrs. old, green eyes, female. 5 Mile & Haggerty. Found mid-November. Call 313-574-0352

Petland Westland Across from Westland Mall (734) 367-9906 petlandwestland.com

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ADORABLE PUPPY SALE! All Puppies \$200 off or more! 90 Days Same as Cash "With Approved Credit & Minimum Purchase" Many Popular Breeds including: Boxer, Cocker Spaniel, Dachshund, Designer Mixes, Shih Tzu, Yorkies, etc.



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Testing and Interview required General Knowledge of custodial duties. Mechanical ability. Posting closes January 6, 2009. Apply online at <http://www.scd.net> or come to Human Resources to access the online application system 36745 Marquette, Westland -EOE-

Customer Service Rep
Independent Insurance Agency seeks experienced Personal Lines CSR. Insurance experience with multiple carriers a plus. Please send resume with salary history via email: resumes9955@gmail.com Or by fax to 248-912-1850

DIRECT CARE - Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want to! Assist with personal care, meals, taking care of their homes, getting places etc. Many locations, many shifts! If you are at least 18 years old, have a valid Michigan's Driver's License & are CLS, Inc. trained, call our Job Line 734-726-4201, #E

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for Southfield Law Firm's very busy Labor Department. Must have 5+ years litigation exp. strong grammar, writing and organizational skills, be able to handle heavy workloads and work in a team environment. Labor & Employment Law/Debt Collection exp. a plus. MS Word Experience. Forward resume/salary requirements to HR-Admin/Legal Secretary Position at P.O. Box 222, Southfield, MI 48037-0222. Fax: 248-746-2780 or E-mail: kalemont@swappc.com

Help Wanted-General 5000
MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
Plating Company needs a Maintenance Technician. Must have plumbing & electrical knowledge. Competitive wage, benefits, retirement. Fax resume: 313-341-0315

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
Needed for apt. complex in the Northville-Plymouth area. Must have 5 yrs. exp. in HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Drywall & Painting Repairs. Fax resume: 248-356-3509

MAINTENANCE TECH
Full-Time, Exp'd. for luxury apt. community in West Bloomfield. Qualified applicant must have valid driver's license, tools, knowledge of plumbing, electrical & be great with people. Fax resume to: 248-661-2170 E.O.E.

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Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020
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Must know Quickbooks, flexible hrs, non-smoking office, Excel/Word, bank reconciliations. Email resume to: gdastaff@gmail.com

MEMBER SERVICES COORDINATOR
Tech. society in Farmington Hills seeks energetic, highly-organized and detail oriented person with the ability to perform multiple tasks with minimum supervision. Some general office duties: answering phones; email and correspondence; publication fulfillment, and database maintenance. Must have excellent oral/written communication skills, and at least 3 yrs. pertinent exp. Database exp a +. Proficient in Word/Windows/Excel. Some nationwide travel. Salary and resume to: barb.cheyne@concrete.org FAX: 248-848-3771 - Director, HR - MS, P.O. Box 9094, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-9094

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

BUSINESS ASSISTANT
Full-Time for Westland dental office. Exc. people skills & dental experience. Fax resume: (734) 729-2408 or Call: (734) 729-2366

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Part-Time. Skilled, Dependable, Personable. Canton: 734-981-2880

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Progressive Farmington Hills office. Exp. a must. Benefits available. (248) 474-2280

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Must have exp. 20-25 hours per week, some Saturdays. Fax resume: 313-565-3057

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Help Wanted-Medical 5060
MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Full-Time with phlebotomy exp. preferred. Also need **PT BILLER**
Exp. necessary. Fax Ginger resume to: 248-644-2864 or call Ginger: 248-644-3711

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Part-Time
Exp. preferred. Novi. Fax resume: (248) 324-0009

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Large medical practice in Southfield is seeking a Registered Nurse-Practice Manager. The ideal candidate will have 3 yrs in management of professional & clinical staff, excellent organizational & planning skills. Experience working closely with physicians. You will be responsible for the overall development of the practice. Must have exp with budgeting, compliance, reimbursement & hiring. This position offers excellent wages & full benefits. Call Mary @ 586-254-6788 or fax 586-254-0648. Email: mary@visionstaffinginc.com

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Receptionist
Needed Part-time for our Troy LASIK practice (2 days per week). Experience necessary and must be a friendly, self-starter. Please email resume to kellep@cscomi.net or fax 734-283-6204.

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RN/MA
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RVT, RDCS, RVS: Part-Time
flexible, \$28-\$36/hr. neg. 1099, Mobile position. Email resume: kjmayrand@comcast.net

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approx 30 hours/week for 2 kids, ages 2 & 4. experience and references required. Call 248-302-6889

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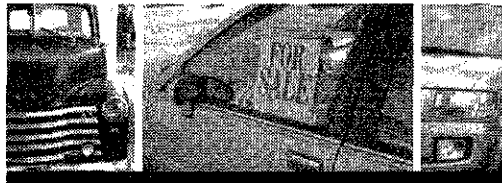
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MERCURY MONTEREY 2007 Leather, hot/cold seats, clean \$17,997 **Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

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FORD ESCAPE LTD 2005 Dark red, leather, clean \$9,995 **Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

4 Wheel Drive 8280

FORD ESCAPE XLT 2007 4x4, 4 cylinder \$15,998 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

FORD ESCAPE XLT 2007 4WD, moonroof, 31K, looks new! \$14,500 **Hines Park Lincoln Mercury** 1-866-455-5332

Automotive

Classifieds inside

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2009 Lincoln MKS Gives Nameplate A Makeover With Lots Of New Toys

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dave Menard
Avanti News Features

I've never really thought of myself as a Lincoln kind of guy. Lincolns, like Cadillacs, were something for old people to drive to play golf or hit the early-bird special. Both nameplates have introduced new models designed to change that image. Lincoln's new luxury flagship, the 2009 MKS, is one of those models and could go a long way in bringing younger, hipper buyers into Lincoln showrooms.

We'll ignore Lincoln's goofy naming system - the same system that also gives us the MKX and MKZ - and focus on the actual car. Full of all manner of new technology, the MKS is a gadget-lover's dream.

For starters, the MKS features Sync, the voice-activated hands-free entertainment and communications system developed in conjunction with Microsoft. The system integrates your Bluetooth mobile phone so you can dial a number just using your voice. That same voice command technology also powers the entertainment system, although it's not exactly perfect and does take some getting used to. Using the system to control the satellite radio, it sometimes took me to channels other than what I asked for. Overall, though, it was fun to use.

Lincoln says it's adding 911 Assist to the system soon. That will allow the cell phone to automatically call 911 in the event of an accident that deploys the airbags, sort of Lincoln's answer to General Motors Corp.'s OnStar system.

Add the optional navigation system and you get some more toys to play with. The system includes a 10 gigabyte hard drive that holds A LOT of music. Take the time to rip your CD collection into the system and you can leave your iPod at home. You can browse through the collection via voice command or the touch screen and the album art will appear on the screen while it plays. Like your mp3 player, you can create custom playlists, and you can also upload pictures to display on your screen. The system also includes a rear back-up camera.

The navigation system home screen is nicely done. The standard view shows the map on the left-hand side of the screen, while the right side shows audio information. You can, of course, make either side the full-screen view. The system also includes a six-month subscription to Sirius Travel Link. This feature gives you up to date information about gas prices (a roller coaster, from \$1.49 to \$4.25 per gallon in recent months), weather forecasts, sports scores and real-



The 2009 Lincoln MKS, where luxury and technology come together.

time traffic information for 78 different metro areas.

Oh, yeah. The system is a THX II 5.1 surround sound system and sounds great. You might have so much fun playing with it, you won't want to arrive at your destination.

Auto climate control, rear window defroster, power tilt steering wheel, universal garage door opener and anti-theft perimeter alarm are all standard on the MKS, but if you want to add some more cool stuff, you can opt for the Technology Package, which includes Intelligent Access with Push-Button Start. That allows you to get in the car, start it and drive away, all without pulling the key fob out of your pocket or purse.

Just touch the keyless entry pad on the door pillar, open the door and, with the brake pedal engaged, push a button to start the car. While not the first, or only, model to use this technology, it's still pretty cool.

That package also includes rain-sensing wipers, rear window power sunshade, Adaptive Cruise Control, which uses radar to adjust cruising speed to match the vehicle in front of you, adaptive headlights with auto high beam (as the name suggests, it turns on the high beams automatically in darker areas if no vehicles are in range, and turns them off when another vehicle approaches), and the Forward Sensing System that uses four hidden sensors that can tell you how close you are to other objects while trying to park.

OK, the toys are fun, but how does the MKS do on the road? Available as front-wheel or all-wheel drive, the MKS is equipped with a standard 3.7-liter 24-valve V6 that puts out 273 horsepower and 270 lb.-ft. of torque. It doesn't require premium fuel, but using premium will get you a bit more power (275 horsepower and 276 lb.-ft. of torque). Whether that slight boost is worth the added expense of premium fuel is up to you, but it's nice to know you can save a few pennies at the pump and still get out the gate quickly. Mileage is rated at 16 mpg in the city and 23 on the highway for the AWD and 17/24 for the FWD - not bad for a car of its size.

The engine is mated with a very smooth six-speed automatic transmission that includes SelectShift, which allows you to move through the gears at your own pace.

As you would expect from a Lincoln, the MKS handles well and is comfortable to drive. The ride is smooth without lulling you to sleep, and the rack-and-pinion power steering is responsive. The AWD version can be a challenge to maneuver into tight spaces due to the larger turning circle, but otherwise feels solid.

Both driver and front-seat passenger get 12-way power adjustable heated and cooled leather seats. The rear seats are heated, as well, and there's plenty of room, both front and rear. The trunk is huge and easy to load and unload, but I'd like to see the MKS come with a full-size spare; this is, after all, the luxury flagship.

But this is a luxury flagship with some cool design cues. Its double-wing grille is inspired by the 1941 Lincoln Continental and it's nicely done. The MKS comes with 18-inch wheels, but has 19-inch wheels available as an option. Fog lights are standard, as are heated power mirrors. Power moon roof is optional.

The 2009 Lincoln MKS starts at around \$39,000. Add all the fancy stuff (the Ultimate Package) and you're looking at almost \$45,000 -- in line for a luxury sedan with plenty of toys. Enough to make you forget about the early-bird special.

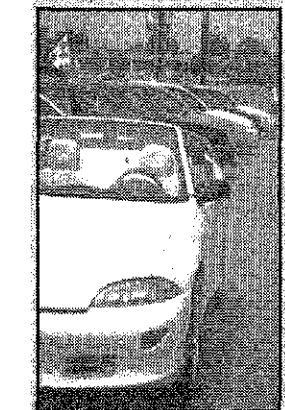
Dave Menard is senior editor of Avanti NewsFeatures and an auto critic for alopinionsallthetime.com. Write to him at avantil054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. ©2009, Fracassa Communications.

2009 Lincoln MKS
Vehicle class: Luxury sedan.
Power: 3.7-liter 24-valve 6-cylinder engine.
Mileage: 16 city / 23 highway.
Where built: Chicago.
Base price: \$39,105
Price as tested: \$45,570

OE08635254

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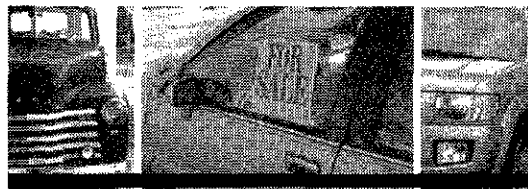
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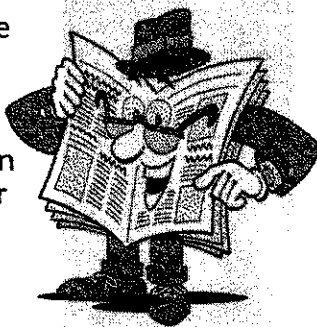
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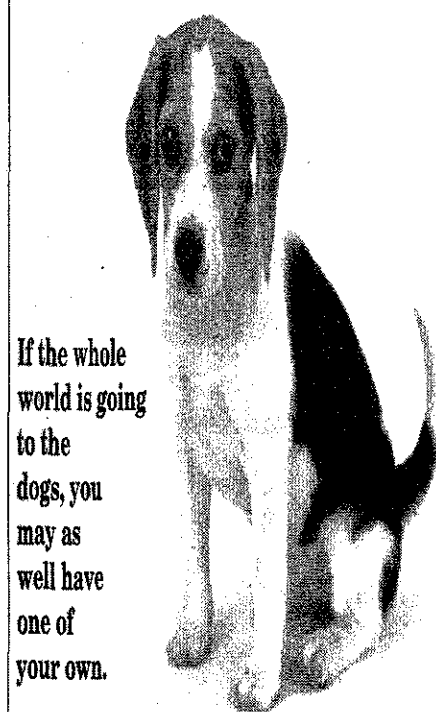
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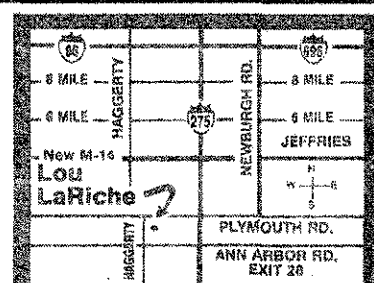
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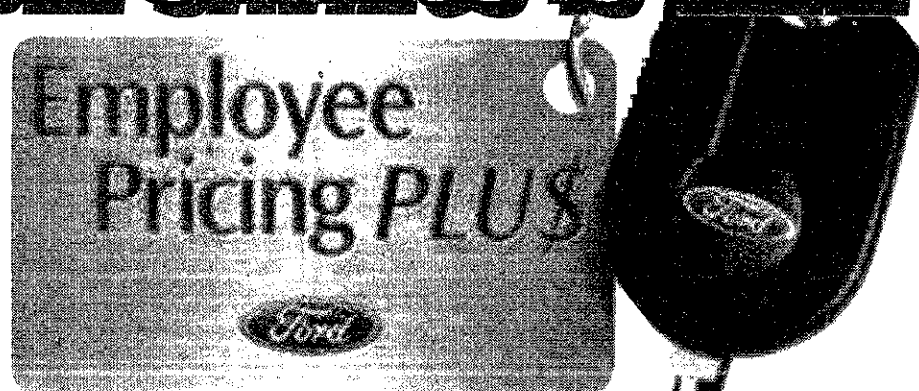
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<p>SUN & SYNC VALUE PKG</p>  <p>Stock #90586</p> <p>New 2009 Ford Fusion SE</p> <p>Lease for 36 Months \$182** mo.</p> <p>\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING</p>	<p>SUN & SYNC VALUE PKG</p>  <p>Stock #90770</p> <p>New 2009 Ford Escape XLT Fwd</p> <p>Lease for 36 Months \$238** mo.</p> <p>\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING</p>	 <p>Stock #83347</p> <p>New 2008 Ford F-250 Plow Truck</p> <p>Was \$39,643</p> <p>Now Only \$25,300++</p>

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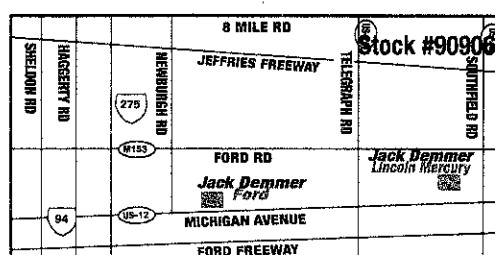
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