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SUNDAY
December 14, 2008

CANTON Observer

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Canton homes caught up in major drug ring

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Canton home is one of several properties reportedly tangled in a multimillion dollar drug ring.

On Tuesday, nearly 600 marijuana plants were seized from the home at 45466 Augusta Drive, which is located off of Glengarry Boulevard, west of Canton Center Road, according to law enforcement officials.

Richard Isaacson, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman, said the township residence is one piece of an elaborate drug ring led by Belleville man Brian Osburn.

According to a federal indictment, 22 people were involved in the operation which included mortgage fraud, money laundering and setting up about two dozen marijuana drug houses and two outdoor marijuana operations.

In addition to the Augusta property, the indictment listed

four other township properties allegedly involved in the ring: 5070 Belleville Road, 49952 Proctor Road, 49972 Proctor Road and 2343 Round Table Drive.

Other houses said to be involved are located in Birmingham, Detroit, Southfield, Ann Arbor, Royal Oak, Pontiac and several other communities.

"The best part of the whole story is that it started four years ago with a simple vehicle stop by an Oakland County sheriff's deputy," said Isaacson, who noted that the deputy uncovered a small amount of drugs that led to an investigation. "I can't go into details but it was really good police work."

In addition to criminal charges against the 22 people suspected of being involved in the drug ring, authorities expect to seize \$8.2 million in assets.

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2170

New big box retailer caters to infants, toddlers

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Buybuy Baby has said hello to Canton.

The New York-based retailer recently opened the doors to its first store in the state at 42595 Ford Road in the Canton Corners shopping center.

"We offer a fun and exciting experience for shoppers," said buybuy Baby spokeswoman Catherine Gentile, adding that a second store is slated to open in Utica before the end of the month.

The retailer, which specializes in merchandise for infants and toddlers, is a subsidiary of Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. and has 10 other locations, mainly on the East Coast.

The store's shelves and displays are stocked with car seats, seasonal items, furniture and clothing that declares "I'm the big sister," "If you think I'm cute, you should see my daddy" and "That's it! I'm going to grandma's."

The store's arrival to the township marked another step in the renovation of Canton Corners, which sits at Ford and Lilley Road. Earlier this summer, construction crews cleared the space between Wesley Berry Flowers and Paul's Fine Jewelry to make way for larger, national retailers.

In addition to buybuy Baby, the development recently opened the doors to a HomeGoods, AT&T store and GameStop. A Potbelly Sandwich Works is also taking shape in the center's east outlet. The eatery's Web site, www.potbelly.com, lists the location as opening in 2009.

Glen Cary, director of stores for buybuy Baby, said the franchise is pleased to be in the township.



Bill Bresler | Staff Photographer
The new Canton buybuy Baby store is located on Ford in the Canton Corners shopping center.

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Web site: www.buybuybaby.com
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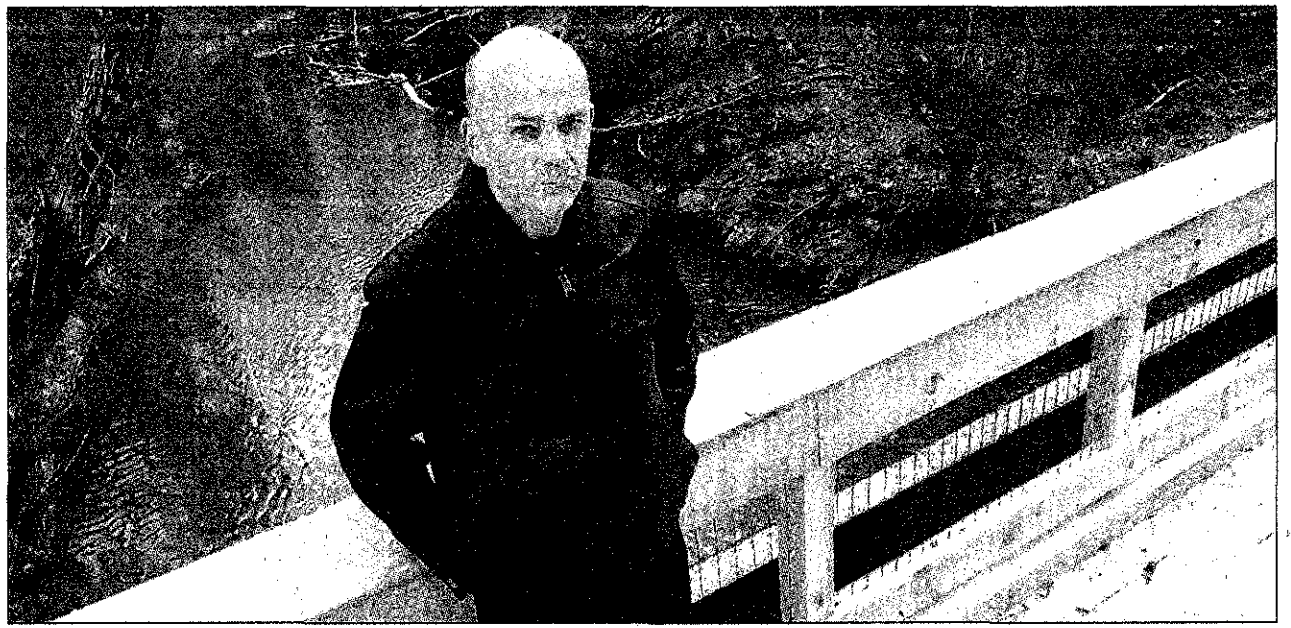
Phone: (734) 844-1108

Hours: 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday

"We are excited to open our first store in Michigan and to share our long-standing traditions of exceptional customer service, great value and a broad assortment of merchandise with the Canton community," he said.

Gentile said fans of Bed Bath & Beyond could expect a similar shopping experience from buybuy Baby.

"It's similar to Bed Bath & Beyond when you walk in," she said, adding that the retail giant acquired the smaller company in 2007. "Everything is clearly marked, it is easy to get around the store and I (especially) think the stroller department is just impressive."



Bill Bresler | Staff Photographer

Tim Faas, Canton's director of municipal services, is the new chair of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC), which is in charge of improving the Rouge River.

Trying to restore a river

Faas takes lead of organization in charge of cleaning up Rouge

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Few people are as knowledgeable about the Rouge River and the ills that plague it as Tim Faas.

As director of municipal services for Canton Township, Faas knows firsthand about the efforts that have been made by Rouge communities to clean up the waterway, and how much more needs to be done to return it to a safe recreational resource that allows fishing and even swimming.

Faas, who lives in Farmington Hills with his wife Ceri, was recently elected to a two-year term as chair of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC), an organization formed in 2006 by dozens of communities within the Rouge River watershed to help restore the river and to comply with federal clean water requirements.

Faas will chair his first full meeting when the ARC meets on Tuesday in Novi.

Faas is assuming the job of chairman at an interesting time for Alliance, which has a membership that includes about 40 communities, and several counties. Currently the ARC is in a legal dispute with the Michigan Department of Environment over new requirements for storm water management plans, which each community has to file with the state to show that it is complying with federal water quality regulations.

ARC MEETING

What: The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) public meeting

When: 2-4 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 16

Where: Novi Civic Center, The Gateway and Events Room of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Quarter, 45175 W. Tem Mile Road, Novi

For more info: Visit www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/

According to Faas, most of the ARC communities believe the new requirements are too costly, because they will force communities to do much more water sampling of storm water discharges into the river than is currently required.

"The ARC position is we've been doing a very good job with our monitoring program, better than the rest of the state. This will be very costly to our communities," Faas said.

The fight with the DEQ will be a topic that will be discussed at Tuesday's meeting, Faas said.

Faas, 47, grew up in southwest Ontario, Canada. He worked for the city of Windsor for about a decade as assistant director of the public works department. He came to Michigan for a job opportunity, and became the

director of operations for the Western Townships Utilities Authority (WTUA). From there, Faas became the director of Municipal Services for Canton.

In addition to trying to get the state to ease its position, Faas says he has two major goals for the ARC during his tenure as chairman. First, he wants people to learn about the organization and realize it has real value. He says ARC is important for its member communities, because it helps them meet federal mandates like water quality monitoring and public education — programs that would be much more costly for individual communities without the pooled resources of the ARC, which has a \$749,559 budget for 2009.

"Beyond the overall improvement to the watershed that we have seen because of the work we've done, the Alliance is a way for the communities to pool resources and at the lowest cost to comply with water quality requirements," Faas said.

His other hope is to help find secure funding for the ARC, from grants, corporations, and even individuals. He believes if ARC is successful proving its value, then the second part of the equation will much easier.

"We have so much real data to show how much the watershed has improved," Faas said. "In Canton in particular, the Lower Rouge has gone from one of the worst in terms of water quality to one of the best."

Township agrees to pay county more for plowing

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As in years past, Canton officials have opted to pay for winter maintenance on an additional 17.5 miles of roadway that are not considered primary roads by Wayne County.

With one dissenting vote from Township Trustee Pat Williams, the board pushed forward an agreement with the county Tuesday for the work at a cost of \$62,033.93. The agreement means the county will now treat the roads as primary roads instead of secondary roads, which are not prior-

ity for plowing and salting.

Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said even with the township's growth and heavy traffic volumes, the county, which is responsible for Canton's roads, rarely expands its primary roads list.

The roads included in the agreement are: Cherry Hill Road (west of county line to Ridge Road); Denton Road (Geddes to Cherry Hill Road); Denton Road (Mott to Geddes); Denton Road (Cherry Hill to Ridge Road); Joy Road (west of Beck); Lilley Road (Michigan to Ford Road); Lotz Road (Michigan Avenue to Palmer Road); Lotz Road

(Palmer to Cherry Hill Road); Lotz Road (Ford to Warren Road); Saltz Road (Canton Center to Ridge Road); Sheldon Road (Michigan Avenue to Ford Road); Warren Road (Beck Road to .5 mile west of Ridge Road).

The cost of maintaining the 17.5 miles, which translates into more than 37 lane miles, is based on last year's cost. If there is a reduction in this year's price tag, it will be reflected next winter.

Williams voted against the measure, feeling the township is already paying the county enough, and it make more of an effort to maintain the roads.

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Number 49



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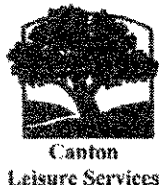
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Coming Thursday
in filter



Greenfield Village is a winter wonderland. Learn more about this month's venture into The Henry Ford's Holiday Nights event, running through the holidays, in Thursday's FILTER.



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Stephanie Weatherly Photography

Photos available for purchase until January 30, 2009
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Please e-mail your comments and suggestions to info@shopcanton.org



Photos courtesy of Stephanie Weatherly Photography

Christmas in Action

Elderly or disabled homeowners in Canton may apply this month to receive free home repairs from Christmas in Action of Wayne County, Inc. Volunteers for this non-profit agency work to preserve and revitalize houses in an effort to assure that low-income elderly and disabled homeowners live in warmth, safety and independence. This effort not only provides safe and functional homes for our seniors and disabled, but improves our community as a whole.

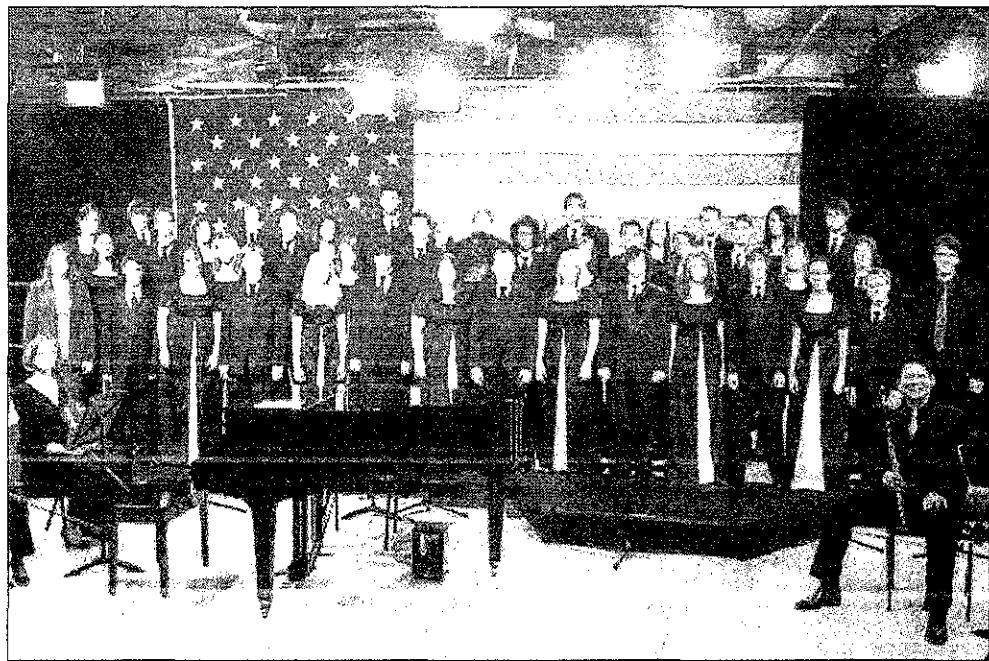
Eligible applicants must live in Canton and own a single family home or condominium. They must also be over the age 55 or disabled, need repairs to the home, and be unable to afford or perform the repairs themselves.

The event date for repairs to be made is April 25. For more information, please contact Pat VanDusen at (734) 394-5193 or e-mail pvandusen@canton-mi.org for an application. Applications are also available at the Senior Center at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, as well as the Township Administration Building, located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Application deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Canton Newcomers meeting

The Canton Newcomers next monthly meeting will take place at 7:15 p.m., Jan. 7 at the Sunflower Clubhouse (45800 Hanford, west of Canton Center). The evening will include socializing, neighbor introductions, sign ups for more than 20 interest group activities (Playgroups, Bunco, Scrapbooking, Book Club, Men's Poker Night, Couples Social and more), and a raffle to benefit a local non-profit in need.

Join the group for dinner and an engaging evening, which will include a special local speaker. And remember, you don't need to be new to Canton to join the Newcomers.



In the studio

Under the direction of Jennifer Kopp, the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Select Choir traveled to Detroit Public Television studios to perform in a new public television special entitled "Tim Janis, Celebrate America." Tim Janis, who has worked on many philanthropic projects with artists such as Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Ray Charles, and The New York Philharmonic, has teamed up with DPTV and "Do Something.org" to create the new special, which gives youth the opportunity to be in their own musical special. The P-CEP choir is one of 14 schools that were chosen to partake in the program, which will air on DPTV in March of 2009. They will be performing a song written by Samuel A. Ward entitled "America the Beautiful."

For more information, or to receive a complimentary copy of the group's newsletter, please visit www.cantonnewcomers.org or call Melanie at (734) 207-3341.

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.

TCF Bank collecting food

TCF Bank will be accept-

ing donated food to feed local needy families this winter. Through Dec. 31, all of TCF's branches in Michigan, including Canton branches on Ford Road and Michigan Avenue, will serve as a collection site for non-perishable foods. Stop by any TCF branch to drop off your donation. Collected food will be donated to local food banks in early January. TCF Bank is open seven days. For the location of the nearest TCF branch, please visit www.tcfbank.com or call 1-800-TCF-Bank (1-800-823-2263).

Symphony luminary sale

The Plymouth Symphony League is selling luminaria kits for the holiday season. Each kit consists of 10 white paper bags and 10 candles. Each kit is \$5 and can be purchased until Dec. 24 at Gabriela's, Sideways, Saxton's and the Plymouth Symphony office at 470 Forest Place Suite 18. For more information, visit www.plymouthsymphony.org.

Pheasant Run holiday sale

Pheasant Run Golf Club's Pro Shop, located at 46500 Summit Parkway in Canton, will hold a two day clearance sale Dec. 18-19 from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. All golf shirts are on sale for \$25. Purchase two or more golf shirts for \$20 each. Shoes and outdoor wear are available for \$20 and up. Pheasant Run Golf Club annual passes for the 2009 season are also available.

For more information, visit leisure.canton-mi.org or call (734) 397-6460.

Toy exhibit

The Canton Historical Museum will have a new exhibition called "Go Play! Toys from Different Times and Places" that will run through 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.

Candy cane week

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

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

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

High school artists wanted

The Canton Public Library is looking for high school artists to compete in its Martin

Luther King, Jr. art competition. Submissions for this year's theme "One Community, One Voice," as it relates to Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Canton community in art form will be accepted by Dec. 23.

Students may submit paintings, drawings, collage, prints, mixed media, computer generated art or photography. All work must be original in concept, design and execution and the student's own work. The contest is open to high school students, grades 9-12. Students who are Canton residents or attend a public or private school located in Canton or within the boundaries of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district are eligible to enter.

Cash prizes, donated by the Friends of the Canton Public Library, in the amount of \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for honorable mention, will be awarded. All submissions will be displayed at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at the Village Theater on Jan. 19.

For full details and entry information, visit www.cantonpl.org/ya/artcontest.pdf or contact the Canton Public Library at (734) 397-0999.

Health screening clinic

Meijer Pharmacy, located on Ford Road at Canton Center, will be holding their monthly health screening clinic on Tuesday, Dec. 23 from 8 a.m. - noon. Cholesterol, diabetes, and liver function screening are available at a very affordable cost. Appointments are required. Contact the pharmacy for details at (734) 844-2733.



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Ficano vetoes new parks millage ordinance

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As expected, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano vetoed a new ordinance passed by the county commission that would send a portion of the county's parks millage back to local communities for their own recreation programs.

The new ordinance specifies that the county will give back 25 percent that each municipality contributes in taxes to the parks millage, which they will be able to use for capital improvements for local parks and recreation facilities. The remaining 75 percent will still be allocated for improvements and operations to the county parks system, which includes Hines Park and Elizabeth Park in Trenton.

Alan Helmkamp, assistant county executive, said Ficano vetoed the ordinance for two reasons: it has "legal impediments" and it is "bad policy."

Helmkamp said the ordinance violates both the county charter budgeting process because it overrides the county executive's authority to propose a budget, and state law because it goes against the intent of voters that approved the millage.

"You have to specify on the ballot how you will spend the money," Helmkamp said. "This is not what the voters approved."

Just as important, Helmkamp said giving so much money back to the local communities will be

"devastating" to the county parks system and all the gains that have been made since the millage was first approved in 1996. The annual levy of .25 mills, which generates about \$12.7 million per year, was renewed in 2000 and again 2005. It expires at the end of 2010.

Helmkamp said the ordinance would certainly mean layoffs in the parks department — as many as 26 full time employees out of a department of 74 full time employees. Maintenance of the parks would also be cut back.

"Families use our parks now. We have made much progress since the 1970s and 80s when our parks were closed and unsafe. We could lose all that with this ordinance," Helmkamp said.

The commission, which has 45 days to override the veto, meets on Thursday. It is the last meeting of the current commission, as new members will join in January. Two supporters of the ordinance, Philip Cavanagh and Ronalee Bowman, will be gone. The commission needs 10 votes to override Ficano's veto.

Commissioner Kevin McNamara of Canton, who was one of the sponsors of the ordinance, said he will push to have a vote at Thursday's meeting before the new commission takes over.

"This is good policy, and is our way of helping out our local communities who are going through a tough time with the economy," he said. "I foresee a quick veto override."



Company officials announced the La-Z-Boy store on Ford Road near Lotz will close along with several other metro Detroit stores.

Canton La-Z-Boy store among those to close

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Early next year, the township's La-Z-Boy Furniture Gallery is expected to close its doors for good.

The Ford Road store is among seven metro Detroit locations that the company will shut down.

Hampered by a failing economy, La-Z-Boy

attorney Jerry Ellis said the past year has been rough on the well-established furniture company.

"Obviously, they did well for a number of years, but this is a sign of the times," he said, adding that a distribution center located at 2955 S. Haggerty in Canton will close as well. "Times being what they are, (consumers) are hanging on to what money they have."

Liquidation sales began Friday at the town-

ship store and at locations in Ann Arbor, Novi, Taylor, Sterling Heights, Auburn Hills and Flint.

Ellis said the seven stores employ about 100 people. He doesn't expect the stores, which will honor outstanding orders, to close until the end of February.

La-Z-Boy has had locations in the metro Detroit area for 33 years. The Canton store is at 40150 Ford Road.

Canton Observer offices move from Livonia location

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

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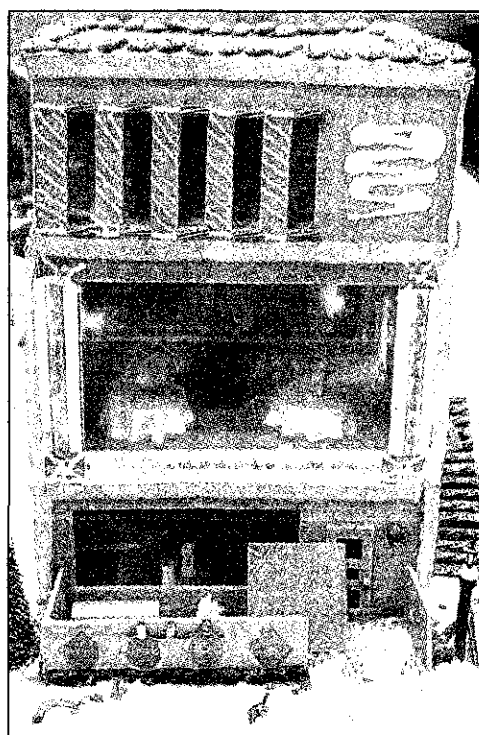
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Schoolcraft students create a sweet downtown



Third place winner Tina Czarney and Lisa Chin's construction La Saison in the Gingerbread Village display at Schoolcraft College.

The theme of this year's Gingerbread Village at Schoolcraft College is "Downtown." Students in the Culinary Arts Program have created a delectable vision of the city with such landmarks as Comerica Park and Macy's in sweet gingerbread.

The creations also include some imaginative buildings that only exist in the students' imaginations. The buildings include intricate details of fruits and vegetables, baked items, Scrooge and a snowman all down in candy and spun sugar.

And it's all edible, except for the gas lamp lighting system.

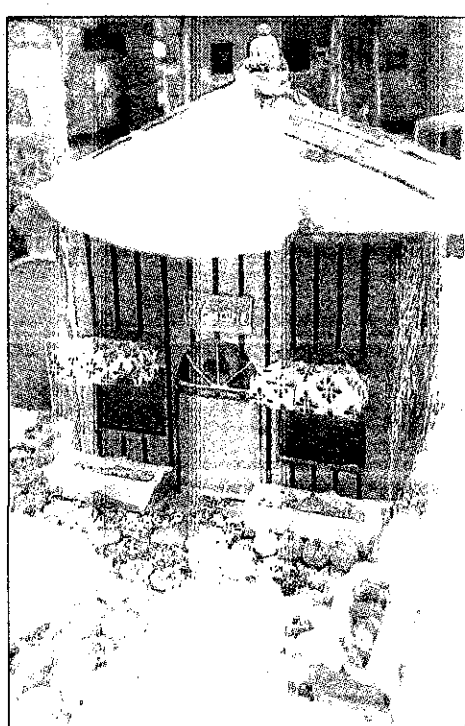
The 16 buildings were created by 30 students working individually and in groups. It will be on display at Schoolcraft's VisTaTech Center until 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and is open to the public.

A panel selected four buildings for special recognition.

First place was awarded to Rudeepan Wattanapat of Plymouth for North Star Gallery.

Second place was awarded to Gabrielle Todd of Jackson for Epicurie and to Laura Camacho-Arguello of Dearborn and team mate Nancy Mechler of Brighton for Old Town Bakery.

Third place was awarded to La Saison by Tina Czarney of Allen Park of Allen Park and Lisa Chin of Canton.



Second place winner Gabrielle Todd's construction Epicurie in the Gingerbread Village display at Schoolcraft College.



First place winner Rudeepan Wattanapat's North Star Gallery in the Gingerbread Village at Schoolcraft College.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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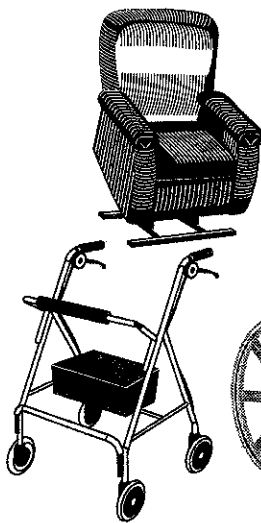
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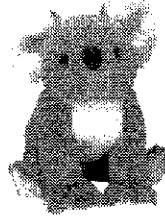
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Schoolcraft creates new Transitions Center

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College is now one of four programs within a new Transitions Center.

College officials say the change is to serve students and the community better but some longtime WRC advisory board members aren't happy with the change and how it was presented.

A meeting was held Tuesday at Schoolcraft to introduce the change. The Transitions Center, under director Stacey Stover, incorporates the Women Resource Center, Adult Student Services, Family Resources and Student Engagement Programs.

"We're excited about this, providing opportunities to more students and growing services to students and the community," Stover said.

Stover replaced Nancy Swanborg as director of the Women's Resource Center in July.

"This is an expansion of services. Services are continuing," Stover said. "It meets the needs of the community."

Laura Callow of Livonia has been an advisory board member since 1970, when the WRC was founded. She said the changes have been in the works since September.

"All the trappings of the Women's Resource Center were stripped, a quilt, pictures, plants. People could no longer refer to it as the

Women's Resource Center but only as WRC," she said.

She said Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffress was concerned that a center for women at the college might be a violation of Proposal 2, the anti-affirmative action amendment approved by voters in 2006.

But Beth Allen of Farmington Hills, who has been on the WRC advisory board for 18 years, said the center has always welcomed and assisted men.

"It was called the Women's Resource Center because that's where most of the efforts were," Allen said.

Stover emphasizes that the change will not eliminate any of the services now offered. Allen and Callow say they understand that the services

will continue.

The Women's Resource Center includes a Divorce Support Group, programs to help women in transition and help with economic independence. Adult Student Services offers financial planning, income tax assistance, a workers in transition program and help for adult students. Family Resources offers campus recruiting information and a Web site for families and parents. Student Engagement sponsors a women's history month program, helps with student schedules, and a high school to college transition program.

Allen said what many on the advisory board are concerned about is that the WRC won't have a separate identity and that many of the women

who have come for assistance won't feel as comfortable under the new arrangement.

She said many women come in emotionally upset but through counseling are able to become economically self-sufficient.

"Many of us believe that with the changes you won't see that anymore," she said.

But Stover said she knows the history of the WRC is important and that it will continue under the new arrangement.

"One thing that was done well under the Women's Resource Center was the abil-

ity to work one on one, to sit down with students and work with someone," she said.

She said the program has "as wonderful base" of 48 volunteers who will continue their work.

"They are empathetic and knowledgeable," she said.

Another tradition that will continue is the annual WRC Spaghetti Dinner, which has raised scholarship money for adult students. Stover said the dinner will continue and funds raised will go to the Transitions Center.

The date scheduled is March 17, 2009.

Winter dark covers a world of wildlife

Winter Dark. It never really takes me by surprise. But it does send me inside early. I adjust and have come to realize that it's

the near frantic scurrying of black walnut-hauling red squirrels, the huddling of chickadees against the wind and the sudden cessation of dripping icicles

that warns me I have about 30 minutes to finish outdoor task.

So it is with winter dark, a more powerful warning than a ticking watch. I head in with a few oak logs for the night fire about the same time deer cautiously head uphill from their woodland edge beds of pine needles.

Winter Dark. The time

of the owl, the fox and the coyote. The time for the occasional rifle shot like crack of a frozen tree "explosion." One night soon the mysterious throaty groans of nearby lake ice join the dark noises. Winter dark is the time to wonder on the ways of nature and man as ranting winds rattle windows on my old hilltop home and send the occasional puff of smoke back drafting from the wood stove.

I may feel frustration these moments can be hard to share, but I find more pleasure in their peaceful solitude than the more common human trait in my small town of heading out or a drink or two. And I know that winter dark is followed by the sparkle of dawn, frosted windows and a new world of discovery laced with snow. Fresh snow sets the stage for discovery. More often than not those discoveries are found along the edge of my cross country ski tracks.

Technical books on winter

wildlife seldom mention the tiny intricacies that seem so obvious on a slow paced solitary ski sojourn. Perhaps it is because those writers are cloistered indoors and work from established facts rather than direct personal observations. Chickadees:

We all know they huddle a bit against the wind. But look at them closely down among the dogwood thickets and some observations are quickly noted — their huddling is not random. Random behavior is not the way of successful winter survival. The chickadees huddle low and face into the wind. A trait that seems to be shared by most small winter "feeder birds." I can only surmise it is to keep the cold winds of winter dark from blowing up under their layers of insulating feathers.

Dawn, with her almost imperceptible slowness wakens the sleeping earth as I push on along the tree line. Crows calls. A startled rabbit

bursts into flight and then freezes to "disappear." If I was a hunter it would be his end. And as the first clear rays of sunshine warm my cheek and soak the feathers of huddled chickadees, I ski over small logs that hide tiny earth-covered wood frogs, amphibians frozen into a comatose state of ice laden biomass until their time of spring. I enter the backwoods swamp, a place where winter dark's hand gives us a clear sense of time and place. I smile recognizing that if it was not for the slowing of the pace brought on by winter dark, the eye would not see and the mind would not absorb the subtleties of wilder mysteries, a world that on this dawn includes the painfully slow trek of an inquisitive young opossum with frost nipped ears and a dragging bent tail.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. Reach him at Oaknature@aol.com.

Holocaust Memorial founder was 'selfless'

BY SARA CALLENDER
ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER

Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig turned his personal tragedy into messages of tolerance and understanding.

Rosenzweig, whose family was killed by the Nazis, later created Holocaust memorial centers in

West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills. He died Thursday of heart failure at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital.

Because his personal documents were destroyed in the Holocaust, Rosenzweig — who lived in Southfield — didn't know how old he was. Estimates range from 80 to 88.

"He was a selfless man who worked tirelessly to bring the knowledge and the tragedy of the Holocaust to many," said Alan Zekelman, a member of the board of the Holocaust center. "He knew that the only way to prevent hatred and genocide was to educate people about them."

Born in Ostrovitz, Poland, Rosenzweig immigrated to the United States in 1947, after his parents, brother and one of his two sisters and all of his aunts, uncles and cousins were killed.

Rosenzweig was ordained at Yeshiva University in New York in 1951. He served as rabbi at Congregation Mt. Sinai in Port Huron from 1953 to 1993.

His passion was creating a permanent memorial to Holocaust victims and teaching the importance of tolerance.

Burial will take place in Israel. Memorial contributions can be sent to the Holocaust Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills 48334.

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Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Dear Rick: I need to purchase some life insurance. After listening to your radio show, I decided to buy term life insurance. I contacted

a friend of mine who sells life insurance and he gave me a bid. I went online and was able to find a policy with same terms that was considerably cheaper. Both of the companies are AAA rated. Is there any reason why I shouldn't buy the one online? Congratulations for shopping around and getting competitive bids. I

don't have a problem with buying life insurance online particularly term where the policies are straightforward and easy to understand. The money you save looks better in your pocket than it does anywhere else. As far as I am concerned there are two types of insurance agents those who are salespeople and those that understand their

policies and the workings of insurance and client needs. Those who are salespeople only don't understand the policies they sell nor do they understand individual needs. All they want to do is sell. These people provide no value to you so there is no reason to deal with them. There are agents who understand complex insurance needs and they

are able to guide you to select the right policy for your situation. These individuals bring value to the process. One of the reasons I like term insurance is because the policy provisions are easy to understand — you're buying insurance for a period of time and if you pass on during that period of time, your

beneficiaries collect on the policy. In most situations, I recommend term insurance because it fills a need and is cost effective. If you are considering term insurance, get competitive bids and remember, the Internet is a great resource. Dear Rick: I want to take some losses by selling some good funds but I don't want to be out of the market. How can one find good comparable funds to replace those when making sales for tax losses? I want to sell Vanguard Explorer, Vanguard Wellington, Dodge & Cox International and Selected America. I never see this specific issue addressed. What do you suggest?

The real issue is to not violate the wash sale rule which says if you sell an investment with a loss, you cannot buy that same fund back within 30 days. If you purchase the same fund within 30 days, then you cannot take the loss for tax purposes. That does not mean that you cannot buy back a similar fund because you can. For example, if you are in a balanced fund and you sell that fund, you can immediately buy back another balanced fund without violating the wash sale rule.

In your situation, I like all the funds you are selling. Although, they've all had a difficult time of late, they are all good funds. Therefore, there are a couple things that you can do. You can sell the existing funds that you're in and then reinvest the money into an index fund for that category, hold the index fund for over 30 days, then sell them and re-buy the same funds you have sold. This would allow you to still deduct your losses for tax purposes and remain invested. Therefore, if the market does have a short-term run you'd be in a position to benefit from it.

In your situation, the index fund that you can use to substitute for the Vanguard Explorer will be the Vanguard Small Cap Index. A substitute index fund for the Vanguard Wellington would be the Vanguard Index Balanced Fund, a substitute for the Dodge & Cox International would be the Vanguard Index International, and a substitute for the selected American Shares Fund would be the Vanguard Index 500 Fund.

Another strategy as opposed to using the index fund is just to buy some very good similar funds. In that case, I'd consider the Baron Small Cap Fund as a replacement for the Vanguard Explorer. Instead of Vanguard Wellington, the Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund would be an excellent substitute. To replace the Dodge & Cox International, you could use the Vanguard International Value Fund, while replacing the Selected American Shares with the Dodge & Cox Stock Fund.

I believe you never want to let the tax tail wag the dog. In other words, you don't want to do anything for tax reasons and tax reasons alone. However, if you can do something that makes sense economically and it saves you on taxes, then that is a strategy worth pursuing.

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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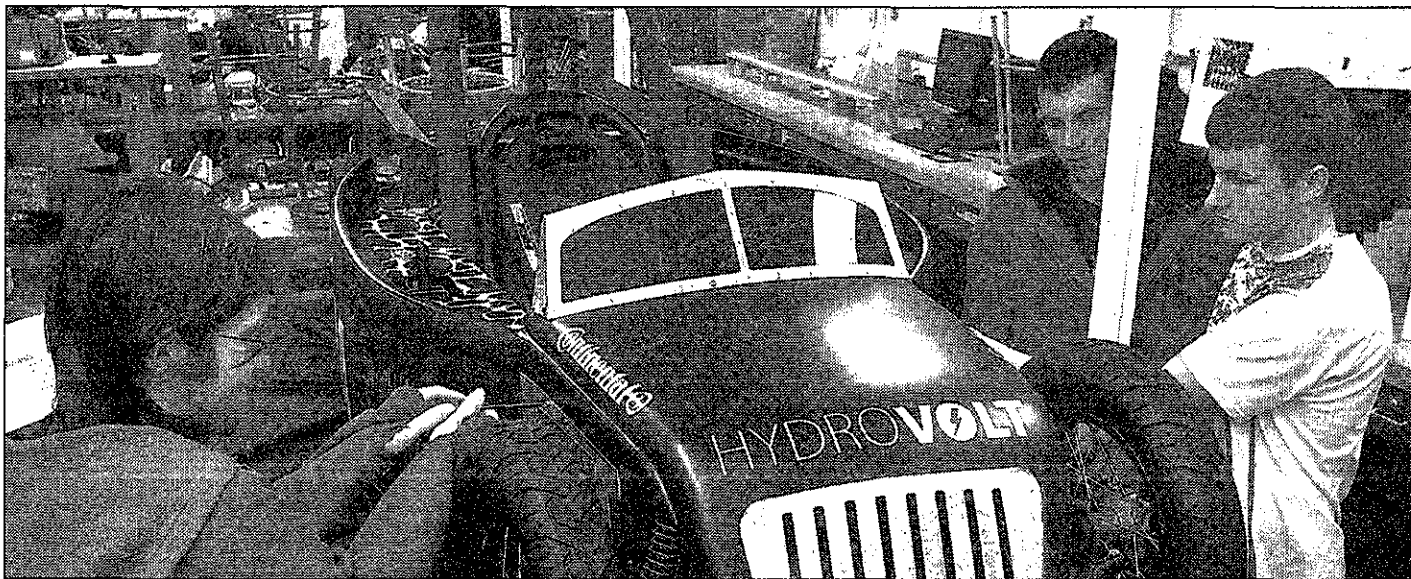
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KNOW THE SCORE

check out the numbers in
today's **SPORTS** section



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jon Fodal, an adult student from Westland (from left), Nathan Bovia, a senior at John Glenn High School, and Steven Decker, senior at Wayne Memorial High School, prepare to remove the engine housing off the Hydro Volt that was built by students at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

Career tech students show style, smarts in designing vehicle

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The showcase in the commons of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center has more bling than Tiffany's. Six trophies fill the case, proclaiming the school's success in this year's Innovative Vehicle Design competition.

Hydro Volt, the student-built retro Rat Ride vehicle — a flat black scaled-down 1940s pickup that's a fuel cell/plug-in hybrid vehicle — received first-place trophies in innovation, engineering and fabrication and Professionals' Pick, as well as second place for presentation, ambassadorship and vehicle performance.

"The students also really wanted innovation because of the uniqueness of the vehicle and they wanted fabrication because they worked so hard in building it piece by piece, but they were most pleased with the Professionals' Pick," said Sue Wilk, the IVD project coordinator. "They had to pitch it to the professionals for three days to convince them to vote for the car. They had to answer some good questions."

Two years in the making, the Hydro Volt was designed and fabricated from scratch by students in a variety of programs at the Career Technical Center. It features steer by wire, a data acquisition system, computerized driver information system and a 200W hydrogen fuel cell that recharges the batteries that power its electric motor. It has a top-end speed of 45 mph, but has been scaled back to 25 mph for safety reasons, Wilk said.

'CUTTING EDGE'

The frame and chassis of the one-seater IVD was from a student's CAD drawing, while the fiberglass body was made from a clay mold and was finished and painted by the Auto Body Shop. The HVAC class did the interior work, screwing sheet metal in the driver's compartment. Parts

like an electric window motor from a Ford Windstar, the reverse switch from a go cart and the wheels and tires from a motor scooter also were used.

"It's pretty cutting edge, the aim is to put out safer things for the environment," said Steven Decker, a Wayne Memorial High School student who helped do a lot of soldering on the car. "We use air and hydrogen to charge the batteries. If we could do it on a larger scale, it would be better for the environment and cheaper."

Jon Fodal, an adult student from Westland, was the last member to join the student team, getting on board to design the Web pages for the project.

"It took seven days and I talked to the team twice to come up with the pages," he said, adding that he built 18 Web pages involving 2,000 lines of code. The work was done in a Cascading style that he taught himself to do.

"I found out about it too late, I wish I'd been on it from day one," he added. "The next IVD I'm going to be a part of it."

Nate Bovia, a senior at John Glenn, also was late to join the team on the suggestion of teacher Zack MacLean. He told him it would be a good opportunity to get involved.

"It was just a frame when I started," he said. "I didn't think it would get done. There were a lot of pieces laying around the classroom. It came together all at once."

According to Wilk, Angela Czarniowski, one of three lead students on the IVD project, played a big role in the project. She had a dual enrollment and was recruited for the project by the dean of the engineering department at Schoolcraft College.

"There's not one part of this car she didn't work on," said Wilk. "She even came up with the idea of a cow print for the driver's compartment, but we persuaded her not to put it on the roll bars. She was huge."

GETTING INVOLVED

Wilk has been helping with engineering projects at the center for 11 years and was involved with the Build Your Dream Car program when the center decided to switch to the IVD project.

"We wanted to get lots and lots of kids involved in producing an actual vehicle rather than a concept car," she said. "There 15 students involved in this, but it affected a lot of classes and a lot of kids because of its content."

The project is sponsored by the Convergence Education Foundation which provides money to each participating team. William D. Ford's corporate partner was Continental Automotive Systems, but help also came from Ford Motor Co., National Instruments, Schoolcraft College and local businesses like Woolf Aircraft, Batteries Plus, Snap-On Tools, Keith's Muffler and Ovonic Hydrogen.

Students wrote the software for the data acquisition system, and National Instruments provided such things as the hardware, terminals and sensors for the speed, temperature and voltage.

The next two-year build cycle has yet to start, so the students and staff are busy retrofitting the first IVD, Thunderbolt II, with a remote-controlled gasoline engine to prove that the process can easily be taught. That's because the center is working with the foundation in writing a hybrid curriculum for middle and high schools.

"We would start teaching it in middle school so by the time the students get here they'll understand the concepts," said Wilk.

Hydro Volt, all of its trophies and five staffers also will be making a road trip to Wisconsin where staffers will make a presentation and receive the Showcase Program Award at a national career technical education convention.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

Historical museum exhibit celebrates the season

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Christmas stories from the past two centuries are featured in the Plymouth Historical Museum's newest exhibit, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

Scenes throughout the museum help tell stories like *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, *The Polar Express*, *A Christmas Carol* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

"All of them have something significant and moralistic that happened on Christmas Eve," said Liz Kerstens, museum director, "depicted by vignettes with our interpretations of the stories."

And for those who aren't familiar with the stories, Kerstens said her staff has made it easy to follow along.

"With the labels we talk a bit about the story itself, where it came from and the plot, in case someone doesn't know," Kerstens said. "And then some fast facts about the movie or the story."

HOLIDAY EXHIBIT

■ **What:** 'Twas the Night Before Christmas exhibit

■ **Where:** Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main

■ **When:** 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday through Jan. 4

■ **Cost:** \$5 for adults, \$10 for families

■ **Details:** For info, visit www.plymouthhistory.org

Kerstens said the entire exhibit was developed with items already owned by the museum, except for an 1837 book of poems compiled by Clement Moore, well-known for *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. The Plymouth Historical Museum borrowed the book from Al Wilkerson, owner of the Sweet Afton Tea Room in downtown Plymouth.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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2007	Chevrolet	Malibu	1G1ZS58F37F120026
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Publish: December 14, 2008

CE080319-2/2

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, 6875 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

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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	2FMZA5143XB23850
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FRI/SAT LS 11:40

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R)
FRI-TUE 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 11:55

WED-THUR 12:05, 2:25
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)
11:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

AUSTRALIA (PG-13)
11:35, 3:00, 6:25, 9:50
TWILIGHT (PG-13) 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40

BOLT DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:35

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Presented by
Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.

NEW ORAL BACTERIA IDENTIFIED

It may surprise you to know that more than six hundred bacteria live in the human mouth. As you might imagine, these bacteria have the potential to cause various problems, from tooth decay to bad breath to gum disease. With this in mind, it is important to identify unrecognized species of mouth bacteria if we are to find more effective ways of preventing and treating oral diseases. Thus, it comes as good news that British researchers have identified a new species of bacteria that may be associated with tooth decay and gum disease. In fact, the researchers found three new strains of *Prevotella histicola* bacteria (abacteroides) inside the lining of the mouth. *Histicola* means "inhabitant of tissue". The new finding may help combat periodontitis.

A very big threat to dental health as well as overall health is gum disease. And the best way to deal with gum disease is to prevent it, with daily brushing, flossing, and visiting the dentist on a regular basis. We are diligent in our approach to making sure periodontal disease doesn't destroy your smile. And since most dental insurance allows two cleanings per year, now is the perfect time to call us at 734-453-9413 to schedule an appointment so you can maximize your coverage by the end of the year. It is our mission at 495 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth to deliver the highest level of care, using the latest materials and always keeping our patients' comfort and well-being in mind.

P.S. In addition to removing tartar and bacteria from tooth surfaces and beneath the gums, antibiotics and other medications may be used to treat periodontitis.

CE0803582



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OUR VIEWS

Thank you, Rep. McCotter, for standing up for Detroit

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, has developed a reputation for his soaring oratorical style in the House of Representatives.

His speeches are notable for their obscure historical references, stinging wit, musical allusions and passion.

We have not always agreed with the positions that McCotter has supported with his oratory. But on Wednesday, the 11th District congressman used his eloquence in support of the auto recovery bill and rose to the defense of not just the auto industry but the embattled Detroit region and working men and women everywhere. This was a Class A rhetorical performance.

McCotter had been one of the most ferocious Republican leaders against the bank bailout, something he continues to rail against. He and others were instrumental in defeating an initial bailout bill before a revised version was passed in the Senate and the House. He has been harshly critical of the lack of oversight on how those billions of dollars are being spent and the clueless arrogance of investment bankers.

But, McCotter argues that the auto industry is different. Contrary to its critics, the industry has been restructuring, has been meeting federal CAFE mandates, has been developing better and more energy-efficient cars. They didn't ask for help until they were swamped by the bank disaster. He says that it is the hard-working people of

his district and other districts all across America who will suffer if there is no bailout. Small businesses will collapse. Whole towns will be devastated.

He strongly rebukes those who have railed against the UAW for daring to negotiate decent contracts for their members.

"I once spent a freezing winter morning in front of the glass house, the Ford Motor Company corporate headquarters, in Dearborn. All those employees, those UAW members, that people say don't want to work come to work and don't want to perform, don't care about their quality of performance. Well I'll tell you what: They stood out in zero degree temperatures to keep the Wixom plant in my district open. That's how badly they wanted to work. That's how much they cared about the production of those cars. That's how much they love their families," McCotter told his fellow representatives.

He quotes Bruce Springsteen's *Youngstown*: "Seven hundred tons of metal a day, now sir you tell me the world's changed/Once I made you rich enough, rich enough to forget my name."

Perhaps McCotter's oratory helped move a few votes to win passage of the bailout in the House, where he was one of only 32 Republicans to vote yes.

On Thursday, the Senate failed to endorse the House bill. McCotter and others began efforts to solicit President Bush to release some of the billions marked for banks to General Motors and Chrysler.

Whatever the outcome, McCotter deserves a warm thank you from his district.



McCotter

When you're the employee, bankruptcy is very painful

I took advantage of time last week to get caught up on wrapping presents while my kids were in school. Usually, I'm up late Christmas Eve, wrapping presents while the pope says Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. Not so this year. It's all done, all wrapped up, and instead of the pope, my company was the presidents of the Big Three and a



Sue Mason

group of congressmen and senators who reminded me of my kids — mad because they hadn't gotten their way and taking out on the first person to come into sight. You will never hear me say I'm a financial expert, but after listening to the hearings, I'm wondering who made these lawmakers experts on running a big business. They have that responsibility with this country, but from where I stand, they've managed to put us \$1 trillion in the hole and have no plan for getting us out of it.

But what I found most astounding was the expert witness who told the Senate committee that bankruptcy was the answer because the auto companies could tap into DIP loans. I'm very aware of the initials. It stands for debtor in possession. It's nasty and demoralizing, if you happen to work for a company that files for bankruptcy. I know, I worked for one during the recession of the 1980s. It wasn't a big company, but bills exceeded revenue and when things went from bad to worse, the owner filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

One day we were called to a meeting. As we stood there, the second in command explained what had happened and what the judge expected of the employees — a 10 percent cut in wages. We had a union, but we weren't given time to meet and hash it out, the decision needed to be made that very moment.

None of us wanted to lose our jobs, so we agreed. But we forgot to ask one simple question. Our contract had us receiving our annual pay increase in quarterly installments, one way we had tried to help the company. We had deferred three installments, a total of 6 percent. That wasn't factored into the 10 percent, so when all was said and done, we took a 16 percent hit. True, you don't miss something you've never had, but when you're only making \$400 a week,

a 10 percent pay cut is painful ... very painful. We kept working and got paychecks, but they couldn't be released until the payroll was covered. Payday was Friday, but it was soon bumped to Monday and then Tuesday.

Beside the owner's signature were the initials DIP. When we went to cash our checks at the bank where they were drawn, the teller made a big deal about the initials, asking what that meant and then sending us to see a bank officer. It felt like every eye in the place was looking at you as you made the walk to the other side of the room. The bank wouldn't cash the check until it made sure there was money in the account. Needless to say, no one wanted to be the last one to the bank.

One Christmas, the court allowed the owner to do a trade-out, so we had a potluck Christmas dinner and everyone received a turkey. When the business prepared to exit bankruptcy, we received a \$100 gift, also approved by the court.

The bankruptcy went away eventually, but its effect lingered for a long time after. Disgruntled employees ended up decertifying the union and striking out on their own. They felt betrayed, but in looking back, it wasn't the union that had betrayed us, it was our employer who was looking for flexibility. A union contract didn't offer that.

Bankruptcy is ugly and it's even uglier when our lawmakers think it's OK. On Sunday, Barack Obama spoke about the need for accountability among the Big Three's CEOs. I hope the same is being asked at AIG, Citibank and the other financial institutions that have been bailed out by the government. They are the poster children for businesses behaving badly. They showed no scruples in suckering people in with their slick American dream schemes.

I also find it amazing that these executives are being hammered for mismanagement. They've made mistakes, they been slow to respond to changes in the market. But is it worse than what the banks have done? No. The automakers sell cars, and at least those cars come with warranties. The mortgages the banks peddled came with nothing but grief and we're all suffering because of it.

Sue Mason is editor of the Westland and Garden City Observer newspapers. She lives in Westland. If you have a comment, send her an e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com.

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SPORTS

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Sunday, December 14, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

New-look Ignition set to kick off 3rd season

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Detroit Ignition has undergone an "Xtreme" makeover since the Plymouth-based professional indoor soccer last played seven months ago.

Not only does the three-year-old franchise play in a new league — the Xtreme Soccer League — it has a new coach; a smaller, revised roster; and a pared-down schedule.

The good news for fans of the two-time regular-season

champions of the Major Indoor Soccer League is that 10 of the Ignition's 15 players return from last year.

The team's new coach, Matt Johnson, is a familiar face, having served as a player/assistant coach almost since Day 1 of the franchise's inception.

"This is all very exciting for me," said Johnson, who will relinquish his playing role this season to focus on the coaching. "I feel fortunate to be taking over a team that has a winning tradition and an

atmosphere of success."

The XSL will play the 2008-09 season with just four teams: Detroit, Milwaukee, Chicago and New Jersey. After the Major Indoor Soccer League broke apart following last season, three teams — Philadelphia, Baltimore and Monterrey — joined the fledgling National Indoor Soccer League.

"The way we look at the new setup is addition by subtrac-

Please see **IGNITION, B2**

FRESH START

What: Detroit Ignition professional indoor soccer team;

Who: The team is made up of 15 players, 10 of whom played on the team last season when it competed in the Major Indoor Soccer League;

When: The Ignition kicked off its 2008-09 season Saturday at Milwaukee; the team's home opener is Dec. 20 at 7:35 p.m. against New Jersey;

Where: The team plays its home games at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township; it trains at High Velocity Sports in Canton;

Changes in the wind: The Ignition is a member of the first-year Xtreme Soccer League, a four-team league that also includes franchises in New Jersey, Chicago and Milwaukee; its new coach is Matt Johnson, who served as a player/coach the previous two seasons.

Resurgent
Whalers top
Saginaw, 3-2

Goaltender Matt Hackett won his sixth straight start in stopping 34-of-36 shots and the Plymouth Whalers built a 3-0 lead into the third period to defeat the Saginaw Spirit, 3-2, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Wednesday at Compuware Arena.

Plymouth has won four games in a row and is now 13-13-3-0 (29 points).

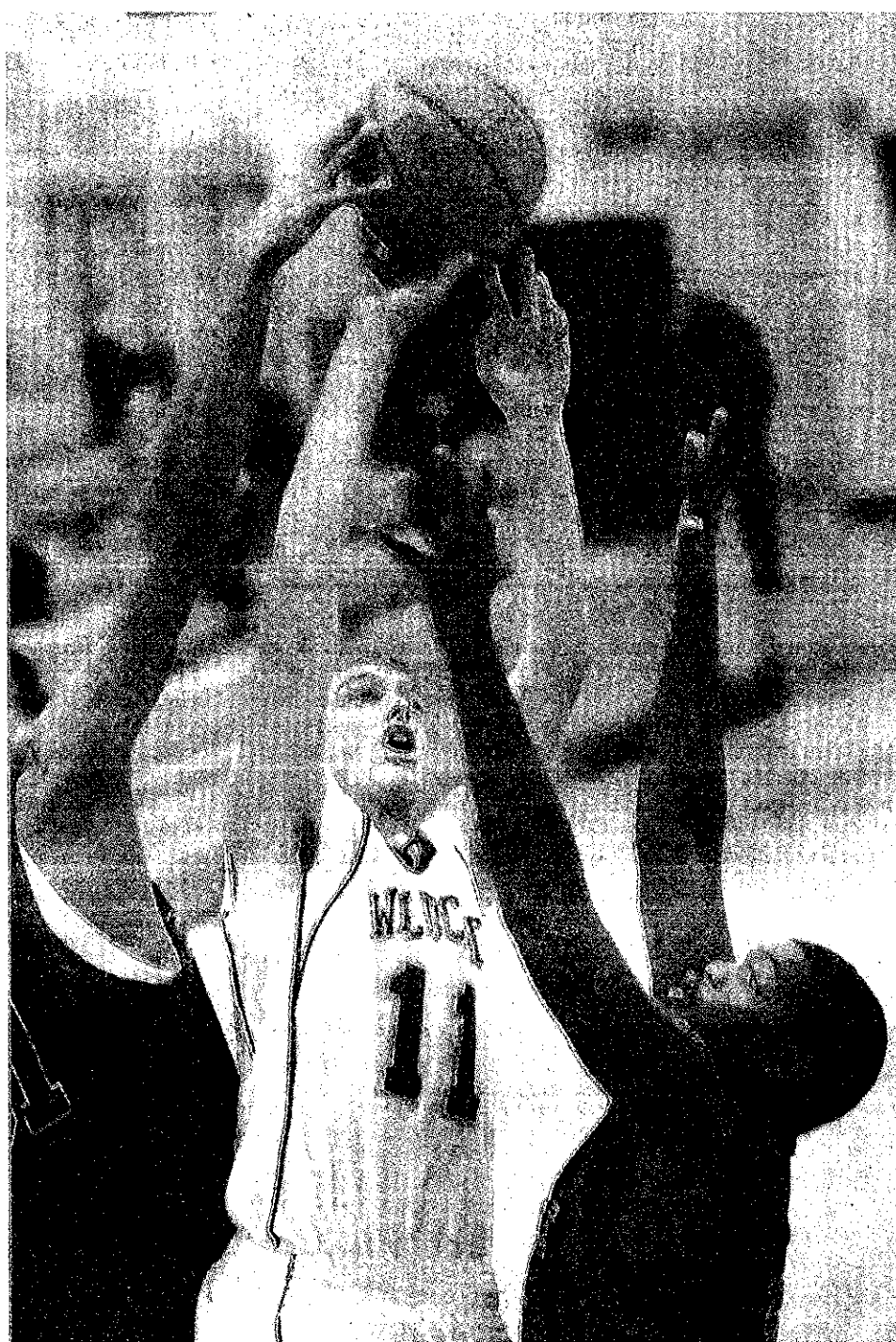
Combined with Sault Ste. Marie's 3-1 loss to Sudbury on Wednesday, the Whalers moved into fourth place of the OHL's West Division and eighth overall in the Western Conference. Saginaw had a four-game winning streak snapped and is now 19-9-0-1.

RJ Mahalak (Monroe), Chris Terry and Ryan Hayes scored for Plymouth, which led 2-0 after 40 minutes.

Saginaw replied with third period goals by Joe Pleckaitis and Tyler Murovich and pulled goaltender Edward Pasquale with 35.7 left in regulation, but the Spirit couldn't find the equalizer.

Mahalak's goal — his sixth of the season — came at 6:10 on a rebound from the lower rim of the left circle after Pasquale stopped Michal Jordan's shot from the right point.

Terry scored his team-leading 14th of the year at 16:26 of the second period when he accepted Beau Schmitt's stretch pass out of

Please see **WHALERS, B3**

Brad Lineberry (11), pictured during a game last season, provides Plymouth's basketball team with a high level of skills along with invaluable leadership abilities. The 6-1 forward was named the team's captain.

Young 'Cats
ready for
big seasonBY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An infusion of high-rising talent gives Plymouth's boys basketball team reason for high hopes as it enters the 2008-09 season.

Although the Wildcats return only 10 percent of their scoring from last year's 9-13 unit, the addition of several new players and the return of a few standouts from last year should

be enough to make coach Tom Van Wagoner's squad a contender in the first year of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division.

"We lost six seniors that contributed largely to victories last season, so we'll have a new-look team," said Van Wagoner. "We'll be young and athletic, and looking to gain experience while experiencing success."

The makeup of the Wildcats' roster will include six seniors, five juniors and three sophomores.

"I expect us to have good balance in scoring," said Van Wagoner. "We'll be starting three sophomores, so we'll definitely be one of the younger teams around."

Nearly half the Wildcats' 13-player roster is made up of seniors. Brad Lineberry, a 6-foot-1 hard-working guard, will serve as the captain. Lineberry recently signed to play baseball at Madonna

Please see **PREVIEW, B2**Time flies when
you're having fun

Pictured are members of the Canton Lions junior football team who played on teams that had a combined record of 45-3 over the past five years. The Lions freshmen team was featured in an Observer article (held up by Daniel Tidwell, top) in 2004. The pictured players played key roles in winning four divisional championships, three Super Bowls and a Super Bowl runner-up finish. They outscored their opponents, 1,567-570. Pictured are (front row from left) Travis McCall, Scott Gring, Alex Smith, (second row from left) Luke Denner, Danny Stropes, Jordan Ciciotti, Nathan Emminger, Brandon Lee and (top row) Daniel Tidwell.



Olech sparks Crusaders' win

Christie Carrico and Plymouth High's Kim Olech led the way as the Madonna University women's basketball team rolled to a 78-60 non-conference win Wednesday night over host Marygrove College in a game played at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School Arena.

Carrico, hitting 12-of-15 free throws, led the victorious Crusaders (3-8) with 20 points. She also grabbed 14 rebounds.

Olech, a transfer from Adrian College, also had a double-double with 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Also getting into the act for MU was Alyssa Guerin (Salem) and Tabatha Wydryck with 12 points apiece. Guard Katie Mount added eight points and six assists.

Lonnie Terrell had 19 points to pace the Mustangs (1-9). Keyandra Linebarger added 10.

Marygrove was outrebounded 60-32.

MU is off the rest of the week for final exams before returning to action 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Activities Center to face NAIA No. 18-ranked Cedarville University (Ohio).

Schmitt update

Canton native Allison Schmitt, who won a bronze medal at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China, earned a silver medal in the 500-yard freestyle event at the U.S. Short Course Nationals at Georgia Tech University in Atlanta last week-end.

Schmitt's time of 4:39.55 was a personal best.

The 2008 graduate of Canton High School also placed fifth in the 200 freestyle with a personal-best clocking of 1:45.14. She also recorded a personal-best time of 23.23 in the 50-yard freestyle.

Short-course meets are held in 25-yard pools, half the length of long-course and Olympic competitions.

Sanders' feat

Kyle Sanders, a 2008 graduate of Plymouth High School and a freshman at Arizona State University, recently passed his "Player Ability Test," which is a major step in acquiring a Professional Golf Management degree at ASU.

Sanders shot rounds of 71 and 79 at Lone Tree Golf Club in Chandler, Ariz. Students needed to shoot a two-round score of 154 or lower to pass.

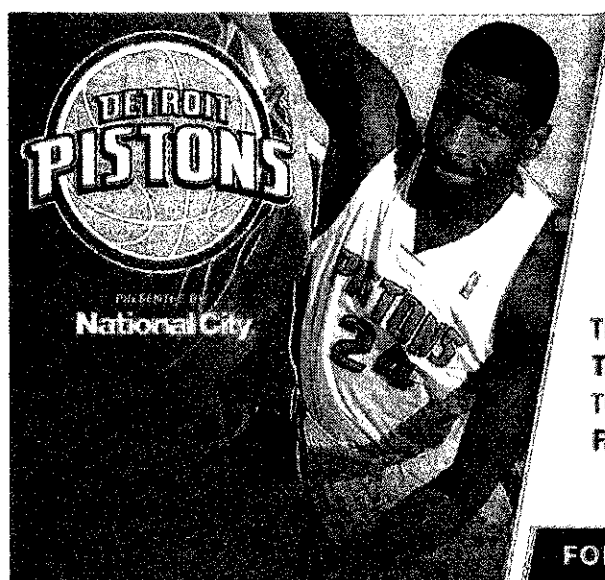
'Hockey Night' in Plymouth

Friday night will be a significant evening for prep soccer in this area.

At 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, former members of the Canton, Salem and Plymouth boys hockey programs will compete in an alumni game.

Immediately following the alumni contest, the Salem and Plymouth boys hockey teams will square off in a key KLAAs contest.

The high school game is expected to start at approximately 8:30 p.m.

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Canton prepared to give foes a run for their money

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton's basketball team will hit the court running this season.

And it won't quit until the final buzzer sounds, according to second-year head coach Dan Colligan, who will be imploring his team to function at a quicker pace than usual.

"We don't have a lot of size, but we're pretty fast," said Colligan, whose team is coming off a 7-14 season. "I want us to run a lot this season, but to do that we have to be a great rebounding team. We're not there quite yet, but the boys are working hard to get there."

Colligan said he's looking forward to the inaugural season of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

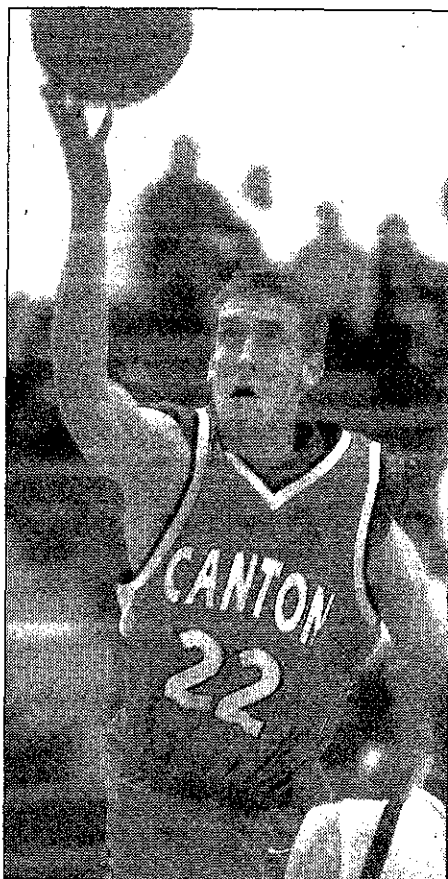
"I think all the changes are exciting," he said. "The games will be tough, night in and night out. I know the kids are fired up about it."

While the Chiefs only have one player that stands taller than 6-foot-2, they have several others who play taller than their listed height. One of those is 6-foot-2 senior forward Daniel Stoney, a three-sport athlete who kicked for the Chiefs' football team in the fall.

"Dan is one of those guys who leaves it all out on the floor every game," said Colligan. "He's a high-energy guy who never gives less than 100 percent."

Key players in the Chiefs' back-court rotation are senior Kyle Biega, a 6-foot senior; Marlan Glenn, a 5-10 senior; and Dietrich Lever, an electrifying 5-8 sophomore.

Lever was unfazed when he was called up to play as a freshman in a District game this past spring as he netted 12 points and five assists in less



Senior Daniel Stoney brings a high-energy brand of play to Canton's basketball team.

than two quarters of action.

"He's a pass-first point guard who handles the ball really well and gets the ball to guys who are in position to score," said Colligan. "Defensively, he's tenacious."

"We're moving Kyle from the point to the wing because he has a good perim-

PREP HOOP PREVIEW

eter shot. He started nearly every game last year as a junior, so he brings a lot of experience to the team.

"Marlan is one of our best outside shooters."

Colligan said the team's best shooter is 6-foot senior guard Sherif Hassanien, who was one of the Chiefs' top reserves as a junior.

"We're not sure yet if Sherif will start or come off the bench," Colligan revealed. "He's the kind of player who can change a game with his energy and shooting ability."

Joining Stoney in the starting front-court is 5-9 senior forward Kiere Daniels.

"Kiere's 5-9, but he plays like he's 6-3," said Colligan. "He's one of our best defensive players and he's a very active rebounder."

Among the top reserves are 6-2 senior George Muresan, 6-4 junior forward Kevin Weise and 6-2 junior forward Kai Walther.

"George is a great student of the game and one of our best defenders in the post," said Colligan. "Kevin is a good outside shooter who can hit the pull-up jumper on the break. Kai was our best rebounder on the junior varsity last year. He's a very heady player."

Providing valuable depth will be seniors Zach DeLoy, a 5-11 guard, and Joey Krizanek, a 6-foot forward; and a trio of juniors: Brandon Duffey, a 6-1 swing player; Yusef Bazzi, a 5-10 point guard; and Alex Martin, a 6-foot shooting guard.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Josh Rife is one of 10 Detroit Ignition players to return from last year's team.

IGNITION

FROM PAGE B1

tion," said Johnson. "The four teams we have in the league now are all committed to the long term, which will give our league stability."

"There's no question it could get a little repetitive playing only three other teams until the league adds more teams in the future, but on the other hand, strong rivalries will develop, which is a good thing."

The Ignition will have a definite local flavor to its roster this season. Among the players whose hometowns are nearby include Livonia's Tino Scicluna, Birmingham's Ryan Mack and Worthen Sampson, who played college soccer at Madonna University.

Scicluna, the head coach of the Madonna University men's soccer team, played one season for the Detroit Rockers in 2000-01. Mack was among the MISL's leading scorers last season while Sampson could be a future star in the new league, Johnson forecasted.

"Worthen has great potential," said Johnson. "We lost a couple

of our top scorers from last year's team, so we're hoping he's one of the guys who steps up and realizes his potential this season."

Jamar Beasley, the team's top scorer last season, signed to play with the Rockford Rampage of the NISL.

"We would have liked to have kept everybody, but it was financially impossible," said Johnson, who took on a general manager-type role during the off-season.

Other returners from last year's Ignition contingent include mid-fielders Vahid Assadpour and Kyt Selaidopoulos; defenders Josh Rife, Dreo Callahan and Nate Craft; forward Mike Apple; and goal-keeper Danny Waltman.

"I expect a solid year from Danny this season," Johnson added. "He really came on and had a good season last year."

The Ignition opened its 2008-09 campaign Saturday at Milwaukee. The team's home-opener is Dec. 20 against New Jersey. The opening kick is set for 7:35 p.m. at Compuware Arena.

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PREVIEW

FROM PAGE B1

University.

A pair of other two-sport senior stars — 6-2 Zach Hamed (football) and 5-10 Cliff Buttermore (baseball) — will provide athleticism and perimeter shooting.

Six-foot senior Jordan Jones

is a "high-wire player" in Van Wagoner's estimation while 6-1 Ryan Spencer will provide instant energy off the bench.

Leading the 'Cats' junior class are 5-10 Dion Johnson, a "creative and solid contributor," and hard-working 6-2 guard Adam Skubik.

A trio of junior newcomers — 5-10 Alontae McElhaney, 5-10 Marquee Taylor and

6-3 Aaron Thompson — are all difference-makers, Van Wagoner said.

All three sophomores on the team have already earned starting berths. Leading the way is 6-6 post player Justin Moss, who played well as a freshman following a late-season promotion last season. Brennen Beyer, a 6-3 forward, is tenacious in the paint and

6-0 Mike Nadratowski is one of the team's best shooters.

The Wildcats opened with an impressive 40-point victory over South Lyon East on Tuesday night.

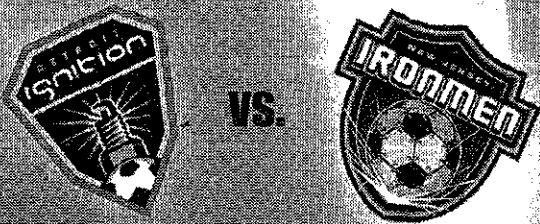
"If we share the ball all season like we did against East, we'll have a good season," said Van Wagoner.

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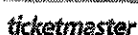
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WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

the Plymouth zone to the Saginaw blue line. Terry skated by Saginaw defenseman Nick Crawford and beat Pasquale with a well-placed shot from the right circle.

Hayes scored his 10th of the year at 6:44 of the third period to give Plymouth a 3-0 with a shot through traffic in tight on the left wing.

Pleckatis cut the Plymouth lead to 3-1 on a power-play goal at 13:08 of the period with he ripped a rebound from the left hashmark by Hackett.

Murovich scored his 12th of the season 1:22 later at 14:30 with a hard shot from the left circle that was tucked inside the short side

post.

Hackett saved some of his best work for early in the third period when Saginaw had a two-man advantage and was steady all night in raising his record to 10-5-1-0. His last loss came Nov. 8 in a 4-2 decision to Ottawa at Compuware Arena.

Newest Whaler

After the game, Plymouth President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci announced the Whalers acquired overage defenseman Scott Fletcher (Haslett, MI) from the Niagara IceDogs in exchange for London's eighth round draft choice in 2010.

The 20-year-old Fletcher is the third overage (1988 birthday) on the Plymouth

roster. OHL teams can carry three overages and Plymouth has had right wing Patrick Lee on the roster all season and acquired center Matt Caria from Sault Ste. Marie on Tuesday. Caria made his debut tonight, skating on a forward line with Terry and right wing Kaine Geldart.

Fletcher was originally selected by Saginaw in the

second round (22nd overall) in the 2004 OHL Draft and was traded to Niagara in 2007.

In 201 OHL games in his career, Fletcher has scored one goal with nine assists for 10 points and 561 penalty minutes.

Fletcher started the season with Providence of the American Hockey League before returning to Niagara.

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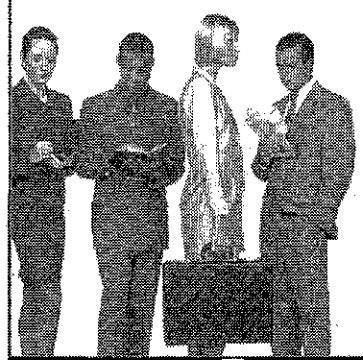
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1055 Manufacturers Dr. Westland. Or submit resume to: nessymic@yahoo.com Absolutely No Phone Inquiries

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Accepting Applications: CENA's, LPNs, RNs
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MEDICAL - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
PT, FT. \$13-\$16/hr. to start. Medical billing, computer exp., Access, Excel req. Located in Novi. Email resume: kjmayrand@comcast.net

MEDICAL ASSISTANT/EMT
Medical house call practice in Southfield seeks medical assistant or EMT with good phlebotomy and patient care experience. Great salary & benefits. Fax resume to 248-352-8800

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Saturday accelerated classes beginning in January, 10-4pm. Garden City, \$900 (313) 362-3857

Receptionist/ Medical Biller w/Exp
For podiatry office in Southfield. PT. Exp. required. Send resume: 248-623-1697

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For growing specialty practice full or part time. Exp. required; Allergy exp. a plus. Must be dependable, self directed, positive, team player. E-mail resume: stadlesmith.kenwood@yahoo.com

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

COOK - Line & Batch Cooking
PT. Weekends. Exp. req. Apply at: Grand Court Retirement Community, 36550 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills.

Servers (P/T) and Pastry/Baker (P/T) PASQUALES
31555 Woodward, Royal Oak (248) 549-4002

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

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MIAC to add five schools in '09-10

BY DAN STICKRADT
ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Independent Athletic Conference is about to become bigger.

Currently a 12-member league, the MIAC announced that it will add five schools for the 2009-10 school year. Coming on board for in August will be Ann Arbor Greenhills, Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest, Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett, Westland Lutheran and Newport Lutheran South, giving the league 17 schools.

Currently the league operates two divisions, Blue Division and Red Division, of six schools each.

"This is the biggest it has ever been," said Ed Mehlberg, the league commissioner and athletics director at Auburn Hills Oakland Christian. "The biggest it has been is 12, which is where we are at now. We were 12 once before, a few years ago."

Lutheran Northwest, Liggett and Westland all come over from the Metro Conference,

which will shrink to a five-school league. Those same three schools left the MIAC for the Metro in 1993.

Greenhills and Lutheran South have been independents, although Lutheran South is only in its fourth year of existence.

This is the first addition since current MIAC member Ypsilanti Calvary Christian came aboard three years ago from the Fundamental Baptist Athletic Conference, replacing Dearborn World Outreach Christian, which shuttered its doors in 2004.

All current and new members of the MIAC are also members of Michigan High School Athletic Association for state-wide tournaments.

"This will make us stronger in every sport," Mehlberg said. "This will make us one of the premier small-school conferences in the state."

The MIAC schools have had a history of success on the state scene in many sports, with numerous state champions, state runners-up, Final Four and state quarterfinalist teams

across the board.

"There has been numerous times when schools in our league have won state championships or been in Final Fours," said Mehlberg, whose own school won the Division 4 state crown in boys soccer last month.

"This will make us very competitive, across the board," said Ernie Righetti, the athletics director at Birmingham Roeper and also the school's boys and girls basketball coach. "Nobody will be able to win 10 straight league titles in anything."

Using enrollments from last school year, Greenhills will be the largest school in the league at 340 students in grades 9-12. Lutheran Northwest will follow with 307, while Southfield Christian (236), University-Liggett (211), Westland Lutheran (206), Oakland Christian (204), Birmingham Roeper (2001), Sterling Heights Parkway Christian (191), Plymouth Christian (160), Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (99), Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (97), Novi

Franklin Road Christian (95), Warren Macomb Christian (80), Ypsilanti Calvary Christian (60), Canton Agape Christian (54) and Lutheran South (48).

The expansion will also allow for football to become a conference sport, as Southfield Christian, Parkway Christian, Oakland Christian, Westland Lutheran, University-Liggett and Lutheran Northwest will begin a conference schedule next year on the gridiron.

The league already sponsors boys and girls basketball, girls volleyball, boys and girls soccer, cross-country, track and field, boys golf, baseball and softball. Some of the league members will also have wrestling, boys and girls tennis, girls golf and bowling teams, although not enough for a league schedule.

"These schools bring so much to the table," Mehlberg said.

"The league's athletics directors will convene next week to further discuss possible divisions, on whether to go to a two- or a three-division format."

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 16
Redford Union at Salem, 7 p.m.
PCA at Canton at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18
Canton Agape at Mt. Carmel, 7:30 p.m.
Livonia Stevenson at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19
PCA at Franklin Road, 8 p.m.
GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 15
Canton at Howell, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 16
PCA at Canton Agape, 6 p.m.
Plymouth at Detroit Community, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 17
Salem at Brighton, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18
Canton Agape at Mt. Carmel, 6 p.m.
Plymouth at Livonia Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19
Canton at Salem, 7 p.m.
PCA at Franklin Road, 6 p.m.
BOYS PREP HOCKEY
Monday, Dec. 15
Salem at Novi
at Novi Arena, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 16
Grosse Ile at Salem
at Plymouth Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.

Northville at Plymouth at Compuware, 6:10 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 17
Plymouth at Livonia Stevenson at Eddie Edgar, 6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19
Plymouth at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20
Canton at Detroit Country Day at Oak Park Arena, 2 p.m.
GIRLS PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Dec. 16
Northville at PCS at Compuware, 7:50 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18
PCS at Grosse Pointe South, 7:30 p.m.
GROSS WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 17
Plymouth at Allen Park quad, TBA
Saturday, Dec. 20
Canton at Woodhaven Invitational, 8 a.m.
Plymouth at Ida Team Tournament, TBA
BOYS SWIMMING
Tuesday, Dec. 16
Ann Arbor Pioneer at Canton, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19
Wildcat Swim Invitational at Salem pool, 6:30 p.m.

Madonna spikers earn All-America status

Madonna University seniors Lubovj Tihomirova and Whitney Fuelling were both named to the 2008 Tachikara-NAIA Volleyball All-America teams.

Tihomirova, a first-team selection from Riga, Latvia, ranked 11th nationally with 4.08 kill per set and sits fifth all-time at MU with a total of 2,413 kills.

In her final season, Tihomirova finished with 616 kills this fall as the Crusaders finished 35-7 overall and captured their 12th straight Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference title and earned its seventh straight trip to the NAIA Nationals.

Tihomirova also led MU in aces with 43 this season and hold the single season record for kills (967) set in 2007.

Fuelling, a native of Milford, earned second-team honors after ranking 10th in the nation with a .385 atgtack percentage.

The senior middle hitter also paced the WHAC in blocks with 1.3 per set and ranked 18th nationally.

Four Crusaders also earned NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete honors including Fuelling, along with juniors Inta Grinvalds (Portage Central), Mary McGinnis (Fraser) and Byrnn Kerr (Livonia Churchill/Schoolcraft College).

To be selected, a student-athlete must be a junior or senior and carry a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or better.

Grinvalds, a nursing major, was second nationally with 10.83 assists per set, while Kerr, majoring in math and education, led the Crusaders with 513 digs in her first season as the team's libero.

McGinnis, majoring in art and education, was second on the team and in the top-ten in the WHAC in kills with 474.

'Super' third period leads Rocks over Country Day

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Detroit Country Day goalie Alex Cantrell played like Superman during the first two periods of Thursday night's game against visiting Salem.

But the Rocks pieced together a kryptonite-laced comeback over the final 10 minutes to earn a dramatic 3-2 triumph.

When it was all said and done, Cantrell finished with 39 saves as Salem outshot their hosts 42-21. However, three net-finder over the final 10 minutes helped the Rocks improve their record to 3-3-2.

"Tonight's game was 45 minutes of pretty good hockey," said Salem coach Ryan

HOCKEY

Ossenmacher. "We outshot them two-to-one, but their goalie played really well. It could have been a lot different without him in net."

"Last Saturday, we were leading 2-0 and ended up losing 8-5, so we worked the guys pretty hard in practice this week. They responded really well tonight."

Salem's Josh Jarvela cut his team's 2-0 deficit in half with 10 minutes left when he scored off assists from Mario Macari and David Russell.

A few minutes later, Nick Hayes provided the equalizer off an assist from Jarvela.

Macari netted the game-winner with approximately three minutes left. Hayes and Ryan Quigley assisted.

"There was a scramble in front and Mario backhanded a rebound shot over the goalie, who had dropped to the ice," said Ossenmacher. "It was a good goal."

The Rocks face a busy schedule next week beginning with Monday's game at Novi. On Tuesday they host Grosse Ile at the Plymouth Cultural Center before taking on Plymouth Friday at the same venue.

Friday's game will be preceded by the annual Plymouth-Canton-Salem alumni game.

PLYMOUTH 7, DEARBORN

UNIFIED 2: On Wednesday at the DISC, the Wildcats dominated their hosts thanks to a two-goal effort from Zach Gambrell and a one-goal-two-assist performance from Tyler Sanders.

"This was a good win for us after we suffered a tough loss against Chelsea," said Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender. "I'm not real happy with our goal output — we outshot them 38-14, so we probably should have scored some more goals, but I'm happy with the way the boys played."

In addition to Gambrell and Sanders, goal scorers for the winners were Pat Smiatacz, Nick Sofios, Luke Merandi and Kyle Callahan.

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

SEEKING LOW DRAMA
SWF, 36, long brown/gray, NS, athletic build, pretty, animals lover, in search of attractive, fit, funny, easygoing SWM, 27-43, with no children, for dating, possible LTR with right man. **Ⓢ286534**

GREAT EXPECTATIONS
Good looking SWF, hwp, intelligent, mature, spiritual, seeking a SM, 5'7", 40-50, physically fit, good looking inside and out, loving, who likes traveling, for friendship first leading to LTR. **Ⓢ2147056**

MATURE MAN WANTED
SBF, 33, 5'4", 115lbs, caramel complexion, brown eyes, short blonde hair, wears glasses. Seeking tall, muscular SM, 23+, who enjoys bookstores, movies, dining, water. **Ⓢ2287856**

HONEST & DOWN-TO-EARTH
Cute, outgoing woman, 40, loves animals, the outdoors. Seeking honest, clean, handsome, compassionate gentleman, 40s-early 50s, for friendship, dating possible LTR. **Ⓢ2256421**

ARE YOU LONELY?
Attractive female, 5'7", 120lbs, fun-loving blonde, retired, would love a little of your time to enjoy each other's company. Seeking pleasant gentleman, 65-75. **Ⓢ2891247**

SEEKING A MATURE MAN
Attractive SWF, 35, NS, N/Drugs, would like to meet respectable, happy SWM, 25-50, to enjoy life. **Ⓢ2306680**

HARD WORKER SEEKS SAME
SBF, 44, NS, mother, seeks old-fashioned BM, 29-46, NS, homemaker, to explore all life has to offer. Enjoy reading, bike rides, playing tennis. **Ⓢ2274818**

VERY DOWN-TO-EARTH
SBF, 37, 5'4", 125lbs, slim build, enjoys nice walks in the park, movies, bowling, basketball games. Seeking SM, 30-43. **Ⓢ2291111**

ARE WE A MATCH?
SBF, 38, very shapely, NS, light drinker, very independent, loves movies, sports, shooting pool, dining. Seeking SWM, 35+, very independent, who enjoys life, movies, etc. **Ⓢ2297970**

VERY ATTRACTIVE
SBF, 37, mother, looking for attractive, sexy, tall, dark-complexioned, employed, intelligent BM, 33-50, for friendship possibly leading to LTR. **Ⓢ2282115**

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
WWMF, 57, homemaker, independent, a little lonely, dog owner, enjoys quiet times, good talks and togetherness. Seeking a kind man to share these. **Ⓢ211330**

TAKE A CHANCE
SF, 48, 5'7", 210lbs, medium brown/gray, NS, no children, enjoys drama times, football, good playing cards, sports events, long drives, more. Seeking SM, 45-65, who enjoys the same. **Ⓢ2263039**

LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT
Outgoing, laid-back SWF, 40, sincere and light-hearted seeks easygoing, fun SM, who knows how to enjoy life, to share talks, dates, friendship and possible LTR. **Ⓢ2250010**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
SBF, mature, intelligent, 5'5, 5'3", 130lbs, seeks mature, intelligent man, for casual dating and friendship. **Ⓢ2267624**

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR?
WF, 48, 5'3", brown/brown, has pets, NS, great sense of humor, looking for WM, 45-55, who likes dining out, museums, movies, reading and more, to do things with. **Ⓢ2280581**

HOMEBODY SEEKS SAME
SBF, 44, 5'2", 165lbs, black hair, brown eyes, light complexion, NS, enjoys movies, bowling, dining, plays, concerts, reading. Seeking SM, 39-51. **Ⓢ2243588**

ARE YOU THE ONE?
SF, 41, 5'4", dark complexion, brown eyes, short hair, looking to meet an honest, loyal, funny man, 37-55, to spend a lot of time together. **Ⓢ2286947**

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...
40-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 47-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. Only Jesu men please. **Ⓢ2282377**

CURVACEOUS
SWF, 47, 5'7", 155lbs, hazel eyes, dimples, enjoys r&b music, jazz, dancing, dining out, blues, sports. Seeking SM, 21-42, with similar interests, for friendship first. **Ⓢ2286005**

I'M UNIQUE
complex with a good sense of humor, good listener and great talent. God-fearing, enjoys movies, music, books and more. Searching for a male companion with the same or similar qualities. 35-50. **Ⓢ2301069**

A NEW BEGINNING

SBF, 47, 5'4", likes action movies, swimming, dancing, plays outdoors, just having fun. Seeking SM, 45-55, for friendship or more. **Ⓢ2289151**

PRETTY COMIC BOOK NERD
SWF, 21, red hair, blue eyes, 5'10", 165lbs, mature body/mind, looking for a lonely handsome man, 20-33, nice open, clean-cut, open-minded, who can make me laugh and who is witty. **Ⓢ2292913**

PETITE AND CUTE
SWF, 35, great sense of style, very friendly, would like to meet a SWM, 38-45, who will love me for me. **Ⓢ2294943**

THAT SPECIAL ONE
SBF, 39, enjoys movies, walks in the park, picnics, just chilling. Looking for SM, 39-45, for possible relationship. **Ⓢ2256026**

SEEKING STRONG BM
40, looks younger, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys working, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking handsome, well-built, warm-hearted, considerate WM, 36-43, to share what life has to offer. **Ⓢ2286002**

SINGLE DAD WELCOME
PBF, 40, looks younger, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys working, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking handsome, well-built, warm-hearted, considerate WM, 36-43, to share what life has to offer. **Ⓢ2286002**

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?
Bright, spunky, pretty SF, 47, educator, outgoing, pretty eyes, wishing to meet a kind Jewish man, 45-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. **Ⓢ2300694**

CLASSY LADY
SBF, middle-aged, attractive, enjoys dining, movies, plays and bowling, seeks a SM, 48-59, NS, good sense of humor and good values/morals. **Ⓢ227254**

I NEED LOVE
Fun-loving, down-to-earth, outgoing, smart SBF, 20, loves having fun. Seeking SWM, 18-30, who shares my last for life. **Ⓢ2300110**

JUST A NICE PERSON...
looking for a nice man. Tall SBF, 42, 5'8", long hair, glasses, seeks SM, 45-55, WM a plus. **Ⓢ2246520**

HONESTY A MUST
BF, 42, 5'4", 180lbs, shapely, brown/brown, seeking an honest man, 40-50, N/Drugs, who enjoys the good things in life. I like plays, dancing, dining out, good company and working out. **Ⓢ2256604**

BLACK BEAUTY SEEKS...
White Knight, Spontaneous SM, 35, brown eyes, in search of adventurous, honest, attractive WM, 25-35, with great sense of humor. I enjoy movies, reading, working out, etc. **Ⓢ2282032**

LET'S GET TOGETHER!
Sexy SBF, 40, NS, seeks fun and witty WM, 35-50, for friendship first, maybe more. **Ⓢ2270132**

LOVELY VIRGO
SBF, 45, with a young heart, enjoys cartoons, music, going to a nice man. Tall SBF, 42, 5'8", long hair, glasses, seeks SM, 45-55, WM a plus. **Ⓢ2246520**

BEAUTIFUL
BIBF, 37, beautiful, classy and open-minded, looking for a nice man. Tall SBF, 42, 5'8", long hair, glasses, seeks SM, 45-55, WM a plus. **Ⓢ2246520**

HEART OF GOLD
SBF, 39, 5'5", average build, smoker, enjoys cross word puzzles, old-school lifestyle, movies, dining. Seeking athletic, active SM, 30-42, 8+, smoker, for friendship, possible romance. **Ⓢ226442**

DOWN-TO-EARTH AND HONEST
SBF, 38, 5'10", NS, short hair, no children, looking for SM, 35-50, who enjoys festivities, travel, spending time together. **Ⓢ2266650**

LET'S DANCE IN THE RAIN!
Pettie SBF, 38, 150lb, brown eyes, mother of two, enjoys cooking, music, church. Looking for SM, 35-75. **Ⓢ2281372**

GREAT-LOOKING BF...
35, seeks serious, mature, financially secure man for LTR. Call me; you might be disappointed. **Ⓢ2283172**

BEAUTIFUL SBF...
37, seeks SWM, 30-50, who is spontaneous and knows how to have fun. Casual relationship first, maybe leading to more. **Ⓢ2271483**

ONE GOOD WOMAN LEFT
SBF, 47, 5'7", full-figured, NS, like roller skating, canoeing, exercise, theater, travel. Seeking a gentleman, 45-70, who is healthy, fun-loving, financially secure, looks decent. **Ⓢ2277304**

A POLISHED DIAMOND
Attractive, sexy BF, 34, seeks true gentleman. You won't be disappointed when we meet! **Ⓢ2287057**

DOWN-TO-EARTH

Easygoing DMF, early 30s, would like to meet a really nice WM, 30-45, with the same qualities: minimal baggage, to share the ups and downs of life. Seeking possible LTR. **Ⓢ2279171**

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!
WWMF, 62, seeking golfer, best friend, 62-70, must be honest, NS, and active. Looking for LTR, don't delay call now. **Ⓢ278914**

CLASSY LADY
I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. ISO honest, compassionate SM, 57-65, NS. Possible LTR. **Ⓢ2293205**

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE
SWF, 55, 5'6", NS, HW/proportionate, active, fun-loving, likes bike rides, working out, taking walks, autumn. Seeking SWM, 45-55, for dating, possible LTR. **Ⓢ226774**

READY FOR A FRESH START?
DMF, 51, 5'5", 120lbs, long blonde/gray, well-proportioned, very feminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SWM, 45-57, 6'1", 225-245, good sense of humor, energetic, traveler, outdoorsman, adventurer, many gentlemen. **Ⓢ226649**

WHY NOT CALL?
SBF, full-figured, seeks SM, 37-50, for friendship, possible LTR. Call me, let's get together and get to know each other. **Ⓢ2271234**

WARM SMILE
SBF, 21, NS, looking for SM, 21-40, for friendship first, possibly more. Call me, let's talk and get to know each other! **Ⓢ227187**

LET'S HAVE FUN
SWF, likes camping, fishing, hiking, motorcycles, seeking a SWM, 30-45, who enjoys the same, for friendship first, possible LTR. **Ⓢ2249593**

LIVE LIFE 2 THE FULLEST
SF, 18, enjoys music, architectural design and trying new things. Seeking SM, creative and fun, with passion for the same, to share friendship, good times and then who knows? **Ⓢ2274152**

ACTIVE WOMAN
SWF, dark hair and eyes, NS, social drinker, likes bowling, bingo, garage sales, funny movies, and more. If you would like to meet for coffee, let me know. **Ⓢ2262181**

HELLO THERE
Asian woman, 5'7", 160lb, slim, attractive, health-conscious, vegetarian, NS, NS. Enjoys dining, movies, quiet times. Seeking clean-cut, fit, attractive, respectful, professional Asian or White male for dating and possibly more. **Ⓢ2113901**

A WOMAN OF CLASS
SWF, 68, looks younger, in search of a SWM, 62-69, who likes movies, dining, theater. Is it you? **Ⓢ2271065**

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR
SWF, 27, mother, enjoys swimming, walking, travel, being outdoors. Seeking similar SWM, 25-45, for companionship. **Ⓢ2282578**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
SBF, 54, 5'8", NS, enjoys life's simple pleasures. Seeking SWM, 48-62, NS, for friendship or more. **Ⓢ2264444**

MUSICAL GIRL
Christian WVF, 18, enjoys playing guitar, singing, going to church and more. Looking for SM, 19-25, who enjoys the same things. **Ⓢ2222258**

OUTGOING
BF, 24, student, looking for SM, 35-45, to go out and have fun with. Friendship first, hopefully leading to LTR. **Ⓢ222940**

PRETTY EYES
SBF, 33, voluptuous in all the right places, enjoys life, long walks, intellectual conversation. Seeking SM, 30-50, similar interests. **Ⓢ2296970**

TRY THIS ONE
Loving, sincere SBF, 58, outgoing, looking for a good-hearted, Christian gentleman with The Lord in his heart to share life, laughter, happiness and possible LTR. **Ⓢ224294**

WORTH A CALL
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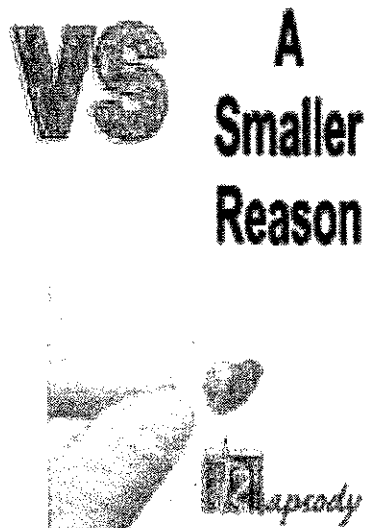
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Holidays a time for sharing

Everyone has been affected by the economy, but some a lot more than others. This year, the need is greater than ever for charities caring for the less fortunate. I was reminded of this last week when I spoke to nonprofit organizations in our communities. Even though we might not be able to give as much as in the past it's important to do what we can.

JA'NOAH HOUSE

Audrey Mattson of Livonia is still taking clothing and food to the poor and homeless in the Norwayne area of Westland, Brightmoor, Cass Corridor, and Brewster Projects even though her husband, Carl, died in April 2007. The Livonia woman continues their work through the Ja'Noah House. Call (734) 522-5077 to help.



Linda Chomin

In years past, the couple was able to fill 250 holiday gift bags for children, this year only about 50.

"Every little bit means a lot even socks for the homeless, hats and gloves," said Mattson. "We're seeing more homeless on the streets. Even though they can go to the shelters at night, they have to walk the streets during the day and they're hungry."

CAPUCHIN SOUP KITCHENS

Sister Nancy Ann Turner is concerned about those with homes, but no heat. The Livonia nun runs the tutoring program at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Conner location. She's asking for educational and hand-held games for the 60 children and socks, blankets and hand and body lotions for everyone. Call (313) 822-8606, Ext. 210.

"I try to give the moms a food card. We have a lot more coming for meals," said Sister Turner. "For the low income it's kind of their way of life. Others they're struggling for the first time because they lost their job. Last year, we had families living without heat and people got sick."

Brother Vincent Reyes used to collect toys for the children at the Meldrum kitchen. This year, he's asking for caps and gloves for the kids in addition to underwear and tube socks for the homeless shower program. Call (313) 579-2100, Ext. 203.

"We're seeing more people at the Meldrum kitchen," said Reyes. "The family pack we give feeds a family of four for a week and usually includes 15 pounds of chicken now only 10 pounds, and the numbers jumped from September to October from 4,300 families to 5,100 families. It's going to be even worse next year. The economy is becoming more of a problem and people can't give what they haven't got."

FIRST STEP

Judith Barr has been busier than ever at First Step which helps survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Around 75 families need to be adopted for the holidays by this week. Call (734) 416-1111.

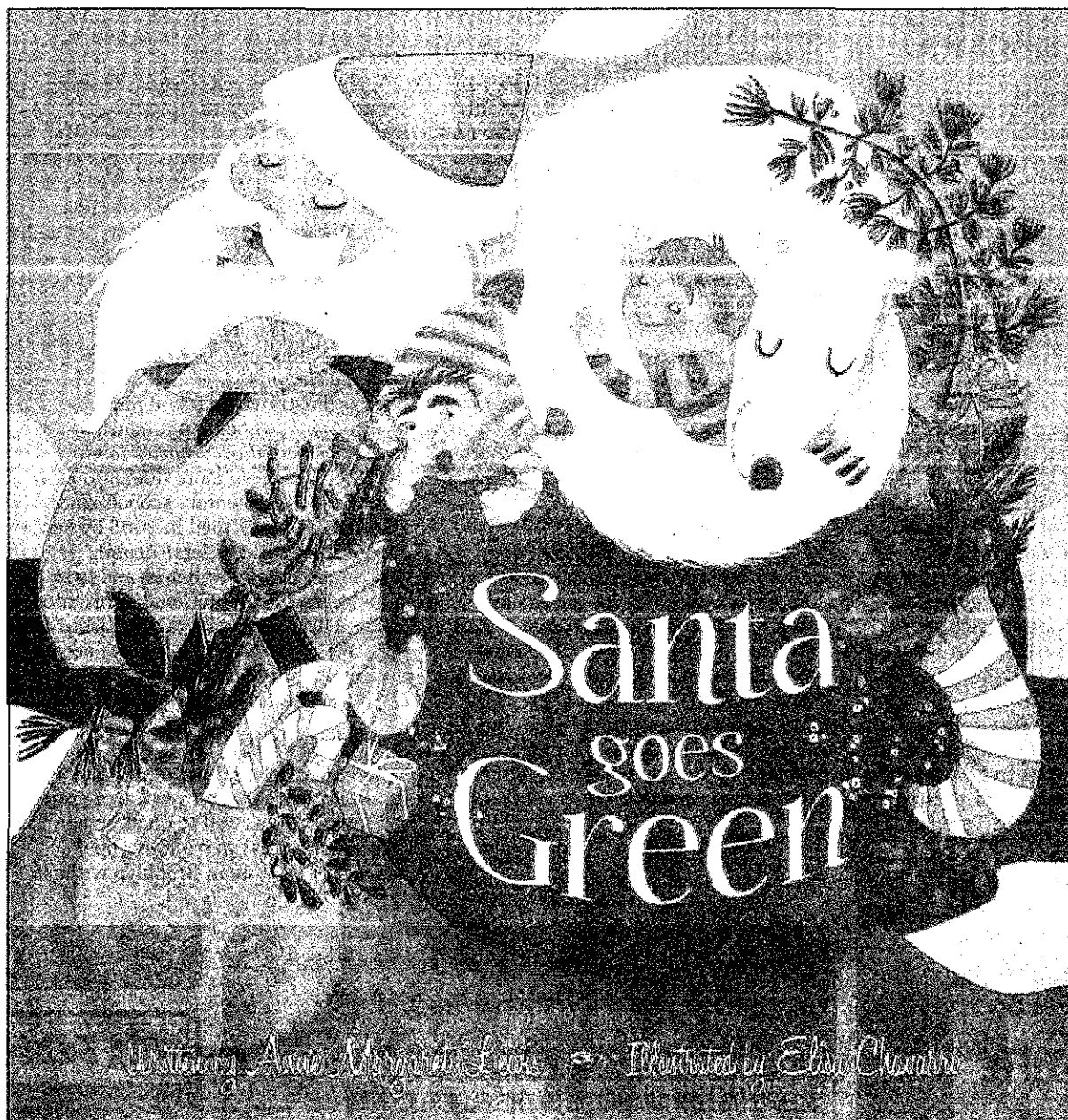
"When the economy is hurting and people are underemployed there's more stress which leads to an increase in family fighting and domestic violence. We're seeing more calls to the 24-hour line, seeing more women afraid to leave and prosecute because they need the income, the bread and milk," said Barr, associate director of the agency based in Plymouth. "We're in need of coats, pajamas, sweat suits used for assault response. When they go to hospitals and police stations, clothes are generally taken. We do need underwear, all sizes of socks, gas cards. People can't afford gas anymore to go to court, to park. We need disposable phones with minutes, food cards. We're trying to help people sustain. For children, we're giving non-violent, durable toys. We still have hats and mittens because of the generosity of churches last year."

First Step does need small or individual sizes of juice, protein bars and canned goods for the shelter that provides a haven for women and children.

"First Step is in a transition. We're looking for a new way to house people to be safe. Our building is 60 years old. We're halfway in a capital campaign for a new facility. If someone makes a cash donation then we're able to go out and buy what a family needs, an alarm system to ensure their safety."

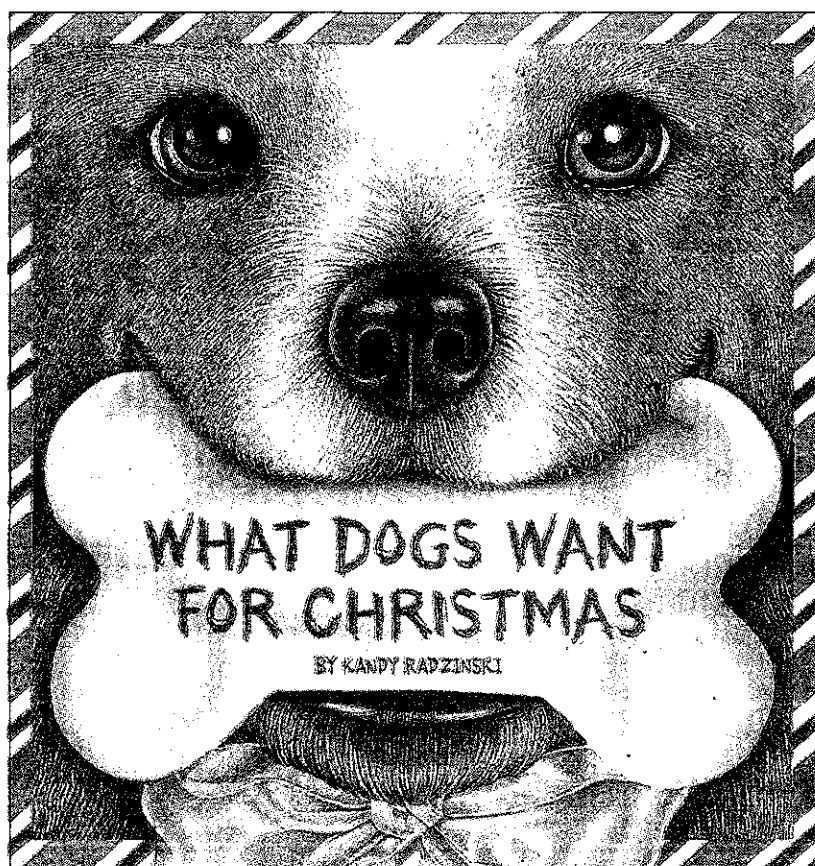
If you need help, call (888) 453-5900.

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric. Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2145 or lchomin@hometownlife.com.



Santa helps a little boy save the polar bears in this new book illustrated by Elisa Chavarri of Northville.

Child's play



Dogs write Santa with their Christmas wishes in a new book by Kandy Radzinski.

Authors use imaginations to create fun books

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OGE STAFF WRITER

All Sam wants for Christmas is something warm to wear. While that might not seem unusual for a little boy or girl, this wish comes from a chihuahua. The short-haired pup is just one of the characters in Kandy Radzinski's *What Dogs Want for Christmas*.

Children's books open a world where animals can write Santa with their requests. Several new tales this season take creativity to the limit. Nowhere is that more true in the Oklahoma author's new book, a sequel to *What Cats Want for Christmas*, from Sleeping Bear Press in Chelsea.

WHAT DOGS WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

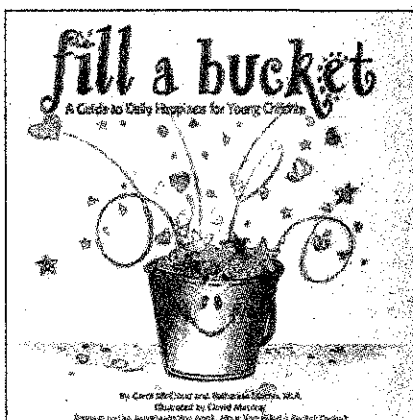
Radzinski's rescue dog provided plenty of inspiration as evidenced when Beanie asks for something new to chew besides a nice leather



Willow is a free spirit in this new book from Sleeping Bear Press.



Richard Michelson's new book is a primer for Jewish tradition.



David Messing of Livonia illustrated this new book written by Carol McClood.

shoe. Radzinski took a photograph before painting the watercolor of the innocent-looking trouble maker. Her love shines in these beautiful renderings. Radzinski grew up with dogs before going on to teach art at Central Washington State College and the University of Tulsa.

"I'm probably closer to dogs than people. They're always there for you," said Radzinski, who also lives with a Scottie named Kirby. "The book mostly revolves around Beanie. She was the most expensive. There's the living room leather chair with one arm. In the dining room, one chair is garbage. She chewed the throw pillows just enough to ruin them, but we love her."

WILLOW

Denise Brennan-Nelson and her sister, Rosemarie Brennan,

Please see **BOOKS, C2**

Celebrate Christmas Irish-style

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OGE STAFF WRITER

Not much has changed for Mick Gavin since he left County Clare in 1973. Give the Irish any reason to celebrate and out come the dancing shoes and fiddles. This year, Gavin is inviting everyone to step out to his annual party on Dec. 20 at the Monaghan K of C Hall in Livonia.

At least twice a year, the Redford musician calls his performer friends together for gatherings. This Saturday, Wallace Hood of the Irish Rovers and Ray Maguire of Plymouth join Gavin on stage. There will be step and ceili dancing with students from the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance based in Livonia. Kitty Heinzman brings her students from the Hibernian Club in Redford and Gaelic League in Detroit. They'll take turns kicking up their heels with Anne McCallum's Set Dancers. "We do encourage parents to bring their kids. It's a family event," said



Mick Gavin (back row) and his students perform at two Celtic shows during the holidays. Pictured are sons Sean (left front row) and Michael, Colleen Shanks (back row), Kelsey Lutz and Holland Raper.

Gavin. "We'll have about 12 to 14 local musicians playing *Bells of Belfast*, *Silent Night* and a sing-

along. There will be food including Christmas cake and Irish scones, and step, set and ceili dancers. It's

CELTIC CHRISTMAS

What: Christmas Songs & Ceili Tunes

When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20

Where: Monaghan K of C Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, between Seven Mile and Eight Mile, Livonia

Cost: \$10, kids under age 12 free. Call (313) 537-3489.

Related events: The Irish fun continues at the Crossroads Ceili 7:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28, at The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Admission \$16. Call (734) 761-1800. Workshops for fiddle, flute, tenor banjo, penny whistle, uilleann pipes, guitar accompaniment, button accordion and mandolin performance off by advance registration only on Saturday afternoon. For information or to register, call (313) 537-3489

really a party, a Christmas party."

John Heinzman grew up dancing, but turns the floor over to his students at the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance. The team of eight advanced dancers will be accompanied by Heinzman on flute and Irish whistle, and Jo Ryan on keyboards.

Please see **CELTIC, C3**

Canned goods are sought for annual Holiday Food Drive

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

This year more than ever, Livonia Councilwoman Laura Toy hopes the community puts politics aside to help the needy. On Thursday, Dec. 18, she'll join with state Rep. John Pastor and state Rep.-elect John Walsh to collect canned goods and nonperishables for Gleaners Food Bank from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus on Farmington Road, between Seven Mile and Eight Mile, in Livonia.

Toy started the annual drive when she was in the state Senate. Over the last six years, she's collected everything from gently used coats to books to brighten the holidays of the less fortunate.

"I started it to do something to help people during the holidays. The natural thing would be to do some-

thing with toys because of my last name, but in my district I looked and saw there was a need, particularly in the south end of the district, Westland and Redford as well as Garden City," said Toy, who now is the community outreach specialist for the state Senate in Lansing in addition to being a Livonia councilwoman.

"This year, the food shelves are empty. I felt between the three of us we could rally all of our supporters. Besides canned goods and nonperishables, people could provide a gift certificate for a grocery store or favorite bakery or deli, or any cash donation."

Cash donations can be mailed to Rep. John Pastor at 15417 Middlebelt, Livonia, MI 48154.

"Gleaners serves Southeast Michigan and maybe not all the help goes to Livonia but it makes us better to help our neighbors," said Toy.

BOOKS

FROM PAGE C1

really used their creativity to write about Willow, an independent thinker, for Sleeping Bear Press. The recently released book was illustrated by Cyd Moore, who formerly lived in Birmingham and Beverly Hills. Willow paints pink trees and blue apples in Miss Hawthorn's art class.

"I hope kids, teachers and parents learn or realize that the more free you are to explore in art and writing and probably reading, the better," said Moore, who now lives in Sylvan Lake with three cats and one dog. "My mother was a painter and art teacher but never sat us down and told us you have to do it this way. We were always provided reams of paper, clay. We always got new crayons and markers for Christmas so I was just free like Willow who was not following along."

The Brennan sisters were careful not to cast a negative light on teachers but still relay a message. Although this is Denise's eighth children's book, it is her first using human characters. The Howell author is best known for *Buzzy the Bumblebee* and *Grady the Goose*.

"It's the fact Willow doesn't see Miss Hawthorn the way anybody else does and her ability to unleash creativity in Miss Hawthorn," said Denise Brennan-Wilson. "Using our imaginations is so important. Nobody sees art the same way. Everything being the same isn't near as much fun. My sister and I originally started talking about trees, willow and hawthorn. The metaphor is there about the difference in trees and part of the underlying messages."

SANTA GOES GREEN

Elisa Chavarri especially had fun illus-

trating Anne Margaret Lewis' story about saving a polar bear in *Santa Goes Green* from Mackinac Island Press in Traverse City. A boy named Finn is concerned about Leopold and the sea ice so necessary to hunt for food. The melting glaciers could mean the extinction of the species.

Chavarri was born in Peru but eventually moved to Michigan where a trip to the Detroit Zoo left her with an idea for portraying the big white bear fond of nose-to-nose kisses.

"I always liked polar bears so I was excited. The way Anne described him he was a lovable character," said Chavarri of Northville. "The book makes it seem that it's attainable that we can save the polar bears. Anything you can do will make a slight difference and all of those add up if everyone starts being more aware."

FILL A BUCKET

Carol McCloud revisits the topic of helping others in *Fill a Bucket: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Children*. The book is illustrated by David Messing of Livonia. The book is a prequel to her *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* McCloud has given more than 800 presentations in elementary schools since the book was published in 2006 by Ferne Press (www.bucketfillers101.com).

"It's perfect for new babies and first-time parents," said McCloud of Brighton. "Kids at age 2 can start taking dishes off the table. It gives them a sense of accomplishment and pride. When you fill others' buckets it fills yours."

A IS FOR ABRAHAM

Richard Michelson wrote *A is for Abraham* for a younger version of himself, but adults as well as children can learn about Judaism from this book. Michelson grew up in Brooklyn without

any religious education even though his family were Jews. It wasn't until deciding to marry a woman outside his culture that Michelson became curious about his background. She eventually converted to Judaism and they raised their children in the faith.

Although he represents illustrators through his R. Michelson Galleries in Massachusetts, it was an editor at Sleeping Bear Press who suggested Ron Mazellan for the drawings that seem as if from an earlier age.

"It's a Jewish family alphabet. I thought of it as a fun encyclopedia for families to share," said Michelson. "I'm culturally Jewish but didn't understand where the traditions came from or why things were being done. My mother had grown up in a Jewish household and rebelled. We didn't keep any traditions, didn't celebrate the Sabbath 'cause my dad was busy making a living. I was trying to be a regular kid and fit in. As an adult I'm not alone. A lot of people don't understand the basics of their tradition."

Michelson recently read African and Native American alphabet books just to learn about the cultures.

"I hope non-Jews turn to this book as a primer, but obviously Jewish people are the most likely audience for it," said Michelson. "I hope they get fun and education. It's hard often to have the second without the first. I generally write poetry, stories. The best way to communicate is through a good story in this case in fun word play. It's difficult to reconcile the tradition. There are so many different branches of Judaism so I tried to be general enough. For those steeped in one tradition it can be used as a jumping off point."

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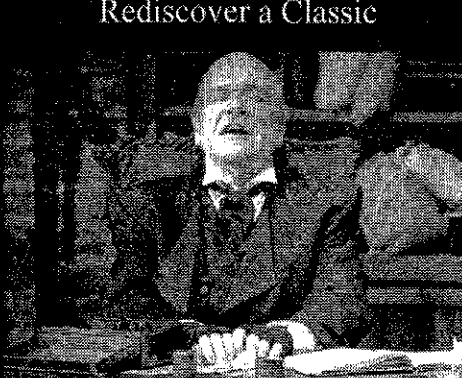
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MEDICINE FOR ARTHRITIS IN THE ELDERLY

The number of medications doctors have to treat arthritis is large. However, this array of therapy is not open to people with arthritis age seventy or older.

For example, ibuprofen is drug commonly used to treat osteoarthritis. This medicine belongs to the class of drugs known as the Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs), a well known side effect of this class of medication is upset stomach, even ulcers. But for individuals over age 70, this complication of therapy is unlikely. The real risk for the elderly with NSAID therapy is that NSAIDs can cause kidney failure, and it is not necessarily the result of excessive use of the NSAID. For that reason doctors limit drug treatment for osteoarthritis in the elderly to acetaminophen (Tylenol), a medicine that gives pain relief but does not hurt either the stomach or the kidney.

Another arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis can appear in old age. Again, doctors have many drugs available for treatment, but not for the group over age seventy, because the medications interfere with the body's immune system. The effect of this change is to disrupt the elderly individual's surveillance against cancer, making that person more susceptible to lymphoma. In addition, interference of the immune system by rheumatoid arthritis medication increases the elderly person's risk for infections such as pneumonia.

Finally, starting new arthritis drugs on an elderly person means taking a chance, as drug trials usually do not include patients over age 65.

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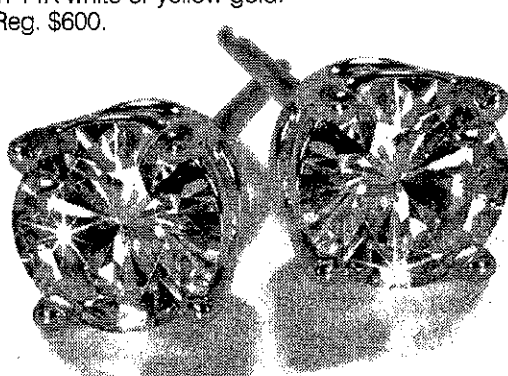
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Before After

CELTIC

FROM PAGE C1

"They'll be dancing a variety of Irish step dances, and ceili old folk dancing intermixed with Christmas music," said Heinzman. "Last year it was a nice event. Even though we had a bad snowstorm, we still had a good crowd. Kids danced and turned the stage over to Mick and his music students. We had people from the audience come up and do ceili dancing. There's food and drink so people can come out and have an entire evening and participate a little bit. It's like a cabaret kind of day."

Heinzman's mother Kitty is from Westport, County Mayo, and he started dancing at age 5. That was 39 years ago. About 15 years ago, he and his sister, Liz, opened their studio, then known as the Heinzman

School of Irish Dance. They bring a select few of their students to Crossroads Ceili Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28, at The Ark in Ann Arbor. Paddy Homan, winner of the 2001 Thomas Moore Cup for solo Irish tenor, will be joined by Hood, Gavin and his students, and Maguire who played with the popular Irish group, Pat's People, in the 1970s and 1980s.

"It's just a way of life for us. My mom still is a very involved part of the Irish community," said Heinzman. "She teaches ceili which means together or group dancing. We teach solo dancing or step dancing now at the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance in Livonia with locations in Redford, Wixom, Taylor, Grosse Pointe, Warren, Lansing, Toledo and Windsor."

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Dancers from the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance kick up their heels at a Celtic Christmas party Dec. 20, in Livonia. Pictured are Grace Carey (back row), Kim Bell, Jackie Harris, Elizabeth Gallagher; Paula Ryan (middle row), Jobi McCarthy, Maddie Calderon-Jackson, and Emily Wheeler (front row), Victoria Gallagher and Sarah Quinn.

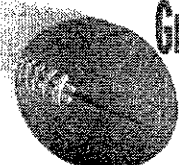
Art classes to start in January

Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) is offering winter art classes beginning Jan. 7, 2009. Classes in drawing, watercolor, mixed media, portraits, and color technique are available. A pastel workshop with Michigan artist, Jerry Power, is also offered on Feb. 5-6, 2009.

VAAL is dedicated to advancing knowledge and appreciation of the creative arts by offering studio classes and twice yearly exhibits, all open to the public.

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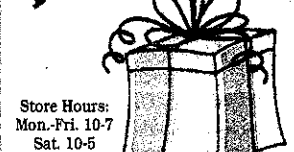
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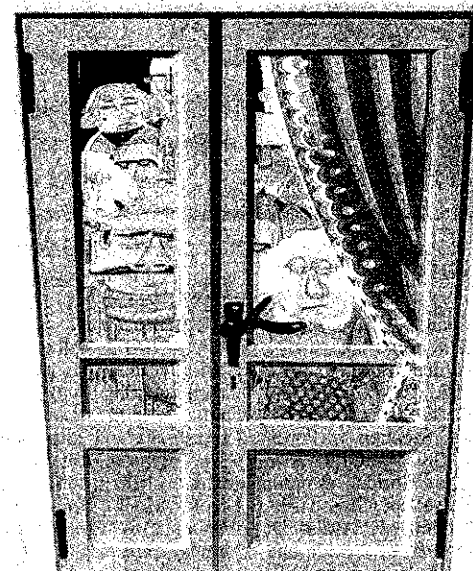
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REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the newspaper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your reunion announcement at least two weeks in advance to Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or e-mail ichomin@hometownlife.com.

**Brighton High School
Class of 1989**

Planning a July 25, 2009 reunion at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. There will be a buffet dinner, DJ, and cash bar. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. For details, contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at email4kelley@yahoo.com, or see groups.yahoo.com/group/brightonclassof1989.

Class of 1959

50th reunion with activities June 5-7, 2009. Events will include a Saturday evening dinner party at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield. For information, visit www.casstech59.com or contact Marge Teramino Knable, reunion@casstech59.com.

casstech59.com; Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.

Dearborn Fordson**Class of 1969**

Planning a reunion. Contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Kliveringston@nu-core.com.

**Detroit St. Brigid
Class of 1959**

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

**Garden City High School
Class of 1960**

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Class of 1989

20th reunion Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor (6 p.m. to midnight. Ticket \$65 before March 1, 2009, \$75 from March 2 to June 1, 2009. No tickets

will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, premium open bar, dj, door prizes, picture cd and other gifts; and available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or contact Paula at gchsi989reunion@hotmail.com.

**Grosse Pointe North
Class of 1991**

Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail: info@taylorreunions.com.

Lincoln Park High School

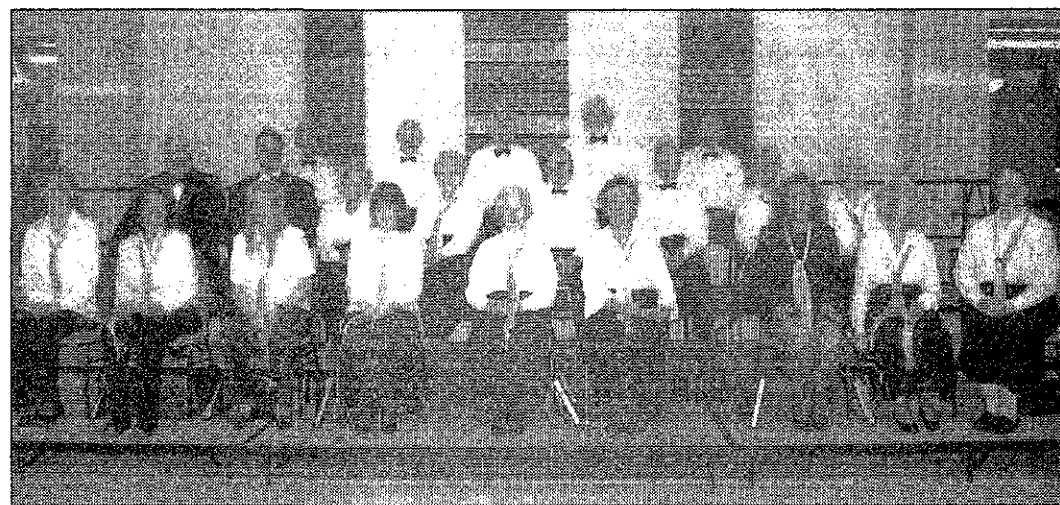
Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbcglobal.net.

Livonia Franklin**Class of 1969**

A reunion is in the pre-planning stages. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aol.com.

Milford High School**Class of 1978**

Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail milford78@gmail.com.



The Finnish-American Singers will present, "The Scenes of Christmas," an international Christmas concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Finnish Center at 35200 W. Eight Mile, between Newburgh and Gill Road, in Farmington Hills.

Finnish singers present 'The Scenes of Christmas'

The Finnish-American Singers will present, "The Scenes of Christmas," an international Christmas concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Finnish Center at 35200 W. Eight Mile, between Newburgh and Gill Road, in Farmington Hills.

Carols from many countries will be performed by this mixed chorus of 25 voices with Henry Naasko, director, and William Gramzow, accompanist.

There will be solos and duets as well as a song by a quintet. Following the concert will be

a Finnish coffee table with home-made open-faced sandwiches and desserts. All of this is for a donation of \$10. Chorus members will hold a Bake Sale of Finnish Cardamon coffee breads made in fancy shapes and decorated for Christmas.

**ARTHUR ANTHONY
ARDITTO**

Age 86+. Born July 31, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan. Passed away December 10, 2008 in Florida. Loving husband of Edna (deceased). Beloved father of Richard A. (Pilar) Arditto and Susan M. Sanderfer. Grandfather of Angela, Renae, Stephen, Mandi, Korby and Gina. Great-grandfather to Faly and Rylee, of Florida. Brother to Marie T. Caldwell of Grosse Pte. Woods, MI, Delphine F. Arditto of Clawson, MI, John R. of Florida and Barbara A. Kerr of South Lyon, MI. Uncle of many loving nieces and nephews. He served his country in World War II in the Army Air Corp, as a bombardier and retired as a Major from the Air Force Reserve. He was a school teacher at St. Francis School for Boys in Detroit. He graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit and was the number one car salesman at Lou LaRiche in Plymouth, MI. He loved sports, a professional bowler, ardent golfer, pool player, fisherman and card player and was a baseball and football fan. Arthur traveled the world - loved nature, animals and music. He played the piano, accordion and harmonica. A member of the Italian-American Club. He was a lifetime friend, associate, companion and was admired. He is with the Lord, may he rest in peace. Services in Florida, on Sunday, December 14, 2008, 2-4 p.m. Donations to Preston James or Susan Sanderfer, Compass Bank, 7205 Forrest Oaks Blvd., Spring Hill, FL 34606.

WILLIAM O. BLISS

Age 87, of Farmington, MI, passed away December 10, 2008. Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, MI, 248-474-5200

FRANK DONALD BLOCK

December 9, 2008. Age 89, formerly of Redford, MI. Lynch and Sons Funeral Home, 248-684-6645

**SUZANNE WILLIAMS
BUSCH**

Age 79, Notre Dame, IN passed away Nov. 23, 2008. Thomas J. Busch, her husband, survives along with five children, and 15 awesome grandchildren. Upon Tom's retirement from Bendix Corp., Suzie and Tom moved from Birmingham, MI to Savannah, GA, then to Kalamazoo, MI and Notre Dame, IN to be with family. Suzie enjoyed her family, community service, playing golf, bridge, and parties with friends. Memorials may be donated to the Christ Child Society of Northern Michigan or to the Center for Hospice, South Bend, IN.

Passages

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PAUL DONOVAN

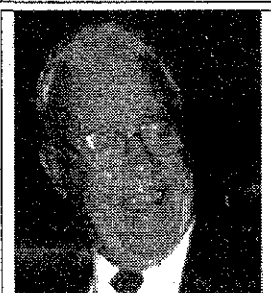
Age 86. December 10, 2008. Beloved husband of the late Rosemary for 52 years. Loving father of Sue Watts (Don), Linda Underwood (Craig Gross), Laura Bunker (Jeff), Paul Donovan and Lisa Walker (Joe). Cherished grandfather of Amy (Tim), Kyle, Victoria, Autumn, Jacob, Ian, Joshua, Jillian, Joey, Emily and Nicole (Mitch). Proud great-grandfather of Tori Lee. Memorial Mass Monday 11 AM at the Servant Church of St. Alexander, 27835 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Disabled American Veterans or Maryknoll Sisters. www.thayer-rock.com

DONALD E. FRASER, SR.

December 9, 2008 Age 91. Beloved husband of Shirley for 63 years. Dear father of Don Jr. (Gina), Ray (Valerie), Jim (Sally), Wendy Routhier (Charles) and the late Lawrence. Also survived by nine grandchildren. Brother of William (Joanne). Father-in-law of Danielle. Memorial service Saturday, January 3, 2009 12 noon at North Congregational Church, 36520 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Memorial tributes to Beaumont Hospice, 3601 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48073 or North Congregational Church. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

**CHARLOTTE G. (Zavitz)
HESTER**

Age 81, of Farmington, MI, passed away Dec. 12, 2008. Visitation at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI Sunday, Dec. 14 from 2-5 with funeral service Monday, Dec. 15 at 11am at the funeral home.

**JOHN "RUSS" HILL**

Of Bloomfield Hills, lost his battle with cancer on December 9, 2008, at the age of 77. He died peacefully at home under the care of Mercy Hospice, with his family and dog at his side. He survived by his loving wife, Dolly, two sons, Bruce (Mary Beth) and Stephen (Tracy), and four outstanding grandchildren, Douglas, Kathryn, Brad, and Daina. Graduated from Wayne State University in Electrical Engineering in 1955, and earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration. Employed by Chrysler Corporation until retirement in 1991. A devoted husband, father, grandpa, and friend, he will be missed by all. A memorial service and gathering of friends and family was held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Bloomfield Hills, on Saturday, December 13. Inurnment at White Chapel Cemetery, Troy. In lieu of flowers memorial tributes to Mercy Hospice, 281 Enterprise Court, Suite 200, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, or Michigan Animal Rescue League, 290 Featherstone, Pontiac, MI 48342. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

Paying
Tribute
to the
Life of
Your
Loved One

JERRY LAMBERT JR.

Born in Malden, Arkansas, he moved to Bradenton in 1989 from Plymouth, Michigan. He is a member of First Church of the Nazarene of Bradenton and retired after 34 years of service as an engineer for General Motors Corp. of Livonia, Michigan. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Barbara E.; daughters, Anthonette Beach of Johnson City, TN, Debra K. Carter of Bradenton and Sondra L. Raubacher of Shanghai, China; sons, Jim D. Lambert of Toledo, OH and Terry L. Lambert of Mesa, AZ; sister, Laveda Miller of Ankeny, Iowa; 13 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Friends may visit the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, Plymouth Monday from 11:30am until time of funeral service at 1:30pm. Entombment Glen Eden Cemetery. Share memories at schrad-howell.com.

ROBERT G. MARKS

July 26th, 1926 to December 9th, 2008. He passed away peacefully surrounded by family early on the morning of Tuesday, December 9, 2008. Bob was a navy veteran of W.W.II serving in the Pacific Theatre as a navigator with a squadron of P.B.Y's. Robert lived most of his life in the metro Detroit area- Old Redford, Wayne, Dearborn. The last seven years he resided in Lantana, Florida with his wife June (Rigg). He was a long time professional educator in the Livonia Public Schools, holding a variety of positions; elementary teacher, M.S. administrator, coach, and H.S. media center director. He changed to this career later in life for he wished "to make a difference" and in his final days mentioned how content he was with that decision. In that new career he was very successful impacting the lives of countless children in schools, libraries, and on the sporting fields/courts in and around Livonia and the greater Metro-Detroit area. He was especially important in the lives of his four children: John, Tom, Sue, and Doug, and greatly enjoyed touching the lives of his 21 grandchildren and his 17, soon-to-be 18 great-grandchildren. Robert loved a good book, a good card game, a good debate, a good word puzzle, a good sporting contest (even two or three at a time), a fine meal, a cup of tea, travel, music in all forms, and the outdoors. Most of all it was time spent, or activities with, his family and good friends that made him most happy. He would appreciate these words from Dr. Seuss at this moment, "Don't cry that it's over, celebrate that it happened". Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Robert H. & Lillian M. Marks, his wife of 44 years Alice K., and his younger brother Doug. He is survived by his wife of 9 years, June, his four children and their spouses: Patti, Amy, Paul, Glenda, and Judy, his four step children: Chris, Robin, Heather, and Craig, his sister-in-law Sandy and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will miss him very much. Robert was truly a member of America's "greatest generation" and we who carry on are thankful for the model of living he represented. We will be forever blessed that he shared so much of himself with his family and extended family of friends. Peace. A private family service is planned for Friday at the Palm Breezes Park in Lantana. A Memorial Service for family and friends is being planned for the spring in Dearborn, Michigan with details to be announced early in the new year. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Focus Hope Inc. of Detroit or Hospice of Palm Springs, Florida

FRED C. NELSON

December 6, 2008. Age 88. Resident of Plymouth. Retired in 1981 after 33 years as a vocal music teacher in the Plymouth-Canton Schools. Survived by wife Lois, sons Jim (Nancy), Bill (Susan), and granddaughters Melissa and Kathy. Private service held already.

JEREMY D. ROWLANDS

Age 30, formerly of Farmington, MI, passed December 7, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

WEDDINGS

Nastase-Lambert

Sam and Kathy Nastase of Algonac announce the marriage of their daughter, Stacey, to Chad Lambert, son of Jean Lambert of Clinton Township.

The bride is a 1998 graduate of Stevenson High School in Livonia and a 2002 graduate of Kalamazoo College. She works in sales. The groom is a 1994 graduate of Henry Ford II High School and a 1998 graduate of Stetson University. He also works in sales.

The couple wed Sept. 19, 2008 at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. The Rev. Michael Maras officiated.

They spent their honeymoon in the Greek Islands.



ARISING IMAGES

Spencer-Jacovetti

John and Laurie Spencer of Lakeland, Fla., and formerly of Redford, announce the marriage of their daughter, Crystal Marie, to Christopher Andrew Jacovetti, son of Bill and Karen Jacovetti of Livonia.

The bride is a 2000 graduate of Redford's Thurston High School and she currently attends Daytona University. The groom is a 1997 graduate of Catholic Central High School and he works as manager of Sunbelt Rentals in Ormond Beach, Fla.

The couple wed Aug. 8, 2008 at the First Church of the Nazarene. A reception followed at the Italian American Club.



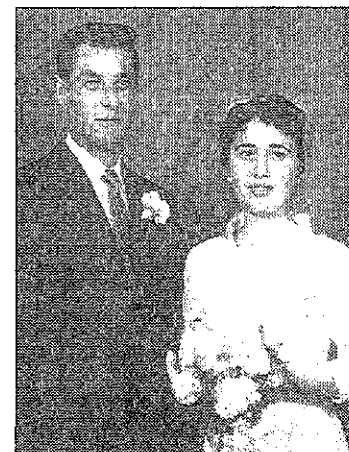
The couple spent their honeymoon at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas.

ANNIVERSARY

Golden anniversary

Cornelius and Jean (Duty) Van Boven of Canton are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month. The couple wed Dec. 27, 1958 at Newburg Methodist Church in Livonia. They have lived in Livonia for 58 years and are parents to James VanBoven of Canton and Brian VanBoven of Redford Township. They have one grandchild.

Cornelius VanBoven worked at Teamsters Trucking and Jean worked for Plymouth Canton Community Schools until retiring 23 years ago. They've been members of the American Legion in Plymouth



for 43 years. The couple will celebrate their anniversary with a trip to Hawaii.

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Stain problem with no cure

They have put some of my work in the World Book Encyclopedia and called me to court cases as an expert witness and yet I don't have the smarts to answer the problem described in the following e-mail. Please read it and if you have a solution to this

**Appliance
Doctor**

Joe Gagnon

lady's frustration, please drop me a note and tell me what you think about all this: "My husband and I have had a laundry problem for several years that has caused us constant frustration. The problem is that when we wash dark-colored clothing at our house, it often comes out with grease-like stains that were not on the clothing prior to washing. The stains usually come out after treatment with color-safe bleach and re-washing. We have tried many different detergents and we don't use fabric softener, so we know that our washing products are not the source of the problem. We had thought that the problem could be the washing machine, so we replaced it with a new front loader a couple of years ago, but we have continued to have the problem. We wondered whether the problem was the dryer, but we have had the spots on some clothes that we have air dried or dried elsewhere.

"We know that the problem is not the hot water heater because it happens to clothes washed and rinsed in cold water. We have consulted with an appliance repair person (when we had the previous washer), a handyman, and a plumber, and none of them can figure out what is wrong. We have city water and we wonder whether there could be something in our pipes, but they are copper including the pipe to the water source. We were told that corrosion would be unlikely. We are desperate to find an answer to this problem, and we have tried everything that we can think of. Can you offer some advice? Thanks Christine."

I am sitting here scratching my head just the way Jim Carrey did it in the movie, *Dumb and Dumber*. Let's look at some facts about stains that occur on items being washed and how they get there. We are not going to blame the washer because you illuminated that possibility in your e-mail to me.

Fabric softener has always been a leading contender in the stain race but that is also out of the picture. The hot water heater is also removed from the story, which leads us to the only area of possibility, the rubber fill hoses. But wait, it can't be the hoses! You had a new washer installed and I'm sure they used the new hoses that came with the washer, right? Transmissions can leak oil into a washer tub but that's been ruled out as well. Your washer doesn't have a transmission. My dear Christine, I would love to give you an answer to this problem but I am stumped. I will count on some of the readers to come up with a prescription and pass it on to you. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. E-mail questions to appldr@twmlrr.com.

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This year's party clothes are about 'the piece'

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

With more people likely to enjoy smaller-scale, at-home holiday gatherings this year instead of big blowouts at restaurants and fancy venues, multitasking separates seem better suited to the social whirl than do sexy cocktail frocks.

A recent spin around retailers' "occasion" dress departments found more knits and less glitz, as well as several racks of dressy slacks and skirts.

Adam Glassman, creative director and fashion expert at *O: The Oprah Magazine*, says many women likely have the makings of a stylish outfit already in their closets. But if you want to give yourself a gift, here are some pieces that could be the perfect finishing touch:

■ A skirt: Strut with a little

swish.

It could be a long cocktail skirt or a 1950s-style circle skirt, both of which offer graceful movement. They'll look great with sequin tank tops or a subtle tonal-beaded sweater, recommends Glassman.

"Dresses are easy no-brainers, but skirts give more mileage and bang for the buck," he says. "Even if it's shiny or metallic, it can move from day to night. You have the ability to wear that skirt to work or a nice lunch with a girlfriend if you pare down the look."

■ Statement jewelry: A necklace is the key piece.

A bold necklace will turn a casual outfit into a chic one and a dressy outfit into something glamorous. A very sophisticated style is a ribbed black turtleneck with one of these chunky pieces.

It doesn't matter if the jewelry isn't expensive — you can find love-

ly options at every price point from Vera Wang to J. Crew to Kohl's, reports Glassman — but don't try to pass off costume jewelry as anything other than what it is. Instead embrace the jewelry as fun, trendy pieces and take some chances.

A cocktail ring can also garner the right kind of attention, especially since you might be holding a drink, putting your hands further on display, but it's pretty much an either-or with the necklace or you risk overkill.

■ Jeweled flats: No need for black.

A jewel-tone shoe, adorned with bows, sequins or beads is "something that makes you feel happy and alive," Glassman says. "Even if you're not buying a full outfit, buy that great shoe like Dorothy's red ruby slipper — it will wake up your whole outfit."

The added bonus is that when

you're at a home party, more people are likely to see your shoes as you cross your legs when you sit on a couch and they can be good conversation starters, he adds.

■ Shine: Light up your look.

Something shiny around your face will brighten up your face and draw the eye upward. It could be a shiny fabric, beading or a top with

a jewel-encrusted neckline, which takes care of the necklace too.

Glassman singles out an Oscar de la Renta turtleneck with a jeweled neck and cuffs that perfectly balances coziness with sophistication.

■ Lace: This isn't your grandmother's lace.

"You hear lace and you might think *Little House on the Prairie*,

but we're talking about the new lace," Glassman says. That means lace worn in unexpected ways.

Wear a trace of lace: a lacy bra peeking through a blouse, lace shoes or a lace blouse worn with dressy trouser jeans. Glassman recommends black, brown, flesh-tone or even dove gray lace, which are both demure and sexy.

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Staying on track

Enjoy but choose holiday food carefully

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

It's all right to enjoy that slice of pumpkin pie or cookie at a holiday gathering, just remember to get back on track at the next meal. That's the advice of local registered dietitians this season. Gail Posner plans to eat the delicious foods at her family's Hanukkah celebrations, but limit portions. She cautions clients at Healthy Ways Nutrition Counseling in West Bloomfield not to arrive at parties hungry, but fill up on vegetables and fruits before leaving the house.

"The goal is not weight loss but weight maintenance. Who wants to deal with an extra five to seven pounds, the average gain over the holiday?" said Posner. "A cup of eggnog is 500 calories, martinis and daiquiris a good 350 calories. Try some alternatives like red vitamin water which has holiday color and is loaded with antioxidants: acia, blueberry and pomegranate, a good protector for our health with extra vitamin C. If you are going to drink, I encourage people to go every other drink, have a glass of water, Perrier, in between. Enjoy the holiday specials but keep them in check."

When it's time for dinner, make sure one half of the plate is vegetables, the other one tablespoon servings of high calorie items.

"You can always go back and try all the different things that people make, and eat slow,"

'After the party, be careful of dangerous leftovers. People do fine at a party and gain weight afterwards. Give leftovers to your guests.'

GAIL POSNER, registered dietitian

said Posner. "After the party, be careful of dangerous leftovers. People do fine at a party and gain weight afterwards. Give leftovers to your guests."

For Thanksgiving, Posner arrived at her sister-in-law's home with a salad, spinach Parmesan side dish, and fruit for dessert. In addition to vegetables, she ate turkey and a bite of sweet potato. Her motto is don't eat an entire serving when a taste could satisfy the craving.

"It's fine to enjoy these holiday items, but if you're going to eat a cookie have a glass of water between each delicious item, have one and then a cup of tea or water before enjoying the next one," said Posner. "We all get off track, don't wait till Jan. 1 to get back on."

As a certified diabetes educator at Troy Beaumont Hospital, Judith Pegg offers tips anyone can use to avoid weight gain. She especially warns those with a family history of diabetes to be aware of the consequences of obesity.

Pegg's mother died of complications and her grandmother had both legs amputated because of diabetes. Her hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) is a precursor to the disease.

"You don't have to avoid anything in their diet. You



have to learn to put it in your diet. Figure that chocolate in if that's going to help you feel satisfied," said Pegg, a registered nurse who gives presentations for the American Diabetes Association. "If you're going to a party allow one carbohydrate, a few crackers and cheese, for your evening snack. People shouldn't be drinking unless blood sugar is under control and depending on medication and then one drink for women, two for men. And don't stand by the

appetizer table. If you're going to stand there talking to someone, turn your back."

For many, weight loss means changing their lifestyle.

Pegg grew up in a large Italian family where food was the focus of celebrations. For Thanksgiving, she cooked a traditional dinner but made the stuffing with less fat and then baked it separately. Pegg admits she wasn't always conscious of her choices until her husband had a heart attack

two years ago at age 55.

"Changing the way you do anything during the holidays is difficult, it's important to stay focused," said Pegg. "If they have pre-diabetes with numbers higher than normal but not high enough to be diagnosed, they need to start living different, learn to change their lifestyle. They could possibly avoid ever going into diabetes. It's a chronic disease with no cure."

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

Karmanos to offer help to quit smoking

As Detroit area residents prepare resolutions for the New Year, those wishing to conquer smoking can receive free assistance from the American Lung Association to accomplish their goal.

Karmanos Cancer Center is offering the American Lung Association's highly acclaimed Freedom From Smoking clinic, a program that will consist of 8 classes held on Tuesday evenings Tuesday, Jan. 6, through Feb. 17, as well as Thursday, Jan. 29.

Freedom From Smoking is based on the premise that smoking is a learned behavior.

All classes will be held 5-6:30 p.m. at Karmanos Cancer Center, 4100 John R., Detroit, MI 48201.

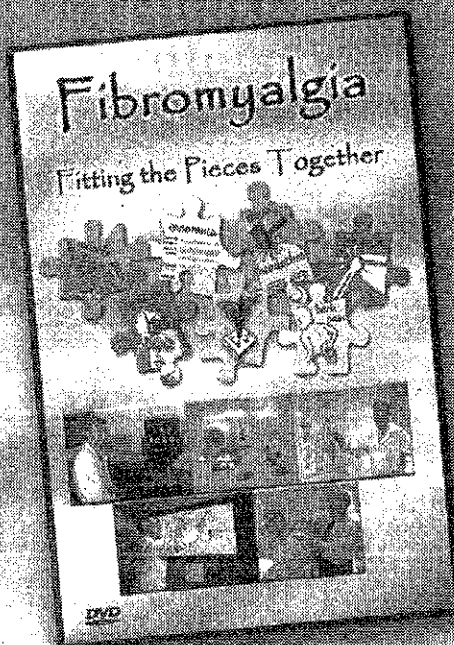
Registration is required. Contact Andrea Layman at (313) 576-8129 or laymana@karmanos.org.

As the American Lung Association's premiere smoking cessation program, Freedom From Smoking is a highly structured and comprehensive behavior modification approach to smoking cessation in a group support setting.

Freedom From Smoking is based on the premise that smoking is a learned behavior.

The 8 session format provides for tracking personal habits, developing coping strategies and practice in a supportive environment with others who are experiencing the same feelings and challenges.

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Helping Our Pain & Exhaustion (H.O.P.E.) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to enhance knowledge and awareness of Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue syndrome through programs that educate families, friends, the public, the media and the medical community.

To order the documentary go to: www.hffcf.org or contact Sharon at: smo23915@aol.com

1.5 CME credits are available,
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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Gluten-free food fair

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Hiller's, 39950 W. 14 Mile (at Haggerty Road). Call (248) 960-1990.

Get ready to have a baby

Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the entire experience more rewarding. Childbirth Education Weekday programs held 7-9 p.m. Mondays to Dec. 15, and Wednesdays to Jan. 14. Childbirth Education workshops 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. There is a fee. Registration required. Call (734) 655-1162.

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Rd.), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100 for more information, or visit www.stmary-mercy.org.

Overeaters Anonymous

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

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 709 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

UPCOMING

Understanding diabetes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts Diabetes Support Group presentations 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 14, and Feb. 11, in the hospital's Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile at Levan Road, Livonia. Please use the Main Entrance on Five Mile Road. Registered dietitian Katie Dooley presents Understanding Carbohydrates for Better Blood Sugar Control on Jan. 14. On Feb. 11, registered dietitian Judy Swancut presents Diabetes and Vitamins, Minerals and Herbs: What's Right for You. All are welcome. A new topic is presented on the second

Wednesday of each month for adults with diabetes and family members. There is no charge, pre-registration not required. For information, call (734) 655-8961.

Butterfly ball

The American Lung Association of Michigan has rescheduled its black tie fund-raiser to 6-11 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. Proceeds go to lung health research, education and advocacy. Tickets \$250 per person and include The Butterfly Ball will be highlighted by music and will include a cocktail reception, dinner, dancing, and a live auction featuring trips, dinners and a variety of experiences. Sponsorships available. Call Jessica Jimenez, Development Specialist, (248) 784-2018 or jjimenez@alam.org.

ONGOING

Caregiver's support group

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

Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Do you ever wish you had an understanding person to talk to? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer support and assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to their loved ones and offers valuable information at meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month 10 a.m. to noon at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue in Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile Road in Redford. Morning and evening options available. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the 2nd Thursday of the month, the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. For information or if attending for the first time, call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

Physical performance classes

Incorporates jump-rope training, core work, and functional strength training using dumbbells and body weight for resistance 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays. An Exercise Therapy class

for a mild to lower intensity workout that stress functional fitness, core, balance, strength and flexibility 8:45 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays. One hour sessions run through November at Metropolitan Adventist Jr. Academy Gym, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Drop in sessions \$6 each, 10 sessions \$48. These classes are both lead by Jeanie Weaver with the concept of training to spare the joints and improve back mobility and strength. She is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957 to register. For information send e-mail to jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Flu shots

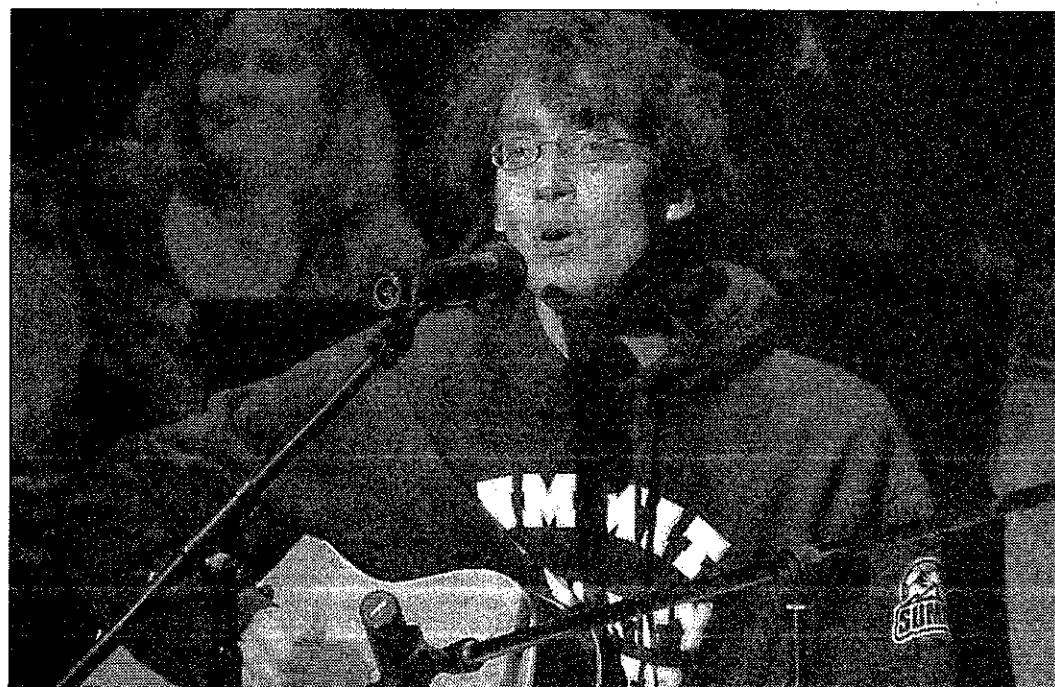
Wayne County Department of Public Health offers flu shots for residents at its clinic in Wayne 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday (walk-ins), Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday (by appointment only), at 33030 Van Born at Venoy. The cost of the flu vaccine is \$15, \$35 for pneumonia vaccine is also offered for \$35. Medicare (Part B) and Medicaid are accepted. Vaccines are offered for adults and children. For information about family flu vaccinations at Wayne County's public health clinic locations, call (734) 727-7000. For additional influenza and flu prevention facts, visit www.waynecounty.com/hhsvcs/public/pamphlet.htm.

Flu shots

For adults and children over 6 months of age available at Oakland County Health Division locations at 1200 N. Telegraph in Oakland County Complex Bldg, 36 East in Pontiac; 27725 Greenfield, north of 11 Mile at Catalpa Road in Southfield, and 1010 E. West Maple at Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. Hours are noon to 8 p.m. Monday, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Cost is \$11 (cash only). Medicare and Medicaid accepted. Bring photo identification and insurance cards. For information, call (800) 434-3358 or visit www.oakgov.com/health.

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.



Ryan Maiké, 18, of Farmington Hills, practices his song during a recent rehearsal for the Farmington Community Chorus holiday concert at Oakland Community College.

PHOTO BY KAREN ARSENEAU

Chorus member carries on family tradition

BY STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ryan Maiké remembers being in awe of the Farmington Community Chorus, when he would attend concerts with his grandparents.

Maiké's grandparents, Jim and Dorothy Miller, were long-time members of the chorus, but have since moved out of the area.

Since they're in Arizona, currently, Maiké, 18, said he plans to send them a video of the concert, in which he will perform a solo of the song, *God Bless the Broken Road*, at the FCC's holiday concert, "Joy!" at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18, Friday, Dec. 19, and Saturday, Dec. 20, at the L.C. Smith Auditorium at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

Maiké said his grandparents have always been a musical couple who encouraged his pursuit of music.

"I grew up with them always singing," he said. "I would listen to tapes of them singing. Throughout the years, my

grandparents were big advocates for me getting involved in music."

They paid for Maiké to take piano lessons, guitar and voice lessons.

Maiké, who is a student at OCC, was looking to join a singing group and saw the FCC notice at OCC.

"For the last couple of years, I had been singing in a group," he said. "Once I graduated from high school, and was in college, I knew I had to find a place to sing. I didn't know this was the same group that my grandparents were in, but once I found out, all of those memories came back. I was like, 'Wow! I have the chance to be in that choir!'"

He's enjoying his FCC experience so far.

"I've enjoyed getting to know people," he said. "There is such a wealth of knowledge about music and about life."

Maiké, who lives in Farmington Hills, said he enjoys the leadership of Director Steve SeGraves.

"He does a really incredible job of leading us," he said. The Farmington Community

Chorus is a 80-voice mixed chorus, which will be joined by dancers and instrumentalists for the concert.

This year, for the first time, talented music students from OCC have auditioned to join the FCC and are earning college credit. Directed by SeGraves and accompanied by assistant director Susan Garr, the chorus will perform a variety of holiday music including *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*, *Boogie Woogie Hanukkah*, *Christmas Joy*, *It's the Holiday Season*, and *Still, Still, Still* as well as solo and small group numbers.

Tickets are \$15 and can be ordered in advance. A limited number will be available at the door. To order advance tickets, call the FCC ticket line at (810) 632-4067 or the Costick Activities Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile in Farmington Hills at (248) 473-1800. Tickets may also be bought from FCC members.

For more information about the Farmington Community Chorus, contact manager Kathy Hall at (248) 471-4516 or visit www.farmingtonchorus.com.

Celebrate winter solstice with music, dance, stories

BY SHARON DARGAY
OSE STAFF WRITER

If you dread winter's arrival next week, the Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi and the Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist Congregation might just change your mind. She and her congregation are busy transforming the American Legion Hall — where they hold weekly services in downtown Rochester — into a winter wonderland of snowflakes and icy silver and blue decorations.

"We go bozo mundo with decorating," said Bugleisi, who will lead the church's Fifth Annual Solstice Ritual at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, in the hall at Third and Walnut, a block west of Main.

The celebration will be heavy on cultural arts, too. The church choir will sing; the Lake Orion Drummers will sound out the beat on their African hand drums; dancers gracefully will glide into the hall to the music of Sarah McLachlan; and the sounds of Toronto musician Loreena McKennett will set the mood for contemplation.

TELL ME A STORY

Dramatic storytelling, complete with gods and goddesses, ice fairies, elves, trolls and a Viking-druid solstice tale about the mischievous Loki, a shape-shifter, serves as the centerpiece of the event.

"It's an old story that taps into the druids and the meaning of mistletoe, which was called 'all heal' and was said to avert ill luck to herds. The kissing thing came later with the English," Bugleisi noted.

The congregation and visitors will have lots of opportunities to participate in chanting, dancing and music-making. Shakers and other small percussion instruments will be on hand for their use and everyone will join in on the final song, Ritchie Havens' rendition of *Here Comes the Sun*.

"Last year we did a pine cone exchange. Every pine cone had a peace message on it. They were in baskets and everyone took one and read the message. Then they exchanged pine cones. I might do it again this year."

Participants will spend some time in personal reflection and meditation and in a guided visualization.

"Someone gave us a good CD last year of the

WINTER SOLSTICE

What: Celebration of winter's arrival and the return of the sun

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19

Where: Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist Congregation, in the American Legion Hall, located at Walnut and Third, a block west of Main in downtown Rochester

Parking: Public lots are located on Walnut and within walking distance

Attire: Wear something gold, silver or black to become a part of the wintry audience

Details: Music, storytelling, drumming, dancing, meditation, all in a winter wonderland setting

Contact: Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi at (248) 202-1711

Afterward: Stroll Main street just a block east of Walnut and take in the eye-popping Big Bright Light Show with its 500,000 lights.

Actual solstice: 7:04 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21

sounds the sun makes. We also have this cool noise, the scientific voice of the sun."

MARKING THE DATE

Bugleisi said the winter solstice is universally celebrated in all cultures because it signifies the start of gradually lengthening days and the return of the sun.

"We are all so dependent on the sun and its return ... it's the juxtaposition, the contrast of the darkness and of wanting the light to return," she said. "It's a metaphor spiritually ... we carry the light within us."

She refutes the idea that celebrating seasonal change is anti-Christian.

"We are trans-Christian. We study Christianity and other religions," she said.

"I'd encourage people to check out the Web on Newgrange Ireland and Stonehenge in England. They'd see that something was going on before Christianity. Our ancestral stories go back long periods of time and are richer than just one culture."

Both the monuments at Stonehenge and the tomb at Newgrange were built so that they aligned with the solstice. At Newgrange, for example, a shaft of sunlight penetrates the tomb's central chamber at dawn on the winter solstice.

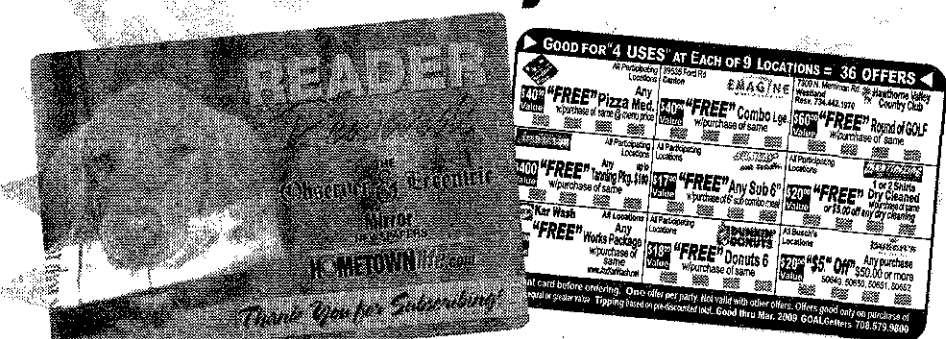
Bugleisi describes the annual gathering at her church as a "totally commercial-free ritual that transcends all religious interpretations of the holidays." It's designed for ages 6 and up.

"Some people last year brought their teenagers and they (the teens) loved it. They said 'This is the first service we went to that we didn't feel bad or guilty.'"

"People really appreciate it. Hopefully, they're coming here annually for it."

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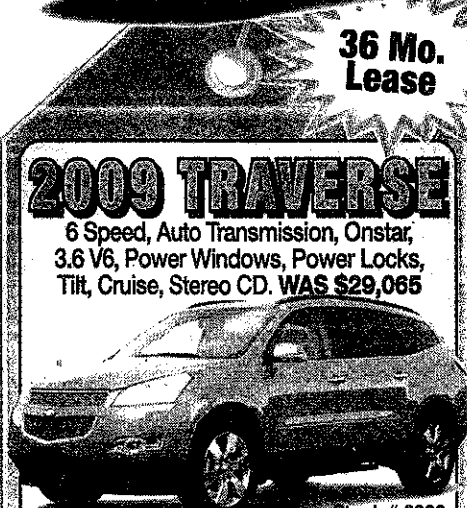
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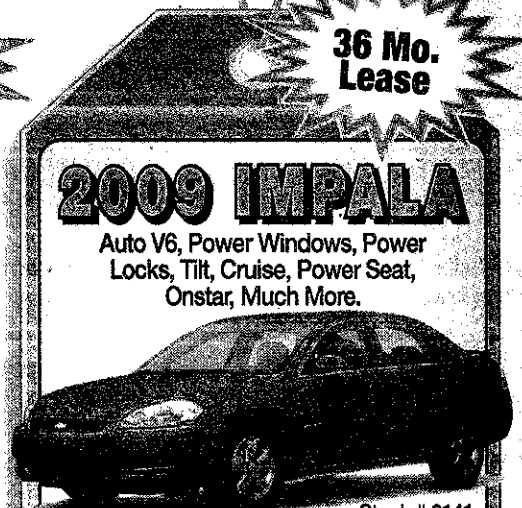
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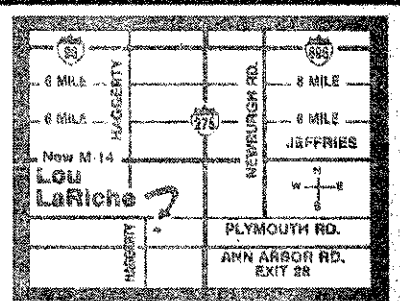
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JOB SATISFACTION AND THE AMERICAN DREAM



WORKWISE

by
Mildred L.
Culp

Where does work figure in the American Dream? J. Walter Thompson's report from a survey of 2,112 Americans at least 18 years old presents trends generational in terms of fame, fortune and happiness. However, job satisfaction would seem to be essential to the Dream, regardless of age.

EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE PARTNERING

Former dairy farmer Charles Isaak, inventory manager at Pacific Steel & Recycling (PS&R) in Great Falls, Mont., joined the company 12 years ago. PS&R has more than 700 employees, all owners of the company, across seven states. Isaak believes that his company aids him in achieving job satisfaction, which in turn benefits the company. "I've been encouraged to work my way up," he says, "through training and by letting people know I'm motivated."

When the CEO offered him management training, he

grabbed it. Then came the opportunity to relocate to headquarters from his hometown in Aberdeen, Idaho, where he'd worked for 10 years. He'd lived in only one other place. The CEO offered him an out-of-state mentor to meet with him once a month for six months to help define his new position.

Isaak sees a broad attempt to partner with employees. A consulting firm is working with around 150 to 200 managers, assistant managers and foremen to improve relationships at work and at home. This effort will eventually benefit the entire company. PS&R partners financially, too. When the ROI is on target, employees get a bonus, even if they've worked there only two weeks. Since 1977, the company has paid two bonuses every year to some of its employees.

LEGAL WORK

Criminal lawyer Anthony Colleluori of Woodbury, N.Y.'s, The Law Offices of Anthony J. Colleluori & Associates P.L.L.C., loves litigating. "I have a niche practice I find exhilarating and I pinch myself everyday because I love being an attorney so much," he says. "I try to put clients first. I get to help people in a time of their lives when all others have abandoned them and their family."

He engages clients and the professional community, M.D.s and psychotherapists, to identify what will forestall re-offending by defendants. "I try not to worry about money," he observes. "Then as a result, I get good results and happy clients and I make money. I feel blessed to be a lawyer."

THE ENVIRONMENT

Lisa Kivirist, co-author, with John Ivanko, of

"ECOpreneur: Putting Purpose and the Planet Before Profits," abandoned corporate excess to run multiple businesses, including bed and breakfast Inn Serendipity, on her Browntown, Wis., organic farm (New Society Publishers, \$17.95). She believes that self-employment exemplifies the American Dream, integrating independence, control over the work environment and personal passion with a debt-free, self-reliant lifestyle. "It's work but it's so much more than that to me," she explains. "We all need to earn a living," she continues. "Doing everything smartly and strategically and still loving what you do when you go to bed (is the American Dream). We live very well on less."

VALUES

Colleluori, the attorney, ranks his fulfilling employment "second or third in my life." Family comes first, while religious faith and employment vie for second -- the latter, "exceptionally important."

For Isaak, faith comes first, then family, then employment. "At the end of the day," he comments, "I like to say I made a difference."

Kivirist, the ecopreneur, views work socially. She believes that "work should be right up there. If it isn't, we're really missing something as a nation."

All consider job satisfaction a key component of the American Dream.

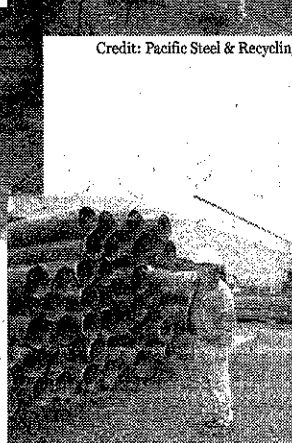
(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. E-mail your questions to culp@workwise.net. Copyright 2008 Passage Media.)

Charles Isaak is operating a band saw at Pacific Steel & Recycling in Great Falls, Mont. He believes that his employer's partnering with him contributes to his job satisfaction. Isaak is inventory manager at his employee-owned company.



Credit: Pacific Steel & Recycling

Charles Isaak is inspecting material for defects at Pacific Steel & Recycling in Great Falls, Mont., where he is inventory manager. He believes that his employer's partnering with him contributes to his job satisfaction.



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Eccentric office..... 805 E. Maple, Birmingham
Observer office 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia
Hours 8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

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A Career Not a Job

Get a real estate license for \$55 in a week

Career Talks Thursday Noon & 6pm

Real Estate One
217 W. Ann Arbor Rd
Plymouth
734-455-7000 ext. 105

A CLEANING CO. located in Novi is looking for reliable, self motivated and detailed cleaners. Must have a dependable, presentable and insured vehicle. Above average wage & perks. The Old Maid Service, 248-478-3240

A Multimedia Co. needing amped individuals to train & work 5 days/wk. Paid training. Co. vehicle, \$800-\$1000/wk. Valid D.L. Call 734-207-0317

Help Wanted-General 5000

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SALES PERSON
5 yrs. minimum experience.
(734) 397-6000
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Full-Time
(734) 397-4932
Call Mon-Fri. from 10-3pm

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International manufacturing organization has a unique opportunity for a dynamic and driven Accounting/Finance Professional. This person will work with key leadership members to evaluate business operations (cost & budget) and make process improvement recommendations. Qualified candidates will possess:
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•Strong Business Acumen
•Strong Cost/Budgeting accounting skills
•Process improvement exp.
•Weekly travel required
For a confidential discussion, please send your qualifications to hrrs@coconet.com

All Students & Others 23

PT/FT Openings \$17.25 base-appt. We train, great for resume, conditions apply, must be 18+, advancement copy. Call Today (248) 426-4405

Help Wanted-General 5000

APPOINTMENT SETTER
Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pickups for Purple Heart. Call 9-5, M-F. 734-728-4572

ASSISTANT TRAINEES
Career Opportunities for 18 individuals to fill vacancies in SE MI. No experience necessary. Excellent Training program. Promotion eligibility. \$1600/mo.
To schedule an interview: 734-425-7180

AUTO MECHANIC
We offer a clean building, equipment, exp. pay, 401K, medical & ownership opportunity. 734-454-4300

Bookkeeper
Kitchen Studio of Bloomfield Hills seeks exp. P/T bookkeeper with strong QuickBooks experience. Must be proficient in Word and Excel.
Please fax resume and salary req. to 248-332-4733.
No phone calls please.

CARPET CLEANERS
\$400-\$800/wk. 80+ hours. Will train, no exp. necessary. Canton Office 734-737-0540

CITY OF LIVONIA

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR - OFFICE MANAGER
For complete information visit: www.ci.livonia.mi.us or apply in person at Livonia City Hall, 3rd floor, 33000 Civic Center Dr. Livonia, MI 48154
E.O.E.
M/F/H

Classroom Assistant
part-time for private academy in Beverly Hills. Immediate openings. Flexible hours. Please call 248-433-9470

Cleaner:
MUST LOVE TO CLEAN!
We need a cleaner/future manager for Canton/Plymouth area. Computer & people skills a must. Welcome Home Enterprises, Inc.
Email resume: annarbor@welcometohomeenterprises.com

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For Plymouth area homes. \$10 hr. to start. No nights or weekends. Full-Time. Car required. 734-455-4570

Couple to manage lovely, well located smaller apartment community in Southfield MI. Must be experienced in maintenance, leasing and tenant relations. Computerized accounting system. Professional mgmt company. Salary + Apartment + Utilities. Send resume via email to realmanagement@gmail.com

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Assist persons we serve in residential settings. Feel good about your work. \$7.65 total plus good benefits.
Livonia: 734-469-4523
734-469-4519, 248-474-0283

DIRECT CARE STAFF
\$8.20 wages & benefits. Must be trained/valid license. 313-255-6295

DIRECT CARE STAFF
\$8.20 wages & benefits. Must be trained/valid license. 313-255-6295

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Swift may cover costs if training at Nu-Way!
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www.integritytds.com

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afternoons/nights for commercial co. in Westland. Must have exp. good drivers license. \$14-\$15/hr. 734-326-9280

Holiday Help
\$17.25 base-appt. PT/FT, flex schedules great for students/others. Call Today (248) 426-4405

Help Wanted-General 5000

Leasing Consultant
Novi apt community seeking experienced leasing consultant. Candidate should have proven sales and marketing experience. Candidate must have enthusiastic personality and good people skills. We offer great wage package plus commissions. Drug screen and criminal background check will be obtained prior to employment. Fax resumes to: Leasing 248-569-1508

LOOKING FOR A CAREER (not a job) Real Estate Agent
Free pre-licensing (except for materials \$55)
Salaried positions available if you qualify
This is the time to buy homes in Michigan, be the one to sell the House. Change your life personally & financially register today.
CALL ED BOWLIN AT 734-591-5940, EXT. 107

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

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Die-Namic
MACHINISTS ALL POSITIONS ALL SHIFTS
Die-Namic Inc. is now hiring for all machining positions at our Belleville location. Positions include:
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• CNC Lathe, CNC Mill, Wire & Conventional EDM
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A minimum of 5 years experience is required for all positions and must do own set-ups and control adjustments. We offer competitive wages and a full benefit package. Apply in person between 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M. at: Die-Namic Inc. 7565 Haggerty Rd. Belleville, MI 48111 or fax resume to: 734-710-3223 or email to: sthompson@die-namic.com EOE - M/F/D/V

Porter
MEN'S LOCKER ROOM PORTER
Assist with member services, cleaning and maintaining facilities, Full and Part-Time. Apply Mon-Fri. 9-5, Security Office, Detroit Athletic Club, 241 Madison. Fax resume: 313-963-5995 Email: humanresources@thedac.com

ROOFERS-FLAT (Experienced)
Commercial roofing firm seeks exp'd single-ply flat roofers. Salary negotiable with exp. Own transportation req. Benefits package after 6 mos. Apply in person btwn 8-12pm 1055 Manufacturers Dr. Westland. Or submit resume to: nessymic@yahoo.com. Absolutely No Phone Inquiries

ROOFERS-FLAT (Laborers)
Commercial roofing firm seeks laborers. No experience required. Starting pay \$10/hr. Own transportation required. Benefits package after 6 mos. Apply in person btwn 8-12pm 1055 Manufacturers Dr. Westland. Or submit resume to: nessymic@yahoo.com. Absolutely No Phone Inquiries

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Chairside assistant for friendly family oriented office in Commerce Two, full time. No Saturdays. Must be experienced. Call 248-363-7177 or fax resume 248-363-7162

DENTAL ASSISTANT, PT
Exp'd. Flexible. Must be able to work evenings & some Sat's. Call: (313) 563-3300

DENTAL HYGIENIST
Enthusiastic, detail oriented RDH needed in our busy Livonia group practice. 25-30 hrs a week. Send cover letter and resume to: michelle.armbruster@preferredentalgroup.com

DENTAL HYGIENIST
Part-Time. Work Monday's 9-5pm ONLY. Northville office. Call: 248-347-4250

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

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

DENTAL WAXER
Experienced in all phases of waxing. Email resume: ramseydent@aol.com or call Phil Ramsey at Ramsey Dental 248-442-4848

ORTHODONTIC CHAIRSIDE ASST & RECEPTIONIST
For our high-quality, fun, orthodontic practice. 3 or 4 days per week. Experience preferred. Call 734-981-2444

Accepting Applications:
CNA's, LPN's, RN's for all shifts. Ask for Dana. (734) 397-4932

MEDICAL - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
PT, FT. \$13-\$16/hr. to start. Medical billing, computer exp., Access, Excel req. Located in Novi. Email resume: kjmayrand@comcast.net

MEDICAL ASSISTANT/JEM
Medical house call practice in Southfield seeks medical assistant or EMT with good phlebotomy and patient care experience. Great salary & benefits. Fax resume to: 248-352-8800

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

Help Wanted-General 5000

SHOE SHINE ASSOCIATE
Seeking qualified individual to shine shoes in busy Men's Locker Room. Must have prior experience; be reliable and efficient; possess integrity and excellent service skills. Flexible hours. Meals, on-site parking provided. Apply Mon-Fri. 9-5, Security Office Detroit Athletic Club 241 Madison. Fax resume: 313-963-5995 Email: humanresources@thedac.com

TEACHER AIDE
For Preschool in Montessori School in Farmington Hills. TEACHER COACH
PT for Lower Elementary (Kindergarten to Fifth Grade). Call: 248-851-4166 Fax: 248-851-4237 leila@montessoricenterfrh.com

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

BOOKKEEPER, Part-Time
Must know QuickBooks, flexible hrs, non-smoking office. Excel/Word, bank reconciliations. Email resume to: gdstata@gmail.com

Litigation Secretary- FT
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: 248-748-2760 or e-mail: kelemon@swapp.com

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

BUSINESS ASSISTANT
Full-Time for Westland dental office. Exp. 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

Dental Assistant
Chairside assistant for friendly family oriented office in Commerce Two, full time. No Saturdays. Must be experienced. Call 248-363-7177 or fax resume 248-363-7162

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

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION
Saturday accelerated classes beginning in January, 10-4pm, Garden City, \$900 (313) 382-3657

Receptionist/ Medical Biller w/Exp
For podiatry office in Southfield, PT. Exp. required. Send resume: 248-623-1697

RN/MA
For growing specialty practice full or part time. Exp. required. Allergy exp. a plus. Must be dependable, self directed, positive, team player. E-mail resume: staciesmith.kenwood@yahoo.com

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

COOK - Line & Batch Cooking
PT, Weekends. Exp. req. Apply at: Grand Court Retirement Community, 36550 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills.

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

INSURANCE SALES: Busy
Novi Insurance Agency seeks Licensed P&C Producer. Resume: billharb@allstate.com

Outside Sales to Body Shops
Commission and expenses. Vehicle req'd. Wholesale repeat customers. Start today. Call: 248-577-5770 or for more info visit originalfit.com

Help Wanted-Domestic 5240

Retired widower seeking mature dependable live-in for companionship, light house-keeping, must speak English, non-smoker. 248-921-7244

Help Wanted-Couples 5260

Looking for a side job?
Keeping eye on quiet apartment complex & do maintenance in Redford 24715, 5 Mile. Free apt and small salary. 313-945-0524 Mon-Sat 11-5

Childcare Needed 5380

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

NANNY: seeking mature retired female for newborn. In-home located in Livonia. Must pass drug/background check. Qualified parties please call: 734-730-6540

Divorce Services 5610

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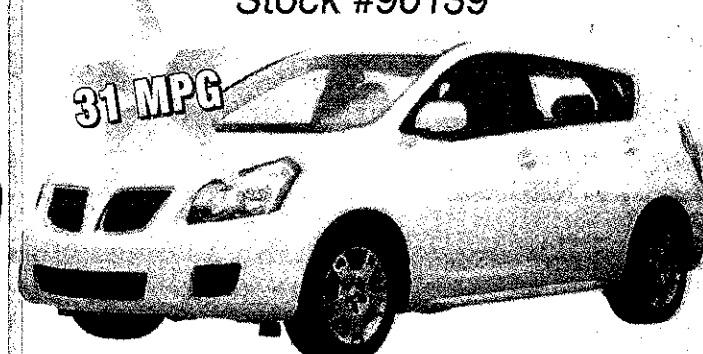


37 MPG

Was \$17,725 **OR- LEASE FOR**
NOW
\$11,937* | **\$189*** PER MO.
36 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

2009 PONTIAC VIBE

Stock #90139



31 MPG

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NOW
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36 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

2009 PONTIAC G8

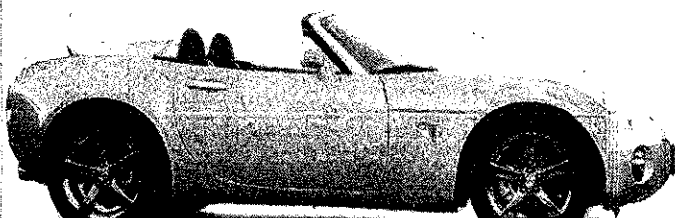
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Was \$28,875 **OR- LEASE FOR**
NOW
\$22,296* | **\$338*** PER MO.
36 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

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Was \$28,915 **OR- LEASE FOR**
NOW
\$20,995* | **\$299*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

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VIN #131058



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\$20,212* | **\$319*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS
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2009 BUICK LACROSSE CX

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\$19,880* | **\$299*** PER MO.
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Was \$35,385 **OR- LEASE FOR**
NOW
\$30,635* | **\$412*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

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Stk. #95013



Was \$30,965 **OR- LEASE FOR**
NOW
\$20,995* | **\$397*** PER MO.
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Stock #95004



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NOW
\$24,953* | **\$395*** PER MO.
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\$0 Down Payment

2008 GMC YUKON DENALI

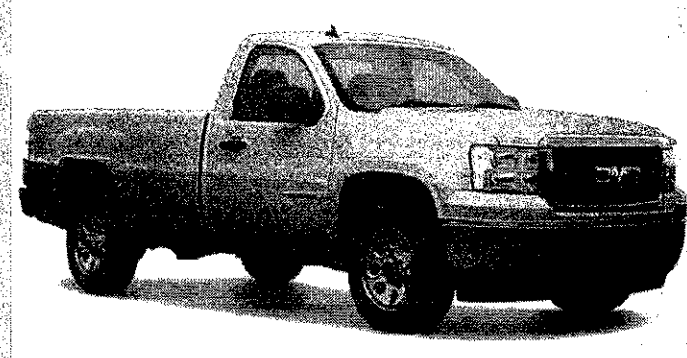
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Was \$20,010 **OR- LEASE FOR**
NOW
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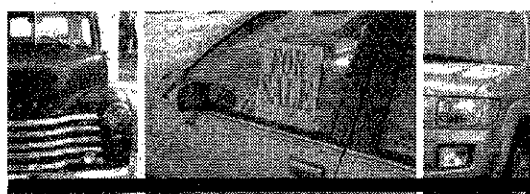
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CHEVY COLORADO Z71 2005
Crew Cab, 4x4, Superior Blue,
Test Drive Today! Just
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CHEVY S-10 LS 2003 37K
miles, automatic, 4 cylinder,
very clean, pewter,
airbags, warranty, \$7,995
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CHEVY SILVERADO Z71 2005
Arctic White, 4x4, Remote
Starter, Many Options! Winter
Warrior! \$17,995

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FORD F-150 2000
Reg Cab, long bed, hard to
find! Only 26K! \$6,950

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FORD F-150 2004 Super
Crew, 4x4, V8, loaded \$14,994

Bill Brown Ford
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FORD F-150 SPT XL 2003
Super low miles! \$7,295 or
\$37/week, WAC + TTL

NORTH BROS. FORD
1-800-586-3518

FORD F-150 LT 2007 Crew
Cab, 4x4, 25K miles, extra
clean \$19,900

Hines Park Lincoln Mercury
1-866-455-5332

FORD F-150 XLT 2007 Super
Crew, 4x4, V8, loaded \$21,997

Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD F-150 XLT 2008 Only
7,900 miles, V8, auto,
loaded, sharp! \$24,950

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734-525-0900

FORD F-250 2002, 7.3L diesel
well maintained, runs & drives
great. Comes with Jason Cap
& tow package, 86,348 miles,
\$6000. Ray: (248) 399-3300

FORD F-350 KING RANCH
2007 Crew Cab, diesel, dually
4x4 \$32,997

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(734) 522-0030

FORD RANGER XLT 2006
4x4, X-Cab, \$14,998

AVIS FORD
(248) 355-7515

GMC SIERRA 1500 SLE 2006
4x4, Ext Cab, 27K, 5.3 V8,
auto, only 14K miles \$20,950

JOHN ROGIN BUICK
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GMC SIERRA 2500 SLE 2004
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JOHN ROGIN BUICK
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Auto Misc. (8150)

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LINCOLN MARK LT 2006
4x4, 24K miles, 20" chrome
wheels, moonroof, excellent
condition! \$23,500

Hines Park Lincoln Mercury
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NISSAN TITAN 2006
Crew Cab, 4x4, \$19,998

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loaded, 251 pkg, Bose
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Leather, tan, only \$11,995

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Dark blue, 4 door \$13,995

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LUCERNE CXL 2006
White, heated and cooling
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loaded \$16,995

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RAINIER CXL 2004 9 to
choose, leather, moonroof,
navigation, certified, from
\$10,950

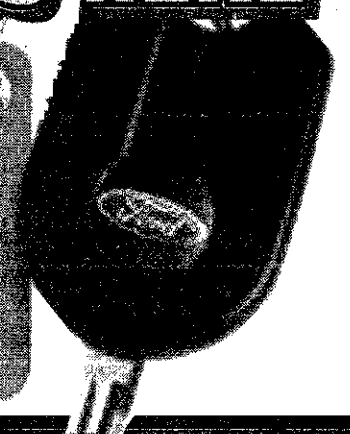
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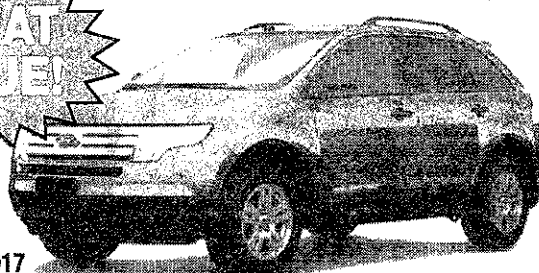
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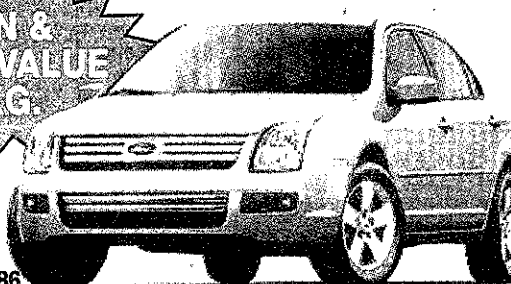
Stock #90447

New 2009 Ford
Taurus SE

Lease for 36 Months **\$269**** mo.

\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING

SUN & SYNC VALUE PKG



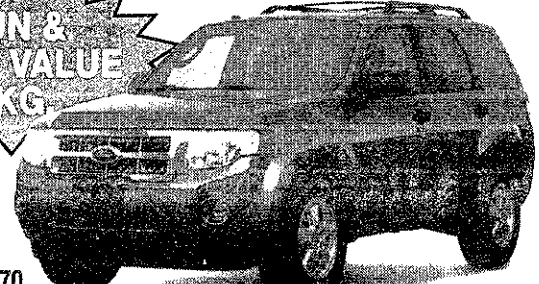
Stock #90586

New 2009 Ford
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Lease for 36 Months **\$182**** mo.

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SUN & SYNC VALUE PKG

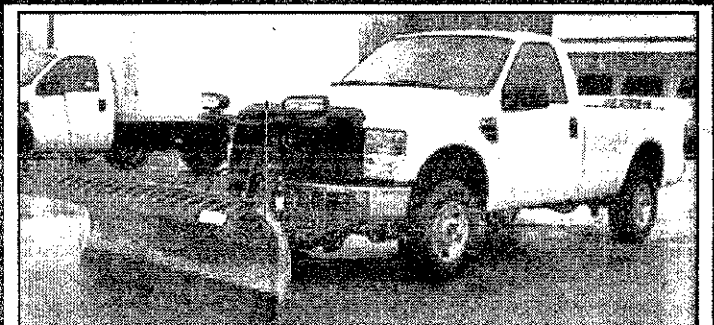


Stock #90770

New 2009 Ford
Escape XLT Fwd

Lease for 36 Months **\$238**** mo.

\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING

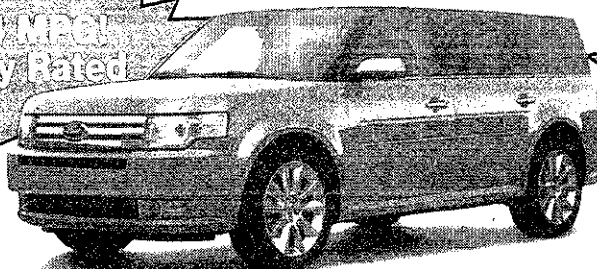


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Trade
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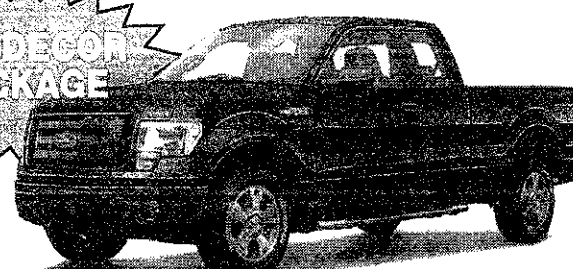
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Stock #90009

New 2009 Ford
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PACKAGE

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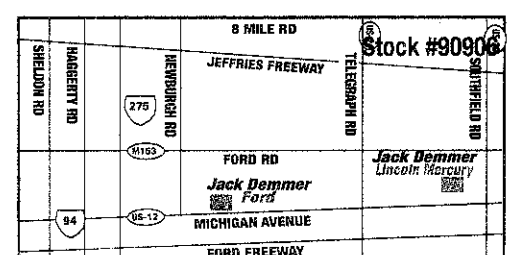
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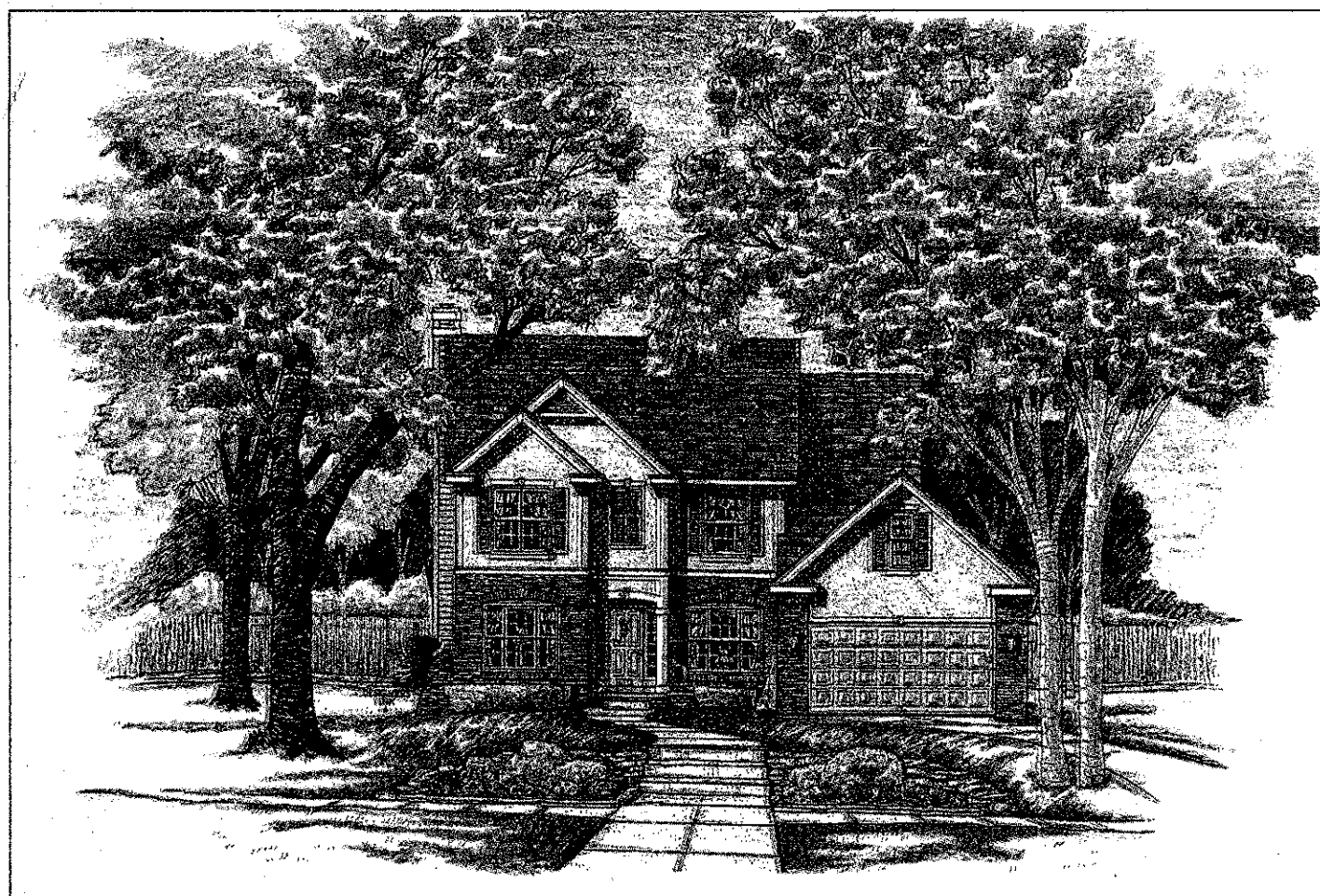
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Sunday, December 14, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com



2-story, 4-bedroom Gerard offers life of comfort to dwellers

The two-storied, multi-roofed Gerard (D4135) has 2,349 square feet of gracious living space, featuring four bedrooms and a very open floor plan. The home is compact and ideal for smaller lots. Large windows grace the façade of the Gerard and are accented with brick and shutters, giving a classical as well as a warm and cozy appeal.

A small covered porch provides protection for the entrance of the Gerard. Once inside, the home is open and spacious. The formal living room is on the left side of the entry. Windows facing the front yard bathe the room with light. To the right of the entry is the formal dining room with a built-in hutch on the right wall. French doors separate the dining room from the rest of the home.

The kitchen is a classic C-shape with a corner pantry cabinet, a double sink with a window overlooking the backyard, and a work island in the middle. Adjacent to the kitchen with a door to the two-car garage is the utility room with its own sink. Opposite the kitchen is a square room divider containing a half bath, linen closet, and a wet bar for the family room. The nook is open with a sliding door to the back deck.

The family room radiates the warm feeling of spaciousness with its fireplace on the left wall and its large windows facing the backyard on

the back wall. Separating the family room from the formal living room is stairs to the 1,199 square foot unfinished basement and the second floor, which contains all the sleeping quarters.

The Gerard has four bedrooms. The master suite is in the left rear corner with a French door entry and corner windows. It also has a 9-foot ceiling. The master bath has "his and her" sinks, an oversized tub, a shower, and large corner walk-in closet.

Two of the other three bedrooms have wall closets. Bedrooms 3 and 4 share a common bathroom with a tub and dual sinks. Bedroom 4 has a corner walk-in closet. Bedroom 2 could be used as a guest suite as it has a private bath with a single sink and a corner shower. Adjacent to bedroom 4 is an unfinished 274 square foot storage area.

For a study plan of the GERARD (D4135), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.

BRIEFS

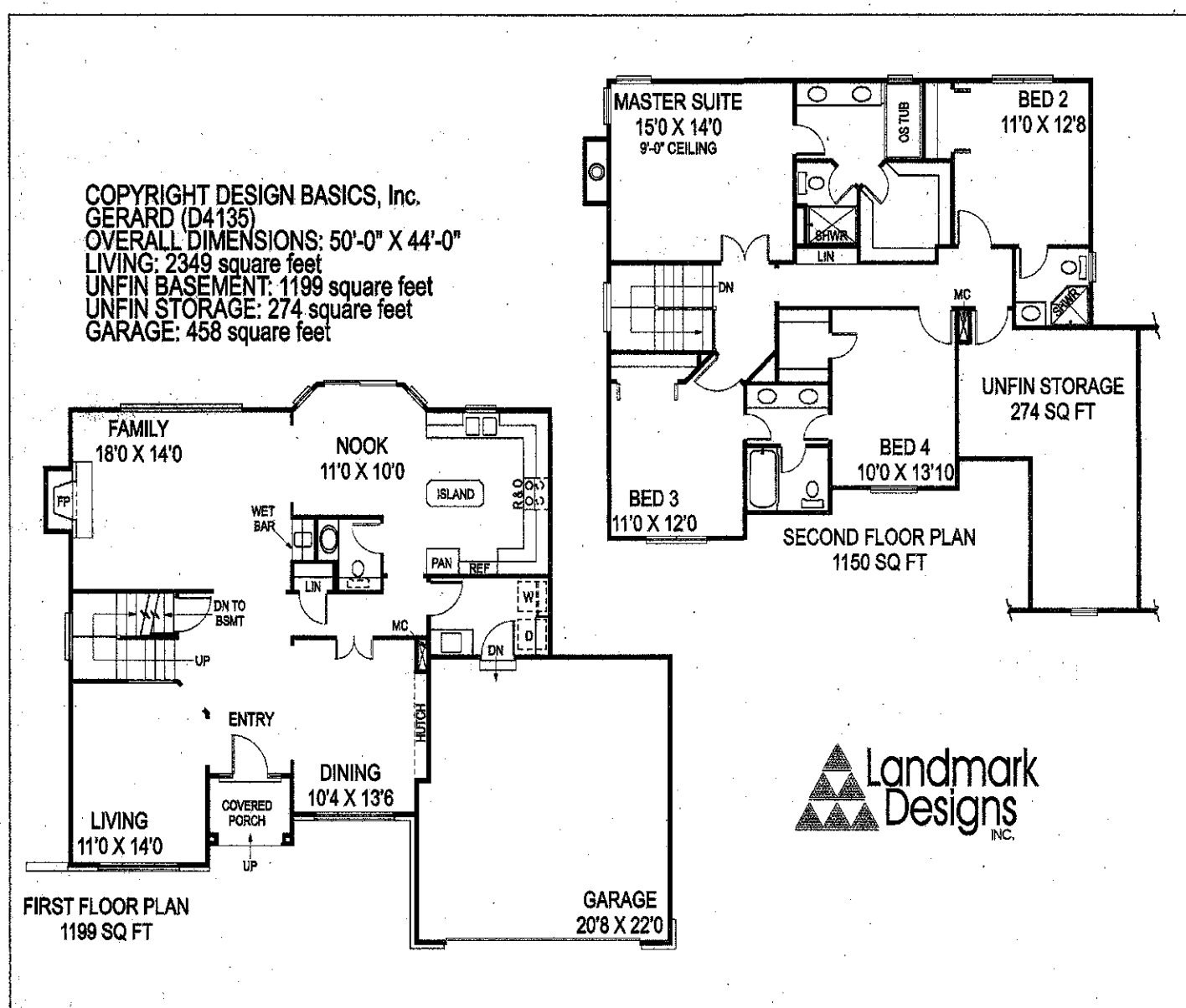
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Investors

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.



Fair housing efforts include Michigan Association of Realtors contributions

The National Association of Realtors commended the collaborative efforts of hundreds of fair housing advocates who participated in the National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

Earlier this year, the commission conducted daylong hearings in Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Atlanta and Houston and collected information and heard testimony about the nature and extent of illegal housing discrimination. The commission also gathered data on the origin of housing discrimination, its connection with government policy and practice, and its effect on foreclosures and segregation in the community.

The commission was sponsored by The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and the National Fair Housing Alliance. Former HUD Secretaries Jack Kemp and Henry Cisneros chaired the commission. 2007 NAR President Pat V. Combs acted as a commissioner; a contribution by NAR helped support the commission's activities.

"I am proud to have served as a commissioner on the National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, representing America's largest professional association with 1.2 million Realtor members," said 2007 NAR President Pat V. Combs. "I'm most grateful for the support and collaboration of the hundreds of private and public housing advocates and

officials who participated in the hearings. While progress has been made in meeting the goals of the Fair Housing Act, more work needs to be done to increase awareness of fair housing laws, improve access to affordable housing, and promote inclusion and diversity in our communities - and that can only be done through effective cooperation and building upon the progress of the Commission."

At an event in Washington, D.C., Dec. 9 the commission released a final report, The Future of Fair Housing. The report is the result of the multicity hearings and addresses the nation's progress in meeting the Fair Housing Act's goals of ending housing discrimination and replacing patterns of racial segregation with healthy integrated communities.

"The broad theme of the commission's report is that a comprehensive approach is necessary to help end discrimination and ensure equal housing opportunity. This includes more collaboration between those enforcing fair housing laws, real estate practitioners, and educators - as well as offering additional training and education to practitioners and the public about fair housing law," said Combs.

NAR works closely with the federal government and other allies to build homeownership programs and offers its expanded fair housing education programs like At Home with Diversity for members, seeks out diverse membership and association leadership, and works to expand relationships with its real estate

diversity partners.

"Our Realtor members remain committed to America's policy of fair housing and NAR pledges to continue its work toward increasing education offered to real estate professionals as well as raising public awareness about fair housing laws and the issues surrounding discrimination," said Combs.

Realtors are bound by state and federal fair housing laws, as well as the Realtor Code of Ethics, which mandates that Realtors ensure that their clients and members of the public receive equal professional services at all times.

Many local and state Realtor associations have also implemented community programs to better educate their members on fair housing and the importance of inclusive housing practices. The Michigan Association of Realtors has successfully partnered with fair housing centers in Michigan to implement a voluntary and confidential self-testing program among real estate offices. The program has seen positive results and helped open the doors to additional fair housing training and development tools and made it easier for practitioners to better identify discriminatory practices.

"Fair housing is a complex issue and only through collaboration on education, reform, enforcement and creative solutions such as self-testing, can we achieve our shared goal of strong and inclusive communities," said Combs.

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5 Sarcastic retort
8 Blunder
12 Almond-shaped
13 Ms. Lupino
14 Ship of myth
15 Hatcher or Garr
16 Seed container
17 Boldly attempt
18 News summary
20 Specks
21 on a globe
24 Come as a
ghost
27 Pacino and Hirt
28 Crumple up
31 Pound
32 Invite
33 Bleached-out
34 Shout
35 Colony member
36 Weird
37 Couch
39 Oil-bearing rock

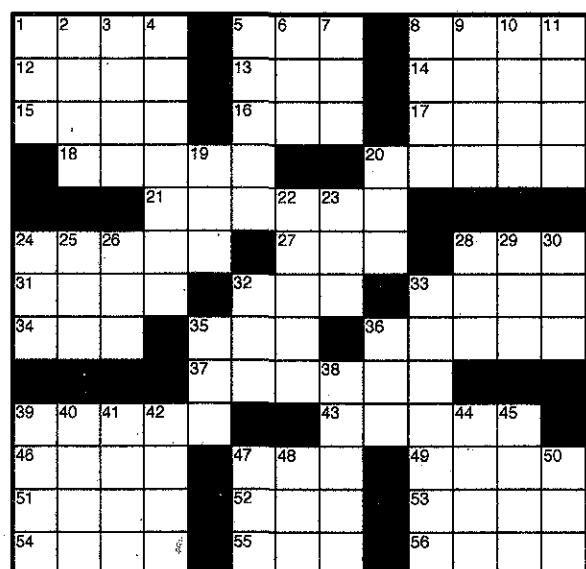
DOWN

- 43 Approves
46 Towel off
47 Handle roughly
49 Prunes a hedge
51 Luau
52 strummers
53 Farm animal
54 Great Lakes
port
54 Docs prescribe
them
55 Rainbow band
56 Mar
1 Collapsible bed
2 Declare
3 Like some
necessities
4 Cutting thin
5 Zoo
6 heavyweight
7 Shakespeare
title word
8 Once owned
9 Traipses about
10 Grad-school
exam

Answer to Previous Puzzle

YUKS INTO MAL
OMIT VAIL ELI
WADED GREASED
SMUDGE USES
INKS EESKY
ROITIDIES KB
ARN HINGNL SOU
NM BENGAL EAR
WRY UNFANG
ECHO LIELOW
BLOWOUT ERECT
BUS ALAI GEAR
SEE TURF EDDY

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

AUTOGRAPH CALF DECAF FLAGSTAFF GIRAFFE HALF LAUGH PARAGRAPH PHOTOGRAPH POLYGRAPH STAFF TELEGRAPH

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

1	7	8	6	9	2	8	2	9
2	8	2	9	1	7	9	6	8
3	9	6	9	8	2	8	7	1
4	8	9	2	1	7	9	6	8
5	6	2	4	8	9	1	9	7
6	9	6	1	2	7	6	7	9
7	4	7	6	9	8	8	9	1
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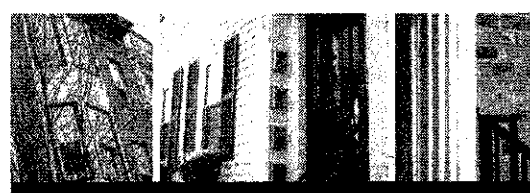
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Full size laundry room w/
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50% off 1st 3 Months
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4020

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2 bdrm townhouse, 1.5 bath,
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bungalow, bsmt, garage,
appliances. \$800/mo. + sec.
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mo. security. 734-604-0930

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double lot. Sec. 8 OK.
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GET A NEW COMPUTER Brand name laptops and desktops. Bad or NO Credit - No Problem. Smallest weekly payments available. It's yours NOW - Call 1-800-618-3765

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ADOPT A HOMELESS PET This holiday season, give the ultimate gift- save a life. Find 1000's of adoptable dogs, cats near you at Petfinder.com

REAL ESTATE
HOMES FOR SALE
4 BEDROOM 2 BATH only \$48,900! Foreclosure! Bank Owned Home! For Listings: 800-815-7810 ext. 1261

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH HUD home only \$199/month! 5 bedroom 2 bath home only \$350/month! 1-4 bedroom foreclosures from \$10K! Payments from \$199/month! 5% down, 20 years @ 8% APR! For Listings 800-366-0142 ext. 1253

HOMES FOR RENT
3 BEDROOM 2 BATH only \$234/month! 4 bedroom 2 bath only \$331/month! Buy Foreclosure! (5% down, 20 years @ 8.5% APR) For Listings: 800-815-7810 ext. 1228

5 BEDROOM 4 BATH only \$432/month! (5% down, 20 years @ 8.5% APR) Buy Foreclosure! For Listings: 800-815-7810 ext. 1292

APTS FOR RENT
4 BEDROOM 3 BATH only \$34,000! 5 bedroom 4 bath only \$67,000! 2 bedroom 2 bath only \$21,000! Foreclosure! 800-815-7810 ext. 1245

TIMESHARES
SELL/RENT YOUR TIMESHARE NOW!!! Maintenance fees too high? Need cash? Sell your unused timeshare today. No commissions or broker fees. Free consultation. www.selltimeshare.com 1-866-708-3690

For questions regarding these ads please contact Deanna Lewis at Classified Avenue, 207-384-5022 or 888-486-2466

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**BILL
BROWN
FORD**

**MICHIGAN'S #1
FORD DEALER!**

Total New Retail Vehicle Sales and
Largest Inventory To Choose From!

Employee
Pricing **PLUS**

**#1 FORD DEALER IN
CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!**

NEW 2009 FORD FUSION SE!

Employee Pricing PLUS
BUY FOR \$15,137*
\$1,000 DOWN \$230^{mo}
\$1,382 DUE AT DELIVERY*
SIGN & DRIVE \$269^{mo}
\$269^{mo}
we make your first payment

Featuring SYNC, moon roof,
remote start, automatic,
SIRIUS satellite radio,
power windows, locks,
speed control.

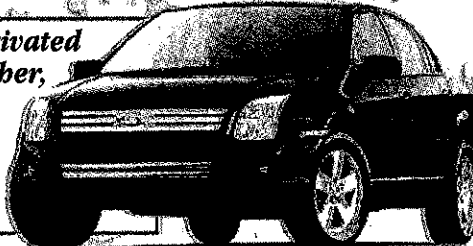
15 at this price
519 available



NEW 2009 FORD FUSION SEL

**\$1600
Navigation
Discount
Package**

Featuring: V6, Voice activated
Navigation System, Leather,
Sync, moon roof,
remote start,
25 at this price
519 available



BUY FOR \$19,108*
\$1,000 DOWN \$286^{mo}
\$1,442 DUE AT DELIVERY
SIGN & DRIVE \$328^{mo}
\$328^{mo}
We make your first payment

NEW 2009 FORD ESCAPE XLT

Featuring: Remote start, moon
roof, SYNC, power windows,
locks, seats, speed control and
tilt wheel
40 at this price 209 available



BUY FOR \$19,598*
\$1,000 DOWN \$285^{mo}
\$1,440 DUE AT DELIVERY
SIGN & DRIVE \$326^{mo}
\$326^{mo}
We make your first payment

NEW 2009 FORD EDGE SE



Featuring: Remote start,
Power windows, locks, tilt wheel,
speed control

7 at this price, 167 available

BUY FOR \$22,804*
\$1,000 DOWN \$355^{mo}
\$1,515 DUE AT DELIVERY
SIGN & DRIVE \$399^{mo}
\$399^{mo}
We make your first payment

NEW 2009 FORD FLEX SE



Featuring: remote start,
SYNC, power windows, seat,
locks, speed control, tilt wheel,
reverse sensing system
3 at this price 107 available

BUY FOR \$23,907*
\$1,000 DOWN \$377^{mo}
\$1,520 DUE AT DELIVERY
SIGN & DRIVE \$421^{mo}
\$421^{mo}
We make your first payment

NEW 2009 FORD FOCUS SE Sedan

Featuring: automatic,
speed control, power
windows & locks

21 at this price 150 available



BUY FOR \$14,710*

NEW 2008 F250 SUPER CAB XL

Featuring: V-8,
Automatic, air
conditioning,
sliding rear
window,
captain chairs



BUY FOR \$18,993*

NEW 2008 FORD TAURUS LIMITED



Featuring: SYNC, leather,
tilt, power windows & locks,
heated power seat, remote
start, AM/FM/CDX6/MP3,
audiophile sound system
with subwoofer

4 at this price
58 available

BUY FOR \$20,445*

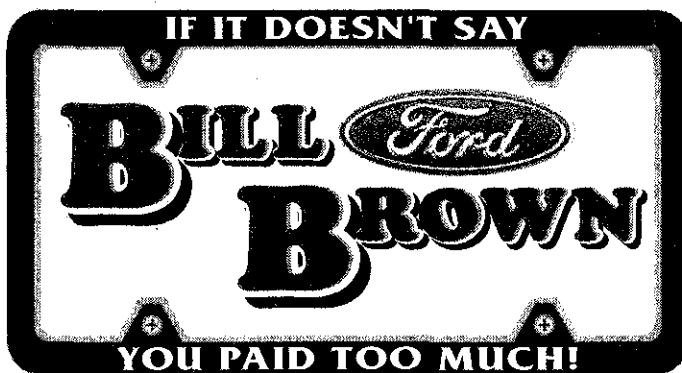
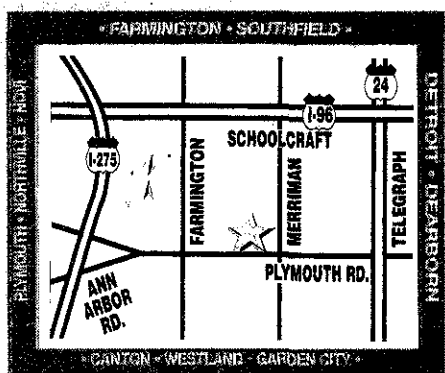
NEW 2008 FORD TAURUS X LMTD



Featuring: SYNC, leather,
tilt, power windows & locks,
heated power seat, remote
start, AM/FM/CDX6/MP3,
audiophile sound system
with subwoofer

3 at this price
18 available

BUY FOR \$23,244*



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