



THURSDAY
December 25, 2008

Observer

75 cents

WINNERS OF STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

www.hometownlife.com

McCotter: Auto loan buys time for 'viable plan'

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Rep Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, said Tuesday that President George W. Bush's \$17 billion bridge loan to General Motors and Chrysler gives the auto companies three months to make the restructuring they need to survive.

"I think you'll see they get this thing done, or everyone loses," he said.

Last week, President Bush authorized that General Motors would receive \$9.4 billion and Chrysler would receive \$4 billion in December and January from the \$700 billion allocated by Congress for the Toxic Assets Relief Program for investment banks. General Motors will receive an additional \$4 billion in February.



McCotter

General Motors and Chrysler warned that they did not have enough money to meet demands through the end of the year. Ford Motor Co. has told the government that it has enough money for the near future and did not receive federal funds.

"It's the best we could have hoped for," McCotter said.

The president acted after the Senate failed to pass a rescue bill that had been approved in the House of Representatives.

McCotter said the bridge loan gives the auto companies three months to bring all stakeholders together and create "a viable plan for the future."

He said it also keeps General Motors and Chrysler from having to file for bankruptcy. The auto companies have said that going into bankruptcy would be a problem because buyers would be reluctant to buy from a bankrupt auto company due to concerns over parts availability and warranties.

McCotter said the bridge loan also gives the incoming Barack Obama administration an opportunity to participate in talks and offer its own recommendations. McCotter said the Bush and Obama positions are very similar.

"It will be interesting to see how it plays out and what constitutes 'viable,'" McCotter said.

If the two companies do not have an acceptable plan, they will be required to repay the federal loan in three months.

McCotter has been critical of the treatment of Detroit auto executives by members of Congress compared to the treatment given investment bank executives who have been the beneficiary of \$350 billion with more to come. He and others have demanded that the banks be more accountable for the funds they've already received and will receive in the future.

"House Republicans sent a letter to Speaker (Nancy) Pelosi and (House Finance) Chairman (Barney) Frank to investigate and Frank said he would," McCotter said.

He said now that Congress has vented its frustration on the auto companies, it can turn its attention "to those who caused the problems in the first place," investment bankers. "Credit has yet to unfreeze," he said. President-elect Obama is pushing

for an economic stimulus package centered around government investment in repairing the country's infrastructure. As a self-described conservative, McCotter has reservations about the extent of government involvement.

"Investment in infrastructure is a necessary and good thing. It's something that will last and not be temporary. I will be interested in the details and what gets put into the package," he said.

Private investment to stimulate the economy, he said, is being stymied by the continuing credit crunch. He said a stimulus package alone can not turn around the economy and that more needs to be done to help those struggling with foreclosure problems.

"More should have been done on the grass-roots level," he said of the TARP funds.

'Oh, little town ...'

School transforms itself to celebrate Christmas season

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Skeptical teenagers, shy youngsters ... Santa Claus doesn't care who stops by to chat around this time of the year. In the "Little Town of Burger," he has a smile, a "Ho, ho, ho" and a stuffed bear for those who visit his house.

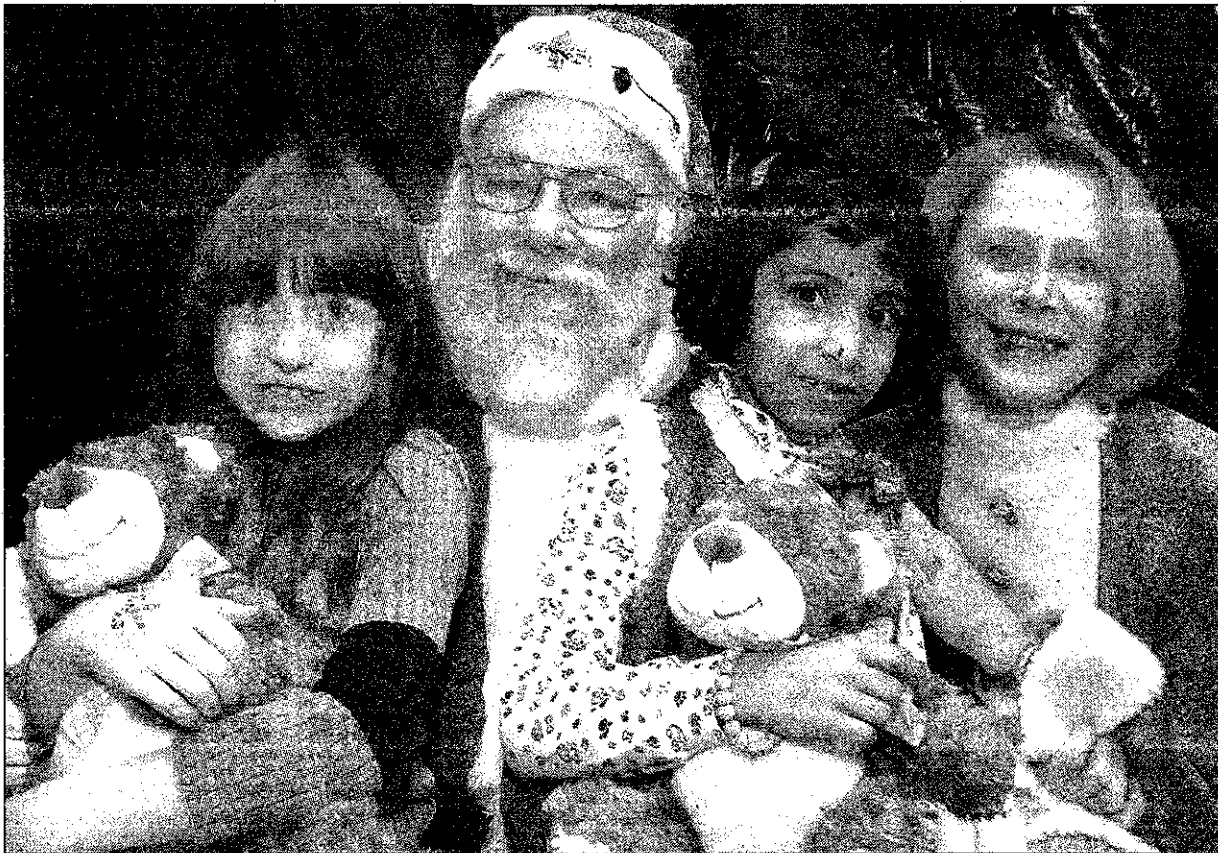
"I enjoy this, it's the highlight of my year," said Santa who got help entertaining his guests from Christmas Carol. "One of the wonderful thing about our kids is that the 17-year-olds come and shake my hand, but they still have their list."

Christmas Carol has been helping Santa at Burger for 10 years and has watched many of his visitors grow up. And even though they are older, it's the looks on their faces that makes the visit special.

"They're so excited," she said.

Nintendo Wii, MP3 players, games, music and videos like *Camp Rock* have been popular requests. One young man wanted "a complete train set like his grandfather had in his basement," said Santa.

Among Santa's visitors was



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Snuggling up to Santa (R.J. Tessmer) and Christmas Carol (Darlene Jablonowski) at the Burger Center for Students with Autism's annual Christmas carnival are students Erica Hill, 7, of Garden City (left) and Jeni Ottenthengil, 8, of Plymouth-Canton.

9-year-old Bradley Zigulis of Westland.

"I saw Santa and I asked him for a PSP and laptop," said Bradley. He

gave me a teddy bear that I'm calling Ashley Jr. It's a good name."

In actuality, Santa is R.J. Tessmer, and Christmas Carol is

Darlene Jablonowski and the "Little Town of Burger" is the Burger

Please see **BURGER, A6**

Young Livonia girl to perform in bowl games

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Madalyn Geletzke is starting to feel the pressure of dancing during half-time at the Orange Bowl in Miami on New Year's Day, but then who wouldn't with 20 million viewers tuning in to Fox TV when Virginia Tech meets the University of Cincinnati?

The 13-year-old Livonia girl is among 275 dancers from all over the country participating in the show, which features 2,000 performers including marching bands and baton twirlers.

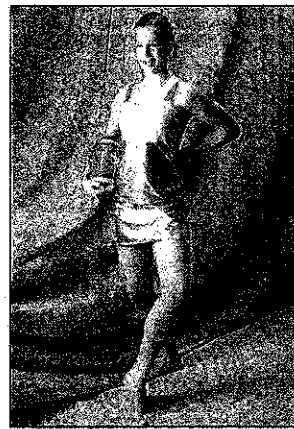
Geletzke is less worried about sharing the stage with the legendary Doobie Brothers and more about learning the routine choreographed by Mandy Moore from *So You Think You Can Dance* fame. She was just about to leave for the Barbara Hatch School of Dance in Farmington for a four-hour practice. Right before the Orange Bowl, she'll take part in three days of rehearsals in Florida. Geletzke began dancing at age 4. She takes classes in ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical, pointe, hip hop and pom five days a week.

"We have 1½ weeks to learn the eight-minute dance from DVD," said

Geletzke, a seventh-grade student at Holmes Middle School. "I'm really looking forward to the experience of getting to meet a professional choreographer and performing on national TV."

Before leaving for Florida, the young dancer will perform at the Motor City Bowl featuring a matchup between Central Michigan and Florida Atlantic universities Friday at Ford Field with the Mid American Studio Senior All Stars from the pom and dance school in Farmington. She is a little more

Please see **BOWLS, A2**



Madalyn Geletzke will perform in the halftime show at the Orange Bowl. The Livonia girl is a member of the Barbara Hatch School of Dance Company.

Woman who put baby in trash will stand trial

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Wayne County jury will decide whether a Westland woman tried to kill her newborn son or if she was besieged by mental problems when she delivered the baby herself, tucked him in a trash bag and put him in her parents' garage.

The baby survived after relatives heard his cries and found him alive.

Barring a plea agreement, 28-year-old Valeeka Gartrell will face trial March 4 in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges of assault with intent to murder and first-degree child abuse.

If convicted, she could face penalties ranging up to life in prison for an incident that happened April 23, 2007, at her parents' house, where she lived.

Gartrell's trial had been long delayed as experts sought to determine whether she was competent for court proceedings and whether she could be held criminally responsible for her actions.

With those issues now resolved, Wayne County Circuit Judge Jeanne Stempien ruled earlier this month that Gartrell should stand trial for the attempted murder of her baby boy.

Defense attorneys have argued that the defendant didn't understand what she was doing when she put the baby boy in a garbage bag and placed him in a garage near Joy and Hix roads, on Westland's northwest side.

During the summer of 2007, Gartrell had been released on a \$50,000/10 percent bond after one of her cousins offered to watch over her and give her a place to stay while her case was pending.

Police have said her baby and her 3-year-old daughter were placed in the custody of their grandparents.

According to police, Gartrell woke her parents on April 23 and told them that she was bleeding. They had known she was pregnant.

Gartrell was taken to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, where doctors found that she already had given birth, police Sgt. Chris Benson has said. Family members then returned home, where they found the baby in the garage, he said.

For Home
Delivery call:
(866) 887-2737



6 53174 10007 8

© The Observer
& Eccentric
Newspapers



COMMUNITY FINANCIAL
MORTGAGE SERVICES

- FHA Loans
- Great rates on new purchase & refinanced loans
- Zero Down Programs

Call today for a free Mortgage Analysis!

(734) 582-8500 (877) 937-2528 ext. 8500 www.cfmw.org

PLYMOUTH CANTON NORTHVILLE NOVI

Federally insured by NCUA Equal Housing Lender. ©2008 Community Financial

Trust Your Community Lender

INDEX	
APARTMENTS	C3
AUTOMOTIVE	C5
CLASSIFIED	C2-C6
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	C2
FILTER	D1
JOB	C4
OBITUARIES	D6
OPINION	A4
PINK	D8
REAL ESTATE	C1
SERVICE GUIDE	C2
SPORTS	B1

USA WEEKEND

Coming Sunday:
The year in photos

Man uses note, threatens teller in Redford bank holdup

A man used a holdup note and implied he had a gun while robbing a Charter One Bank branch in Redford Township of about \$400 on Saturday. There were no injuries and no gun was seen.

The holdup at the bank on Telegraph near West Chicago took place just before noon, a Redford Police Department report said.

A teller told police a man approached her window after she asked if she could help him. He handed her a note that announced a robbery, she said, and she opened her cash drawer and began gathering money. He threatened to kill her, she said, and threatened her again when she tried to push an alarm button.

The robber held one hand in a pocket of his jacket, the teller said. She said she did not see a gun but said there was a bulge in the pocket.

The robber took the money, and the note, and left, the teller said. No getaway vehicle was seen.

Oil shop break-in

A man stole the change box, with a small amount of cash in it, after breaking into Instant Oil Change on Telegraph near Joy Road about 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

The glass in the front door had been broken out, a police report said.

A security video showed a lone man inside the shop, taking the change box, police said.

GARDEN CITY

Home invasions

Police were called to the 31000 block of Hennepin Saturday after a woman returned to her home there to find the front door had been forced open.

A witness told police he had spotted a man walking around the house and that he had followed him in a vehicle for a time before losing sight of him.

The officer noted there were footprints into the back yard but that the suspect had returned to the front door, which had been possibly kicked open, damaging the frame.

The homeowner told police that jewelry valued at \$500 had been stolen from her bed-



Police are looking for this man in connection with a robbery at a Charter One Bank branch in Redford.

room, including a gold watch, a gold necklace, a crucifix and costume jewelry.

A couple of hours later, a resident in the 30000 block of Hennepin told police he noticed a light coming from the side door from the house of a neighbor who was not at home. He found the door had been forced open.

Based on no wet snow in the home and light snow covering the footprints, the responding officer said he thought the break-in had taken place the previous day. The homeowner was contacted; it was unclear if anything had been stolen. Earlier on Dec. 20, a resi-

dent in the 31000 block of Pierce told police she had heard a loud noise at her back door. When she checked, the woman said, she saw a man whom she believed was trying to break into her home.

He fled when she turned on a light and her dog began barking, she told police.

LIVONIA

Two arrests

Two Southfield men accused of trying to break into a house in Livonia on Sunday are facing some serious charges for their trouble.

According to Livonia police reports, a 12-year-old boy was at home alone playing video games in his house in the 12000 block of Hartel when he heard pounding at the back door.

The boy called police, and responding police officers picked up a 44-year-old man backing out of the driveway of the house. Minutes later, they picked up his alleged accomplice a few doors down the street as the 46-year-old attempted to convince another homeowner to let him in, police said.

The two men were expected to be arraigned Tuesday on charges of home invasion and being habitual offenders.

Christmas stolen

A woman living in the 18000 block of Lyndon went to bed at 11 p.m. Monday night and was awakened shortly after that by noise coming from the kitchen. She went downstairs expecting to see her son and found her kitchen had been ransacked.

Reported missing from the house were Christmas presents and her purse.

A police report said there was a white mid-sized sedan seen near the house at the time of the incident.

— they only last about five years — then I want to go to become a fashion designer after going to College for Creative Studies."

Geletzke's father, Fred, says anything is possible when it comes to his oldest daughter. Madalyn is a role model for her sister Meredith. The 7-year-old danced with Madalyn at Disney World last spring.

"Madalyn's very dedicated. We talked to her about her grades being good to continue to do this. She's kept up her part of the bargain," Fred said. "She's on the honor roll at Holmes. We're very proud of her."

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241

after christmas
fine jewelry

SALE

NOW THROUGH
TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 30.

Now through Tuesday, December 30, 2008

EXTRA 20% OFF
fine jewelry

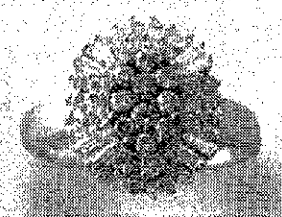
Valid on one entire purchase;
choose as many items as you like.

PARISIAN

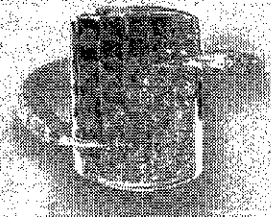


C0020010D4W

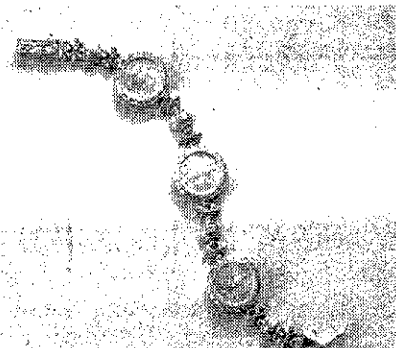
Cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon or special offer. Coupon will not be available in stores. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Duplicate coupons will not be honored. Excludes Incredibly Value merchandise, Bonus Buys, Door Busters, Fine Jewelry Super Values, Fine Watches, Fine Jewelry special event merchandise, regular price merchandise, service departments, special orders and gift cards. Cannot be applied to previously purchased merchandise or mail/phone/internet orders.



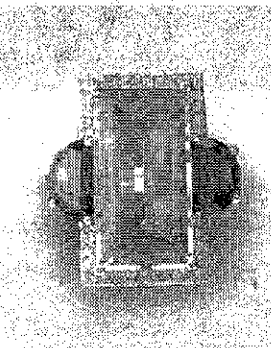
extra 10% off
DIAMONDS
ALREADY 40% off
PLUS, USE YOUR 20% OFF COUPON



extra 10% off
GEMSTONES
ALREADY 40% off
PLUS, USE YOUR 20% OFF COUPON



extra 10% off
GOLD, ALREADY 50% off
PLUS, USE YOUR 20% OFF COUPON



extra 10% off
STERLING SILVER
ALREADY 50% off
PLUS, USE YOUR 20% OFF COUPON

FINE JEWELRY CLEARANCE
60% off original prices
plus, save even more when you use the 20% coupon!

PARISIAN

COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE®

Sale prices effective now through Tuesday, December 30, 2008. No price adjustments for previously purchased clearance merchandise. Entire Stock offers exclude Clearance and Incredible Value merchandise. Regular and original prices reflect offering prices in effect during the 90 days before or after this sale, but not necessarily during the past 30 days. Savings may not be based on actual sales. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken. Merchandise, style and color availability may vary by store. Sale excludes Bonus Buys, Fine Jewelry Super Values, Fine Jewelry special event merchandise, Moissanite Fine Jewelry Collection and Fine Watches. [18179C]

BOWLS

FROM PAGE A1


confident of performing in Detroit as this is her second year. Geletzke already has plenty of experience, not only in dance, but pom. In April, she performed with the Mid American High School All Stars at Disney World and later in parades for the Red Wings Stanley Cup and Thanksgiving Day in Detroit. She's also performed during Detroit Pistons games.

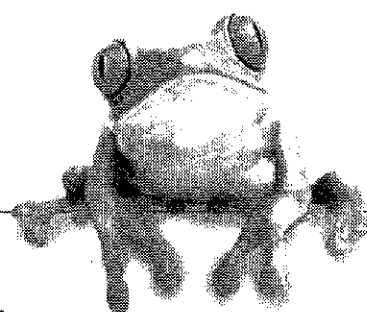
"It's very exciting," said her mother, Laura. "I'm looking forward to the game and hear-

ing her experiences working with choreographers and such a large group. We went to New York City for her 13th birthday and she's determined to be a Rockette one day."

Geletzke was especially excited about meeting the Rockettes during a tour of Radio City Music Hall.

"They told us what it's like, showed us all the places they practice and where they get their costumes," Geletzke said. "They were talking about what you need ballet, tap, jazz and to sing to be a Rockette. I want to be a Rockette. I would only practice during the winter, then go to college. By the time I'm done with the Rockettes

**Parkside Dental Team**
Holiday Whitening Special
Buy one, get one FREE Zoom Whitening at the Zoom Room
Now thru January 31st, 2009.
Regular price, \$499. No other coupons or discounts apply.
36444 W. Warren Ave. • Westland, MI 48185
734.261.6060 www.parksidedentalteam.com



A Big, Fat Thank You To Our Customers

150 week* CD

4.00%
APY**



Monroe Bank & Trust

Serving the Local Community for 150 Years

*Term is 35 months. **The Annual Percentage Yield is effective as of December 09, 2008. Interest compounded quarterly. Minimum deposit of \$1,000 is required to open and obtain the APY. Interest rate is 3.94%. No additional deposits accepted during the term of the CD. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Offer limited to existing MBT customers. Offer limited to existing MBT customers. Call or visit one of our branches for details.

800-321-0032 www.mbandt.com

Member FDIC

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

THINKING ABOUT...

A
NEW
FURNACE?



- Affordable Pricing
- 0% Financing Available
- Extended Warranties
- Quality Installation

Our 34th Year!
UNITED TEMPERATURE
8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA

Blue Care of Michigan
announces open
enrollment for its HMO
nongroup product:

PERSONAL PLUS

Open enrollment dates
are January 1 – 30, 2009
for a March 1, 2009
effective date.

Please contact
Blue Care Network's
Customer Service
department at
1-800-662-6667 for
additional information.



Blue Care of Michigan, Inc.
is an Equal Opportunity Employer/MF.
© 2008 Blue Care of Michigan, Inc.

060827317

COMMUNITY ROUNDUP

Youth Hero of Year

A student at Adams Middle School in Westland is in the running for a state VFW award after being selected as the Youth Hero of the Year by the Kozdron-Zeyer VFW Post 4553 in Detroit.

Nicholas Gonzalez was nominated for the honor by post Commander Albert Boreio in recognition of his citizenship, scholarship and attendance.

According to Boreio, the 11-year-old is a sixth-grader has been a hero to the staff and his fellow students since kindergarten. Fluent in Spanish and English, he has served as an interpreter for Spanish-speaking students. He also helped teach them the English language.

"Without Nicholas's expertise in guiding his fellow students, staff and the parents, there would be language barriers prohibiting the learning process of out future U.S. leaders," Boreio wrote in his nominating letter. "Nicholas easily glides from one language to another without hesitation."

The son of Sabrina and

Rodrigo Gonzalez, Nicholas is an all A student. He is a Student Council representative and has been in charge of collecting items for the troops in Iraq, Toys for Tots and food items for needy families.

"His parents and younger brother are also to be commended in honoring Nicholas' skills and personality," said Boreio.

Skating stars to perform

Come see possible future Olympic ice skating stars at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 27 at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena located on 46615 Michigan Avenue in Canton Township. The Arctic Figure Skating Club will be hosting a dress rehearsal skate for the January 2009 Figure Skating Nationals in Cleveland, Ohio.

All of the Arctic Figure Skating Clubs pair teams will be performing, including Canadian National champions and world silver medalists Scott Moir and Tessa Virtue, and U.S. National silver medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call (734) 487-7777.

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

First Step, the Wayne County agency that provides shelter for women and their children to escape violence and sexual abuse, is in the middle of a capital fund-raising campaign to raise \$5.5 million for a new family center in Wayne.

Thus far, First Step has raised just over \$2 million in gifts and in-kind support to replace the dilapidated shelter in Canton Township.

A new facility can't come soon enough as the Canton facility - an old farm house that was converted to a nursing home before being bought by First Step 20 years ago - has become so unlivable women and their children have been moved to a temporary location.

"Time has taken its toll on the building, it has too many leaks in the roof and it's not repairable," said Theresa Bizoe, an associate director for First Step. "It doesn't have

handicap access and the wiring is poor."

Bizoe said the plan is to construct an addition of at least 14 flexible family suites that can house up to 50 people in the new facility.

"In Canton, we had eight bedrooms with several families sharing a bedroom," Bizoe said. "Conflicts might come up, there are different sleeping times and noise levels."

"The new family center will feature self-contained apartments where families can have dignity, privacy and independence and all the services they need to move from violence to safety," she said. "We serve about 800 people a year, so individual family suites will be very empowering."

Bizoe said while the family suites won't be constructed until the capital campaign is completed, the Wayne facility will provide free counseling and advocacy services in early January. They are the same type of services that are currently provided at facilities in Redford Township and Taylor,

which serve nearly 10,000 families a year.

"Any victim of domestic or sexual abuse can come to our office and see an advocate, someone trained in post-traumatic stress, legal aspects and help sort out their options free of charge," Bizoe said. "We offer counseling for children who witness violence and safety planning for kids, such as when a fight breaks out. Workshops for men and boys about healthy relationships."

Bizoe said the administrative offices will remain in Plymouth.

First Step received about \$100,000 in help from the Detroit chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW). The women's group in 2006, during its 20th anniversary, picked First Step as a community service project.

"We looked at existing real estate holdings and evaluated them, analyzed their facility requirements and space needs, and help select an architectural and construction management firm," said

Marilyn Nix of CREW. "We worked with them to review properties available in the marketplace to find the best alternative to fit their requirements."

"It was a great opportunity for CREW members to give back to the organization, especially to a group that helps women," added Nix, who then became a board member of First Step.

Karen Wilson of Grosse Ile is the largest donor in the current capital campaign, contributing \$900,000.

"I've been very blessed with a home and not having to wonder if I will have a meal or be safe, and there are people out there who don't have that," Wilson said. "I wanted to provide a safe place for women and children to go when they're in danger and have needs."

The First Step 24-hour help line number is (734) 459-5900 or toll free at (888) 453-5900.

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2637

Alma Nava D.D.S.

DRAKESHIRE DENTAL CENTER

Graduate of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and the National Autonomous University of Mexico School of Dentistry.

Our staff is fluent in Spanish!

Our office provides a variety of dental services including:

- Bleaching and cosmetic dentistry
- Invisalign and traditional braces
- Air abrasion "Drillless" dentistry
- Laser dentistry
- Cerec one-visit porcelain crowns
- Fillings, crowns and bridges
- Implants
- Dentures and removable partial dentures
- Treatment of gums

Ask us about our new dental spa!

Accepting new patients, both adults and children.

Conveniently located at the corner of Grand River and Drake Roads in the Drakeshire Plaza.

Evening and Saturday hours available.

Alma Nava, D.D.S.
Drakeshire Dental Center
35223 Grand River • Farmington, MI 48335
248-474-4600
www.drakeshiredental.com



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

8am-10pm Dec. 21	7am-11pm Dec. 22	7am-11pm Dec. 23	7am-6pm Dec. 24	Closed Dec. 25	7am-9pm Dec. 26	10am-9pm Dec. 27
11am-6pm Dec. 28	10am-9pm Dec. 29	10am-9pm Dec. 30	10am-6pm Dec. 31	10am-7pm Jan. 1	10am-9pm Jan. 2	10am-9pm Jan. 3

Holiday Hours!

EMBELLISH YOUR LIFE

WESTLAND
SHOPPING CENTER

Macy's, JC Penney, Sears, Kohl's & Over 80 Specialty Stores • 734-421-0291
Located on the corner of Wayne & Warren Roads • www.westlandcenter.com

OE08637272

Affordable Personal Care

In addition to our assisted living, we also offer a special secured environment for residents with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other memory disorders.



- Specialized services available.
- Activity-filled facility located on almost 4 acres of lush surroundings.
- Licensed by the State of Michigan.
- Easy access on and off I-696.

- ~ VA benefits may apply
- ~ Long-term care insurance accepted



Farmington Hills Inn
ASSISTED LIVING FOR SENIORS

248-851-9640

30350 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334

www.farmingtonhillsinn.com



All Services Included For One Low Monthly Price

- ~ 3 Meals Daily, plus a snack
- ~ Medication Administration
- ~ Laundry Service
- ~ Daily Housekeeping
- ~ Full Activities Calendar
- ~ Assistance with Bathing & Personal Grooming
- ~ Free Satellite TV Service in Rooms & Common Areas
- ~ Regular Physician Visits
- ~ Physical Therapy on-site
- ~ Backup Generator
- ~ Respite/Vacation Stays Available
- ~ Beauty/Barber Shop on-site

OUR VIEWS

Ordinance on park funds alters intent of millage

The Wayne County Commission last week failed to override a veto by County Executive Robert Ficano of a proposed ordinance to distribute 25 percent of what each community contributes to the county's parks millage back to those communities.

The proposal was sent back to the commission's Ways and Means Committee for further deliberation, but will probably need to be reintroduced when new commissioners take office in January.

Commissioners who advanced the ordinance have argued that their communities do not receive a fair return on their tax dollar. Under the proposal, they would get 25 percent of their tax money back to use for local recreational needs. We believe the proposal is well intended but is bad public policy and takes too much money from the intended purpose to the voter approved parks millage - to maintain the county park system.

The parks millage was initially passed by Wayne County voters in 1996 to levy .25 mills, generating approximately \$12.7 million per year. The millage was renewed in 2000 and again in 2005. It expires in 2010.

Under current agreements, communities are able to propose local capital recreation projects for county support from millage dollars. The ordinance would lock in 25 percent to each community, even though the needs of each community are not the same.

Voters understood that the primary purpose of the millage was to support improvements at Hines and Elizabeth Parks, as well as support for Detroit's Chandler Park, Fort Wayne and some smaller parks. Many of our communities do benefit from those parks. Hines Park runs through Westland, Livonia and Plymouth Township. Residents of Redford, Garden City and Canton can take advantage of those parks as well. No one would benefit if a lack of funding allowed those parks to deteriorate.

We believe the current system adequately addresses the concerns of local communities.

Commissioners who advanced the ordinance have argued that their communities do not receive a fair return on their tax dollar. Under the proposal, they would get 25 percent of their tax money back to use for local recreational needs. We believe the proposal is well intended but is bad public policy and takes too much money from the intended purpose to the voter approved parks millage - to maintain the county park system.

A simple celebration is more in keeping with the 1st Christmas

Many people scaled back their spending for this Christmas.

Some were forced to because they were laid off or had their job eliminated; others chose to because of uncertainty about the future economy.

Though the official numbers won't be in until after the holidays, people expected to spend 5 percent less for the 2008 holidays — \$775 on average — than they did for the 2007 holidays, according to a Brand Keys Inc. national survey of 16,000 consumers in the nine U.S. Census regions.

Economists might disagree, but spending less on Christmas isn't such a bad thing.

Consider the first Christmas. Jesus — God's only son — was born to poor parents, peasants, in a stable among animals, the Bible says. There was no Christmas tree, no presents, no special foods.

The wise men, bearing gifts of gold, incense and myrrh, did not visit Jesus while he was in the stable but in a house when he was a toddler, according to Biblical scholars.

The reason we celebrate Christmas is because of Jesus' birth, unpretentious as it was.

Jesus was God's gift to humans, the Bible says. He took the punishment for everyone's sins so that, through faith in Him, people can live eternally in heaven.

That sometimes gets lost in our modern-day celebration of Christmas with its frenzy and excess.

Perhaps a simpler, less commercialized observance will help us remember the reason for the season.

Jesus was God's gift to humans, the Bible says. He took the punishment for everyone's sins so that, through faith in Him, people can live eternally in heaven. That sometimes gets lost in our modern-day celebration of Christmas with its frenzy and excess.



LETTERS

Thanks for column

I just read, "When you're the employee, bankruptcy is very painful" and wanted to thank you for writing what I, and I'm sure others, are thinking and feeling!

My fiancé is a ground worker for Northwest Airlines. He's been with NWA for 19 years, and was with Midway Airlines, prior to that, for 10 years. His is just one story, of thousands, maybe millions, happening in our country.

He'd worked his entire life in an industry and then, when NWA filed for bankruptcy, was forced to take a \$4 per hour pay cut. While that may not seem to be earth-shattering to people on its surface, that \$8,300 per year is money that was directly removed from the economy of this state.

He was very smart in his foresight and put his home for sale, just prior to the bankruptcy happening. The house sold just before the real estate market completely collapsed. While he could have made ends meet, he was concerned about NWA going under and losing his home, if that occurred.

Of course, NWA has emerged from bankruptcy, but the new "unknown" on the horizon is how the Delta/NWA merger will impact employees who are 50-plus, who have many years with the companies, etc. The American workers have for far too long had to carry the weight of executives on their backs, while those executives, many times, seem to fly beneath the radar when it comes to responsibility.

I have been completely astounded to monitor the hearings on the "Big 3 Bailout" and realize just how much of this country truly feels that the auto industry should go down and don't seem to have a remote belief that that will massively impact every industry. When I hear the "leaders" of our country saying that we should let those companies go bankrupt, while we, the taxpayers, have just paid to bail out the very industry (financial) that is most responsible for placing us in this recession, I am aghast!

The auto industry impacts every life in America and, honestly, I can't understand how any American can encourage its demise.

I'm just so frustrated, as I believe (hope???) most Americans are at this point in our history. I really just wanted to thank you for writing exactly what I was thinking.

Maureen A. Latimer
Plymouth

Senators were wrong

I wanted to add my two cents about what is going on with the federal bailout. What a joke! They bail out Wall Street and the CEO for the one company made \$77 million with salary and bonuses, and our government gives them billions of dollars, no questions asked.

But when our automotive industry goes to Washington and has to BEG for money to keep MILLIONS of people working, they shoot us down. They tell the Big Three you want money yet you rode in private jets. Most big corporations have private planes, yet that seemed to make the day of those senators.

Let's look into something: the average U.S. senator makes \$169,300 a year and party leaders and president pro tempore

make \$188,100 per year as of Jan. 1, 2008, and then get ALL MEDICAL paid, not to mention how many days off a year they get. And they want to try and mess with possibly the biggest industry in America.

Well, I certainly don't think it is fair. And then this past weekend, a U.S. senator was supposed to come to Gibraltar Trade Center and sign autographs for \$35-\$75 per signature, former Tiger Jim Bunning. Well, after he voted no for Detroit automakers, the owner of Gibraltar called the senator and told him we didn't want him here. That decision cost the Gibraltar Trade Center lots of money, but he stood up for what he believed and hats off to him. We should ALL go out and shop there for Christmas gifts.

Our government officials who WE ELECT should be there for us. I salute all the senators who voted for the Bridge Loan, and to those that did not, that is a shame. You have for some reason tried to kill the automotive industry, for what reason, my question to you is when you go to work — on the days you go — how do you get there? Walk, run, jog? No I would think it would be an AUTOMOBILE, and if it is, was it built in AMERICA.

Interesting question, I am quite sure the senators who voted NO are driving cars NOT built in the U.S., and I think it is time for America to stand up, and voice your complaint. This is America, and everything has changed to protect those who are not from here. For example, when you call a business, and the message says "Press 1 for English," I don't think so. I think the senators who voted no need to go and see if the other countries have Press 1 for English. I don't think it happens.

So to all of our senators who are messing with the livelihood of America, try and remember the Boston Tea Party when they stood up for what they believed and did what they had to. Our government is supposed to be "FOR THE PEOPLE," and that is not what these current senators are there for.

Stand up, America, before it is too late, and with these people in office, speak your mind, because sooner or later, when you make that phone call, there won't even be Press 1 for English. Write your senators and let them know they are messing with the wrong people — Americans. Don't mess with the best.

Bud Somerville
Westland

Grateful to our mayor

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey has been a pro-active leader in his efforts to support the necessary loans requested by the domestic car manufacturers. He joined with other mayors in the region to make their voices heard by Congress. We are proud to say that Mayor Kirksey was among those who traveled to Washington to lobby for the domestic auto manufacturers that play a vital role in U.S. and global economies. He encouraged Livonia residents to write letters to the President of the United States requesting support of the loans. We are grateful to Mayor Kirksey for fighting for the sustainability of the domestic manufacturing base and preserving jobs for Livonia that will benefit its citizens.

Jim and Diane Policelli
Livonia

Good tidings from Social Security

As the holidays approach, Social Security has good tidings to share with Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries: They will receive a 5.8 percent increase in benefit payments beginning with the January payments!

The 5.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that more than 50 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2009. Increased payments to more than seven million SSI beneficiaries will begin on Dec. 31.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits increase automatically each year based on the rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), from the third quarter of the prior year to the corresponding period of the current year.

This 5.8 percent increase is the largest since 1982.

Along with the annual COLA comes other changes, including an increase in the amount of wages subject to Social Security tax. In 2008, the maximum taxable amount was \$102,000. Beginning in 2009, the maximum taxable amount will be \$106,800. This change will affect about 11 million of the 164 million workers who pay Social Security tax. The tax rate remains the same: 6.2 for employers and employees, and 12.4 for the self-employed.

In 2009 it will take \$1,090 in taxable earnings to earn a credit of coverage for Social Security, up from \$1,050 in 2008. All workers can earn up to four credits in a year.

The average retired worker will receive \$1,153 per month in Social Security benefits in 2009, up from \$1,090 in 2008.

People who have Medicare coverage will want to visit Medicare's Web site at www.medicare.gov for changes coming in 2009.

To learn more about Social Security changes coming in 2009, visit our online fact sheet at www.socialsecurity.gov/presoffice/factsheets/colafacts2009.htm.

As always, you can find a wealth of information about Social Security at our Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Frances Heimes-Savicki
Social Security public affairs specialist

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 40 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Mail:
Letters to the editor
Observer
615 W. Lafayette, Second Level
Detroit, MI 48226

Fax:
(313) 223-4650

E-mail:
hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Observer

GANNETT

Hugh Gallagher
Managing Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

Jeannie Parent
Senior Director of
Sales & Marketing

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

QUOTABLE

"But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, happy Christmas to all and to all a good night."
— St. Nicholas, as reported by Clement Moore in "Twas the Night Before Christmas

Plight of Iraqi relatives on the mind of local Chaldeans this Christmas

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For millions of Christians around the world and all over America, today is a day to be celebrated. Many will gather with family and friends for Christmas parties and to rejoice over the birth of Christ.

Metropolitan Detroit's large Chaldean community will also be celebrating the religious holiday, but they will do so with a fair amount of apprehension and fear for family and friends living in Iraq, where they have been persecuted and even killed because of their Christian beliefs.

The plight of Iraq's Chaldeans has hit close to home in southeastern Michigan, which is home to approximately 125,000 Chaldean-Americans — the largest contingent outside of the Middle East. Most live in the communities of Sterling Heights, West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills, Southfield and Troy.

According to local Chaldean leaders, as many as 50 percent of Chaldeans living in Iraq have fled the country since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. Because they are Christians (largely Catholic) living in a



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Like many other local Chaldeans, Haytham Yono, who owns the Wayne Liquor store in Wayne, has family members living in Iraq, where Chaldeans have been persecuted because of their Christian beliefs.

Muslim-led country, they have been driven out of their homes and even killed. In particular, many Chaldean religious leaders have been the targets of terrorist attacks.

Joseph Kassab, the executive director of the Southfield-based Chaldean Federation of America, said Chaldeans and other Christians made up about 5 percent of Iraq's population before the war. Today, he says it's likely less than 2 percent. Those that

remain must try and conceal their Christian roots for fear of being targeted by terrorists.

"Christmas is not easy to celebrate in Iraq. Far too many of our people have fled their homes or have been killed. To survive, they must conceal their religion," Kassab said.

Nick Bakko, a West Bloomfield resident who owns Neil's Party Store in Westland, has many relatives living in Iraq. He was born in the village of Telkaif in northern Iraq, and



Nick Bakko, who owns Neil's Party Store in Westland, was born in the village of Telkaif in northern Iraq. He says Chaldeans in Iraq have been persecuted in Iraq since the war began, including an aunt who fled to a refugee camp in Syria.

came to America in 1983. Most of his relatives live in Telkaif, which is in the Kurdish-controlled north. He says Chaldeans in the northern part of the country are relatively safer than those in central and southern Iraq, areas of the country dominated by Muslim Arabs.

Bakko knows the devastating toll the war has had on

Chaldeans. His aunt, who lived in Baghdad when the war began, received a note to leave her house in one week or she would be killed. Fearing for her life, she fled and is now a refugee in Syria. Another aunt, who was a pharmacist in Baghdad, was shot and killed while at work during the early days of the war.

Bakko and his wife Amy will gather with family today at his mother's home in Commerce. He said they will be thinking of relatives in Iraq, and may even try to call.

"On Christmas we always get together. A lot of times we try and call family when we're all together," he said. "We keep them in our prayers. But we have to live our lives. What can you do? Life is not perfect."

Haytham Yono, a 36-year-old Farmington Hills resident who owns the Wayne Liquor store in Wayne, fondly remembers Christmas celebrations while growing up in Telkaif.

"Our whole family would gather together, pray together, go to church together. It wasn't like here where Christmas has become such a big business," Yono said.

However, Yono says those days are a thing of the past.

He has several aunts and other family members living in Iraq. He is able to talk to them on the phone occasionally, and the picture they paint of life there isn't pretty. Churches have been bombed and religious leaders assassinated.

"Life for them is very difficult," Yono said. "Over here, people are losing jobs and homes, but we live in a paradise compared to what is going on over there."

"Chaldeans were largely protected during the Saddam (Hussein) years because there was law and order. Yes there was no democracy, but there was peace. You could celebrate Christmas without fearing for your life."

Kassab said local Chaldeans will definitely be thinking of their relatives and friends back in Iraq today as they celebrate Christmas.

"The greatest Christmas gift we could have would be to see our people come back to their homes. Before that happens, however, we need conditions to improve in Iraq. We need security for Christian minorities. We also need economic development policies that will allow our people find work and rebuild their lives," Kassab said.

Nativity collection celebrates the reason for the season

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of the gifts Kim Marquette received from her husband shortly after being married was a Nativity scene.

That was the beginning of a collection that today includes more than 250 Nativity scenes which are on display through Jan. 30 at the Garden City Historical Museum inside the Straight Farmhouse.

"My son got me one and my mom got me some. I'd get some Nativity scenes at garage sales — I became a collector of family Nativity scenes," said Marquette, a Garden City resident. "I have 48 Rubbermaid tubs that they fit into."

The smallest Nativity scene in the collection fits into a match box while the largest is in front of Marquette's home during the Christmas season.

"One year at church we had a live Nativity and one side of the hall was all Nativities which we all brought in,"

said Marquette. "People said I should display them."

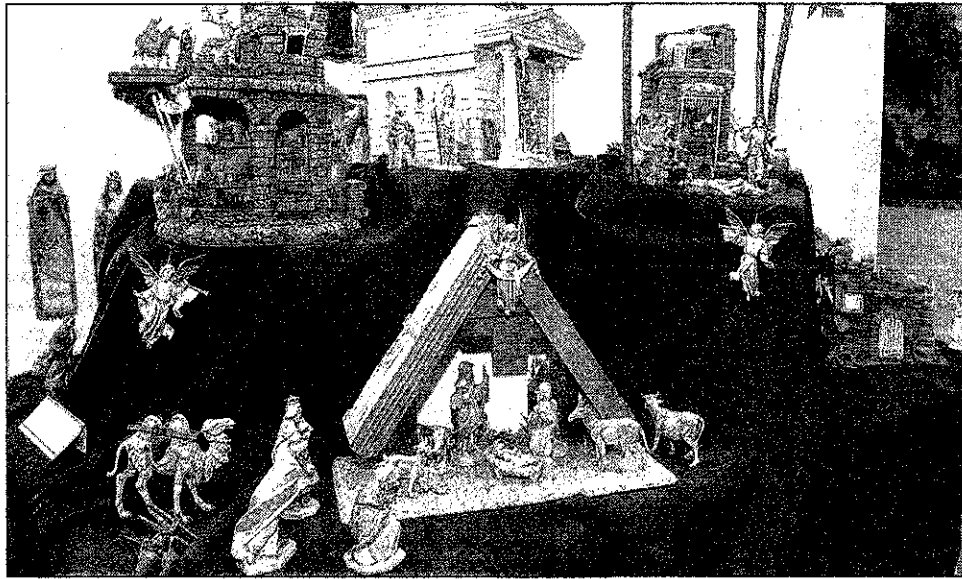
Marquette set up the displays at the museum when it had relocated to the Straight Farmhouse and decided to share her Nativity scene collection.

"I thought it would be nice to go see something free for the family. People have been to the museum and are telling other people about it," said Marquette. "There had been a lot of word of mouth."

The largest Nativity on display at the museum is a Fontanini scene which belongs to Marquette's son Alan, 19. It began as a gift from Marquette's late grandfather Duane Porter, who subsequently gave money each year to add to the collection.

"He wanted something for Alan to enjoy and remember him by," said Marquette. "We keep it going and add a piece each year."

rogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

These Fontanini Heirloom Nativity pieces are part of Kim Marquette's collection which is on display at the Garden City Historical Museum in Straight Farmhouse. The Fontanini Heirloom pieces were first purchased by Marquette's grandfather Duane Porter for her son. A new piece is added each year in Porter's memory.

THE NATIVITY

What: A display of 250 Nativity scenes

When: Noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays through Jan. 30

Where: Garden City Historical Museum inside the Straight Farmhouse, 6221 Merriman, north of Ford, Garden City.

Information: Admission is free. Larger groups can schedule a visit by calling the museum at (734) 838-0650 or www.sfonline.org.

Put Your Money To Work!

4.25%^{APY}
15-Month IRA Certificate

Need a safe place to put your money where you'll earn a great return? Come to Co-op Services Credit Union, where your money works for you!

- IRAs (great for 401k rollovers)
- Certificates of Deposit
- On-site financial advisor
- Great rates
- Variety of terms
- NCUA insured

Visit our website or call today for more information!



CO-OP SERVICES
CREDIT UNION

Banking, the Credit Union Way!

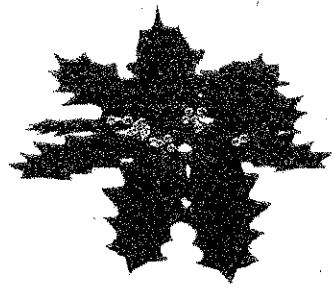
www.cscu.org • 800-321-8570

Dearborn • Livonia • Melvindale • Southgate
Warren • Westland

*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are subject to change. IRA Certificates require a minimum \$500 deposit. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. For more details, please visit www.cscu.org.



Wishing you a happy & safe Holiday Season



Reminding you to always celebrate the season responsibly

THANKS FOR CHOOSING A DESIGNATED DRIVER

RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS



Central Distributors

BURGER

FROM PAGE A1

Center for Students with Autism in Garden City. Each Christmas, the 350 students are treated to a themed winter carnival, a day filled with the sights and sounds of the season and learning experiences.

"What we present is a hands-on learning experience in a controlled environment with excellent teachers," said teacher Colleen Polin. "The students are challenged to learn.

The school was transformed into a village with hallways given names like Rouso Road and Berman Boulevard, honoring the Jack Rouso and Larry Berman families that provided financial support for the carnival, and Wigent Way and Cline's Corner, named for Wayne County Superintendent Christopher Wigent and



Former Burger Center staff member Judy Severin of Garden City pins a flower on student Bradley Ziquis, 9, of Westland at the flower shop. At right is classmate Justin Nobel-Shankin, 9, of Garden City.

Garden City Superintendent Michelle Cline respectively. Outside the D&D Railroad, named for Dillon and Dawson, the streets bordering the school, gave students a ride

around the school to get hot chocolate.

Classrooms were transformed into businesses like a fish market, flower shop and a guitar store where students jammed to live music and a deli by the name of No Zoup for You which offered samples of lox and cream cheese on bagels, ham and cheese sandwiches and liverwurst on crackers. The lox and liverwurst were the most popular items.

"Lox and liverwurst are the favorites, which is surprising, at least it's surprising to me," said teaching assistant Candy McHale who was making sure the "counter" was well stocked.

In the sports shop, students lined up to get the autograph of Detroit Tigers pitcher Nate Robertson. Like Santa, he's become a fixture at the



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyle Howey, 13, of New Boston had a big smile for one of the many crafts students did.

winter carnival. His popularity showed. Several students brought cards, decorated with the old English D and he ran out of baseball cards to sign for the kids.

"They give a good Christmas party," said Robertson who was making his fifth appearance at the carnival. "Events like this ... it doesn't get any better than this."

Members of the Rouso and Berman families as well as friend Ed Battier also attended the carnival and joined students in oohing and aaah-

ing over the decorations and activities.

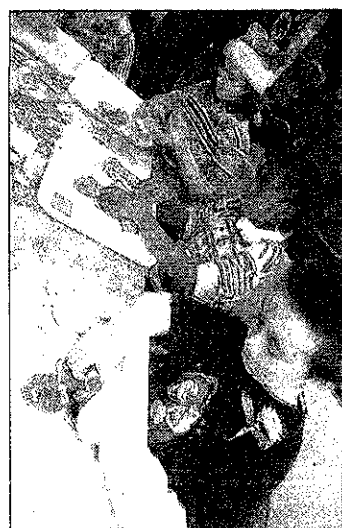
"I've been coming seven-eight years, it's something I look forward to," Battier said. "This is nice, very nice."

The same is true for Jack Rouso.

"I enjoy seeing the children smile, it gets better and better every year," he said.

Each year the families are given gifts to show appreciation for what they do for the school. This year they received the keys to the village.

"We have a lower level at



Working on gingerbread note pads are Jacob Bellanger, 9, of Westland (front to back), Dionte Loving, 11, of Redford and Ashley Mattia, 11, also of Redford.

our home that's filled with the things they've made us, we've got everything hanging up," said Rouso's wife Noella, holding the oversized key. "We've been doing this for 17 years."

Also receiving a key was Wigent "as a thank you for maintaining the program."

"They never cease to amaze me," Wigent said. "I've been here since 9:30 and it's absolutely beautiful."

According to Polin, the staff spends four months preparing for the one-day event, but the planning started as soon as the carnival ended.

"It wouldn't be so successful, if everyone didn't join in the vision for this school," she said. "We all share in it."

GRAND OPENING

Coifer Salon

Hair Styles for Men & Women

"Our Staff has Over 25 Years Combined Life Experience Cutting Hair!"

Cuts • Perms • Highlights
Sets • Waxing • Color for Men and Women

10% Senior Discount 10 am-2 pm T-Th
20% off Schwarzkopf Products

15% OFF Any Color Service

Expires Jan. 31, 2009 • Must present coupon • Highlight included

Hours: Tues-Fri 10-8
Sat 9-5; Sun 11-5

734.464.3340

37657 Five Mile Road at Newburgh
Next to the Former Farmer Jack Building

Memorial & Honor Dept.
501 St. Jude Place
Memphis, TN 38105
1.800.873.6983
www.stjude.org/tribute

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Dignified Funeral Packages

\$3499

From

Includes Visitation, Funeral, Simple Casket and Memorial Service

New, comfortable facility with 3 lounges...2 for the Kids with Xbox gaming and computer internet access
Live, world-wide webcasting and a "Celebration of Life" video included with every funeral service
2401 S. Wayne Road (between Palmer & Glenwood) • Westland • **734-728-1900**
Visit us on the web: www.riskoferguson.com

Risko-Ferguson Family
Funeral Home and Cremation Services

Direct Cremation

\$675

NO Hidden Fees
Call for Details

Available For Showers, Parties & Business Luncheons

"Open Christmas Day"

RUBY BUFFET

Chinese, Sushi & Mongolian Cuisine

Grand Opening
734-416-9888

5848 Sheldon Road in Canton
Located on the NE corner of Ford and Sheldon
In Walgreens Plaza

Senior Discount
20% off
Lunch & Dinner

(Can not be combined with any other coupon)

Dinner Specials
15% off
Entire Order
w/Free Soft Drink
(minimum \$25.00)

Kid Specials
starting at \$3.99

Call for details
- Must present coupon -
Does not apply with any other coupon.
Expires Dec. 31, 2008 • Does not include Holidays

Reg. \$7.99
Buffet Meal
\$5.99

w/Free soft drink
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
- Must present coupon -
Does not apply with any other coupon.
Expires Dec. 31, 2008 • Does not include Holidays

You should see us now... **WOW!**

Woodhaven is Livonia's only Retirement Community with every level of care!

- Assisted living - private rooms, studio apartments & 1 bedroom apartments (current availability!)
- Memory services - companion rooms, privacy rooms & private rooms
- Skilled nursing, rehabilitation, post hospital recovery & hospice care
- Independent living apartments - 1 & 2 bedroom with 1 or 2 baths
- Michigan's only Adult Day Program that is open 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., 365 days a year

Woodhaven just completed \$4,000,000 of enhancements & expansion providing:

- Quaint bistro dining
- Three separate & distinct neighborhoods
- Expanded physical, occupational & speech therapy

29667 Wentworth • Livonia
(1st street north of Five Mile, on the west side of Middlebelt)
734-261-9000
www.woodhaven-retirement.com • giorag@woodhavenrc.org

WOODHAVEN
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

FREE DESIGN* & COST EFFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION

*with all qualifying projects - ask if your project qualifies - 734-737-0500

Architectural quality since 1946

886 N. Mill Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 1424

D.J. MALTESE
Designers & Builders
www.djmaltese.com

MEDILODGE

A Place for Healing

Rehabilitation & Nursing Facilities

CALL TODAY!

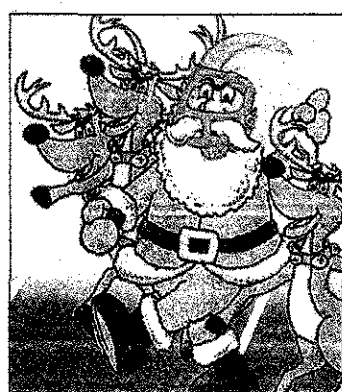
586-752-5008
www.medilodge.com

SPORTS

B

Thursday, December 25, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor (734) 953-2123, bemons@hometownlife.comwww.hometownlife.com

S. Claus had game before all the fame

Long before he became a force in the global toy distribution industry, the rosy-cheeked bearded fella who takes the term "all-nighter" to a higher level once a year was best known for delivering pancake blocks, full-nelson headlocks and record-shattering throws at track-and-field meets.

That's right, Santa Claus was a three-sport stud athlete back in the day.

It all started his sophomore year at North Pole Snowy Oaks High School when Claus (5-foot-10, 280 pounds) decided to set aside his wood-working tools for a few months so he could try out for the school's football team.

Undeterred by his thick, fluffy white beard (which was really annoying during those brutally hot two-a-day practices), Claus immediately established himself as one of North Pole County's most dominating offensive linemen.

"He didn't have great wheels, but his work ethic was unreal," remembered a former classmate, who requested anonymity. "He was a great leader, too, which, I guess, when you look back on it, isn't surprising. If you can coax a bunch of overweight reindeer to fly, inspiring a few high school kids to carry out their blocks until the whistle blows is a piece of cake."

With Claus serving as the team's primary pulling guard,

Please see **WRIGHT, B2**



Ed Wright



GREGORY SHAMUS PHOTOGRAPHY

Members of the Detroit Ignition celebrate seconds after Birmingham native Ryan Mack registered a game-winning goal in overtime to defeat the New Jersey Ironmen Saturday night at Computware Arena. Mack (pictured third from right, facing camera) also scored a game-tying goal with just six seconds left in regulation.

Big 'Mack' Attack

Birmingham native's two clutch goals lead Ignition to XSL OT win

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ryan Mack's first Xtreme Soccer League goal wasn't nearly as X-citing as his second one.

And his first one was off-the-charts exciting.

Displaying a crowd-pleasing flair for the dramatic, Mack tallied the game-tying and game-winning goals in the Detroit Ignition's down-to-the-wire 16-14 XSL victory over the New Jersey Ironmen Saturday night at Computware Arena.

The home-opening triumph evened the winners' record at 1-1 while the Ironmen slipped to 0-2.

"It feels really good," said Mack, moments after he sent the home crowd out into a bitterly cold night with a warm memory. "I was plugging away all game, waiting to get the first one of the season. After I scored the first one, I felt a lot more comfortable out there."

"On the game-winner, I got a nice ball from Kyt (Selaidopoulos) and I put it

through the goal-keeper's legs."

Mack, a native of Birmingham and one of the leading point-earners in the now-defunct Major Indoor Soccer League last season, said he's getting more attention from opponents now that super-scorer Jamar Beasley has departed the scene.

"During the first game (an 11-4 loss at Milwaukee), it seemed like they were targeting me more, following me around," said Mack. "It was kind of nice when Jamar was here and I was the guy behind the scenes."

"I have to go out every night and perform as well as I can and help the team when I can."

Mack was one of three home-grown players who played major roles in the Ignition's victory.

Livonia's Tino Scicluna found the back of the net on two of the three shots he fired at Ironmen net-minder Brett Phillips.

And former University of Detroit Mercy star Vahid Assadpour chalked up two goals and an assist for the hosts. "The first month has been

kind of tough for us getting used to one another, plus we've had a lot of injuries," said Mack, referring to how the rebuilt Ignition is meshing. "But a lot of guys stepped up tonight that hadn't played a lot before. I think we showed a lot of heart and I think that's why we pulled through tonight."

"Winning tonight was awesome, especially because it was so frustrating losing our first game. I think it was important to show our fans that we're still a solid team after we went through some adversity."

Detroit goal-keeper Danny Waltman earned his 100th professional indoor soccer win by stopping 33 shots.

Phillips stuffed 29 shots for the Ironmen.

Detroit wiped out a 3-0 first-quarter lead with goals from Josh Rife and Assadpour.

The Ignition doubled its advantage to 6-3 2:29 into the second quarter when Drew Crawford slid a perfect pass to Assadpour, who one-timed it home.

The Ironmen closed their

halftime gap to 6-5 with 25.7 seconds left in the quarter when Rey Martinez capped a 3-on-none break-out with a top-shelf goal.

Detroit led 10-9 after three, but slipped into a 14-10 hole when New Jersey's Shawn Boney converted a Lucio Gonzaga pass with 4:38 to play.

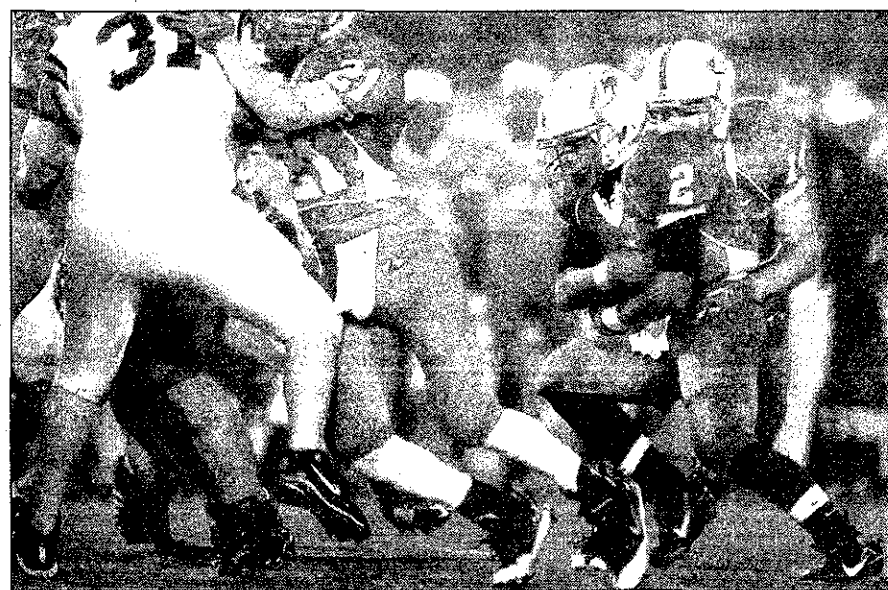
The Ignition's dramatic rally was sparked by Crawford's goal from Assadpour with 2:45 to play.

That set the stage for the heroics of Mack, who tied the game with 5.8 ticks left after securing a Selaidopoulos free-kick pass on the left wing and hammering the ball past Phillips.

The game-winner came 3:06 into the extra session when he scored from a ridiculous angle along the boards, ripping a shot through Phillips' five-hole.

Mack led Detroit with 10 shots. Zach Wilkes notched a team-high four blocks.

The Ignition returns to action on Saturday when it travels to Chicago to take on the Storm at the Sears Centre.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Star burst

Canton's Kiere Daniels (2) looks for running room as he takes a hand-off during Friday night's regional game against Livonia Stevenson. Daniels was selected to the first team All-Observer squad, which is featured on page B3.

Marquee Monday

Stars abound, but Trojans fall

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two of the state's top senior boys basketball players went head-to-head Monday night at Livonia Clarenceville.

Fans were treated to plenty of highlight-reel slams and nifty plays from both Clarenceville guard Jamie Stewart and Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard powerhouse center Eso Akunne.

But a 29-point, nine-rebound, five-block performance from the 6-3, 217-pound Akunne trumped Stewart's dazzling dunks and 25-point, 14-rebound outing. The Fighting Irish scored 28 third-quarter points en route to an 85-65 non-conference

triumph.

"He's a tough matchup on the high school level," Trojans head coach Corey McKendry said about Akunne. "We put other guys on him early and we were forced to put Jamie on him."

"I thought those two went at it tonight. They both left everything on the floor tonight. They're both outstanding high school players. As a fan it was fun to watch those two play."

According to Gabriel Richard head coach Pete Schoch, whose team improved to 3-0 and is ranked No. 3 in Class B, there is no telling how much Akunne can accomplish.

"He's a phenomenal player. What sets Eso apart is he's very unselfish

Please see **HOOPS, B2**

Sidelines

Figure-skating extravaganza

The Arctic Figure Skating Club will be hosting a dress rehearsal skate for the January 2009 Figure Skating Nationals in Cleveland, Ohio on Saturday, Dec. 27, at 7 p.m. at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena, which is located at 46615 Michigan Ave. in Canton.

All of the Arctic Figure Skating Club pairs teams will be performing, including Canadian National champions and world silver medalists Scott Moir and Tessa Virtue, and U.S. National silver medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White.

For more information, call (734) 487-7777.

The exhibition is open to the public and admission is free.

Ocelots roll

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team thumped Scottsdale (Az.) Community College, 84-62, Sunday in a game played in Scottsdale. The victory improved the No. 7-ranked Ocelots' record to 9-1. Scottsdale slipped to 2-7.

Led by Brittany Collins' 17 points, five Ocelots hit for double-figures in scoring. Other key contributors on offense were: April Goins (15 points, 12 rebounds), Salem grad Tayler Langham (12 points), Antania Shepherd (11) and Jasmine Brown (10).

Schoolcraft led 46-36 at the half.

NRCLL signups

The North Redford Central Little League is continuing 2009 registration for T-ball, baseball and fast-pitch softball.

The next of several planned dates at the Redford Public Library, located on Six Mile across from Glenhurst Golf Course (west of Telegraph) is noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17.

DETROIT PISTONS
PRESENTED BY
National City

Home **4** the Holidays
4-Pack
\$89 4 TICKETS • 4 HOT DOGS • 4 SODAS



NEW YEAR'S EVE MATINEE - 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW
• TOMORROW, 12/26 vs. THUNDER • 8 PM
• MON, 12/29 vs. MAGIC • 7:30 PM
• WED, 12/31 vs. NETS • 3 PM
• FRI, 1/2 vs. KINGS • 8 PM

Additional holiday tickets available for \$22.25 each. Call for lower-level ticket availability.

FOR TICKETS, CALL 248-377-0100 OR VISIT PISTONS.COM/HOLIDAYS

**WE WORK
AS ONE.**

No place like home: Patriots rule own mats

Livonia Franklin's wrestling team gave itself an early holiday present Saturday by winning its own Patriot Invitational.

Franklin scored 315 points to lead the 10-team field followed by Northville and Ann Arbor Pioneer with 256.5 and 211.5, respectively.

The Patriots came away with four individual titles led by Paul

PREP WRESTLING

Hanni (119 pounds), Brandon Billiau (145), Cody Hay (215) and Mike Modes (285).

"This wasn't one of the harder tournaments that we will go to this year, but everyone got some good matches in," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "A lot

of teams pulled out because it landed on the same day as Oakland County and Macomb County (tournaments) this year, but there were still some very good wrestlers at every weight. This format allowed everyone to get five matches and I was able to wrestle a lot of my JV kids."

Runner-up finishers for the

Patriots included Steve Tuyo (112), Elvin Ferreira (160), Don Stratz (171) and Matt Roos (160), the latter whom was competing for the Franklin 'B' team.

Rian Klein (103), Erik Czech (125), Alex O'Connor (152) and Nick Simmons (189) each added fourths for Franklin.

"With the snowstorm and the

injuries we've had - this was a perfect tournament for us," Chiola said. "January is going to be a big month - we have a lot of tough tournaments and meets. I just want to get everyone healthy and on the mat so we can see what we have. The experience that my JV kids are getting right now will be important for the stretch run."

Lutheran Westland had two individual champions - Laith Francis at 125 and Stephen Kemp at 171. Kemp edged Franklin's Stratz for the title, 2-1.

Other top finishers for the Warriors included Craig Kowalski (215), third; Justin Palka (140), fourth; and Brock Crandell (135), fifth.

HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

and he makes those around him better," Schoch said. "That elevates us as a team. If he was just fixated on numbers ... the only number he's fixated on is the scoreboard."

LESSON LEARNED

Meanwhile, McKendry talked about the next step - where his team and one like Gabriel Richard might again go at it as

premier teams - perhaps in the postseason.

"I talked (with players) early in the year about last year. We won 18 games and lost in the first round of the districts," McKendry said. "We learned our lesson. We're playing people that are very good, and we're just trying to learn and get better so that at the end of the year we can beat a team like that (Gabriel Richard). It's better to take a loss early than late."

McKendry added that Gabriel Richard has "a great team and you can tell they've played a lot

of ball together."

Akunne proved difficult to stop, whether slashing through the paint for a layup or launching a long jumper.

But he had substantial offensive help from junior forward Matt Jenkins (22 points) and junior guard Josh Herbeck (21 points), seven rebounds, five assists) as Gabriel Richard built leads of 24-11 after one quarter and 37-31 at the break.

"Jenkins really had a phenomenal game and I'm happy for him," Schoch said. "He's usually not that much of a scorer, but tonight he mentioned going into the game he was going to really be very aggressive."

"When he hit those first couple jump shots, he really felt good about himself and that carried over to the rest of his game."

BACK IN THE GAME

Clarenceville actually considered itself in good shape at halftime, having erased much of an 18-point deficit during the final six minutes of the second quarter.

Gabriel Richard built a 35-17 lead early in the second, when McKendry called a timeout. The Trojans (1-2) allowed only two Akunne free throws the rest of the quarter, with Stewart registering 10 points during the stretch.

Stewart took an inbound pass under the Fighting Irish basket and threw down a slam with 2:20 remaining, making it a 35-27 contest. He then connected on a beautiful finger roll and, with the horn sounding, sank a fadeaway jumper from the left flank.

During intermission, McKendry and his players discussed getting over the hump and forcing Gabriel Richard out of its zone coverage.

"We talked at halftime after we made our run, I mean we were down 18 and showed a lot of heart to cut it back to two (37-35 early in the third)," McKendry said. "We felt if we could ever get the lead, we could pull them out of their zone and try to make them play man-to-man."

The Trojans couldn't quite

make it, falling behind 46-37 with 5:45 left in the third. They did briefly flirt with another comeback, however, reducing that deficit to 48-44 with 4:40 left in the stanza on another Stewart dunk.

On that play, senior guard Darryl Whitaker (nine points, seven assists) sent a bounce pass from the right wing down low to Stewart, who slammed the ball through the cylinder.

COMEBACK STALLS

All that did was rile up the Fighting Irish, igniting a 17-7 spurt to cap off a huge quarter (28 points) and go up 65-51 entering the fourth. Combining for all 17 points during that surge were Akunne, Herbeck and Jenkins.

"They just made plays, that's what good teams do," McKendry said. "We showed we're right there with them, (but) we just didn't make enough plays to get it done tonight."

The deficit never was less than 10 points for the home team the rest of the night.

"Jamie showed, against one of the best teams in the state, that he's as good as anyone out there," McKendry said. "We've got to get our other guys to step up a little bit and figure out how to play off of Jamie."

"And Jamie's got to find his teammates when teams double him. Once we learn to do that a little bit, we'll be very tough to stop. But we gave up 85 points. You can't do that and win."

Also in double figures for the Trojans were senior power forward Jeremy Gainer (15 points, 12 rebounds) and senior guard Nathan Clark (10 points).

Clarenceville's Tuesday night game at Westland John Glenn (a makeup for Friday's snow-related postponement) was postponed a second time. No date was announced for when the contest will take place.

Next for the Trojans is Saturday's matchup against defending Detroit Public School League champion Detroit Northwestern at the Romulus Holiday Tournament.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-5260

Publish: December 25, 2008

CE0603735-2x2.5

City of Westland

Invitation to Bid

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, 48185-2298, on January 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

Official City Newspaper

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at <http://www.CityofWestland.com>. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith
Controller
City of Westland

Publish: November 25, 2008

CE06037171-2x2.5

WRIGHT

FROM PAGE B1

Snowy Oaks running backs Joe Donner and Billy Blitzen both eclipsed 1,000 yards rushing one season.

"On the 25 and 36 pitch sweeps," one former teammate recalled, "Santa would get out in front of those running backs and yell, 'On Donner! On Blitzen!' It was pretty cool watching him pave a path for those guys."

(Rumor has it there's some

vintage footage of Claus in action on YouTube, but I haven't been able to track it down yet.)

Considering his lofty gridiron success, Claus could have been even better, one former teammate sighed, shaking his head.

"That kid had all the skills, but he didn't have that mean streak that the great ones have," he lamented. "He was too, um - what's the word I'm looking for? - jolly. If he hadn't of been so doggone jolly, I think he could have played at the next level."

Legend has it that one Division II school - Candy Cane Tech - offered Claus a partial scholarship to play football, but he declined when

he found out the school didn't offer a major in package distribution.

The rotund - but surprisingly agile - Claus carried his passion for athletics to the wrestling mats as soon as football season concluded. He discovered modest success serving as his team's 285-pound heavyweight.

However, as in football, he didn't quite reach his potential.

"With his quickness, strength and smarts, he would have been an outstanding - and I mean *outstanding!* - 215-pounder if he just could have shed a few pounds," one ex-Snowy Oaks grappler insisted.

"But he couldn't stay away from those darned milk and cookies."

In the spring, Claus starred as a thrower on the Snowy Oaks track-and-field team. While he posted solid numbers, it was his theatrics while throwing that drew most of the attention.

"As soon as he launched the disc, he would grunt, then yell out something that sounded all the world like 'Merry Christmas!'" reflected his former track coach. "But it turns out what he was really saying was, 'Carry, Discus!'"

While Claus graduated from high school with nine varsity letters and a sleigh-ful of competition-stoked memories, he's regarded by many North Pole residents as somewhat of an underachiever due to his laid-back disposition.

"Looking back now," one of Claus's high school buddies said recently, "it's a good thing he didn't reach his athletic potential. I mean, what if he would have really excelled in football, played in college and been drafted by the NFL? Who would have delivered all those presents on Christmas Eve - the Easter Bunny?"

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

Everybody Matters.

Helping families become stronger

Experience tells us that the best way to help the most people is to focus on the underlying causes of the most serious problems. Here in the Plymouth/Canton Community, we're focused on critical issues affecting families like health care, nutrition, family counseling and assistance in times of crisis.

It takes the whole community working together to reach our goals in these areas. So we bring together people from all across the community - people from industry and business, faith groups, non-profit, and people like you. If it requires fundraising, developing community partnerships, or just getting people to work together, that's what we do.

Your United Way contribution goes to work bringing lasting change, right where you live. Because that's what matters.

Plymouth Community United Way Investing In Our Community

Your gift to Plymouth Community United Way makes a positive difference in the lives of thousands of people in the Plymouth/Canton community.

Thank you. Everybody Matters.



734-453-6879

www.plymouthunitedway.org
960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 2, Plymouth, MI 48170

This ad sponsored by

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL
Thinking forward. Banking right.

www.cfcu.org
Locations:
500 S. Harvey, Plymouth
6355 N. Canton Center, Canton
47463 Michigan Avenue, Canton

KAREN L. KAYES, Attorney, 400 Terrace Plaza, PO Box 900, Muskegon, MI 49443-0900
STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF WAYNE, File No. 2008-737362-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate
Estate of Roy T. Syer, Deceased, Date of Birth: August 31, 1925.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Roy T. Syer, who lived at 18925 Gillman Street, Livonia, Michigan, died August 3, 2008.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jack T. Syer, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1305 CAYMC, Two Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226, and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Personal Representative: Jack T. Syer, 18925 Gillman Street, Livonia, Michigan 48152. Telephone No.: (248) 867-8320.
Attorney: Karen L. Kayes, P-41751, 400 Terrace Plaza, PO Box 900, Muskegon, MI 49443-0900. Telephone No.: (231) 727-2600.

Publish: December 25, 2008

CE0603725-1x4

KITCHEN REFACING



\$500 Countertop*
Includes installation
50% SAVINGS
OR MORE!

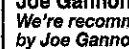
FREE ESTIMATES

cabinet clinic

The Leader in Cabinet Refacing

West 734-421-8151

North-Estate 586-751-1848



Joe Gannon
We're recommended
by Joe Gannon

www.cabinetclinic.com
* Limited time offer. \$1 sq. ft. max. with refacing installation.

Daily Specials: 25c Wings ALL DAY, EVERYDAY!

Sunday: Kids eat free with purchase of adult meal of \$9.95

Monday: 1/2 off pizza

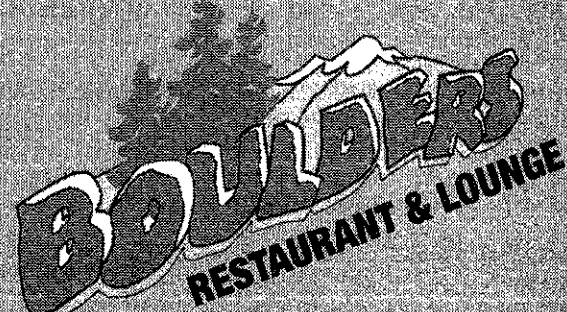
Tuesday: Burritos \$7.95 all day
• Open Mic 11pm - 2am
• Domestic Pints \$3 9pm - close

Wednesday: 1/2 slab ribs \$9.95
• Karaoke 10pm - 2am
• Domestic Bottles \$2.50 10pm - 2am

Thursday: Pajitas \$11.95
• \$1.00 Off Long Islands
• \$1.00 Off Any 22 oz draft

Friday: Fish & Chips \$9.95
• \$4.00 House Wine 5pm - 9pm
• Live Music 10pm - 2am

Saturday: Spaghetti \$7.95 all day
• Live Music 10pm - 2am



Lunch 11am - 5pm

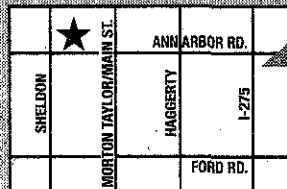
20% OFF
Total Food Bill

*Excludes Alcohol. Not to be used with other offers or daily specials. Dine in only.

Dinner

Buy Entrée
\$9.95 or more,
Get 2nd 1/2 off

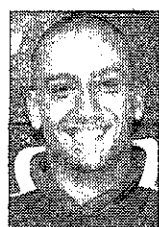
*Excludes Alcohol. Not to be used with other offers or daily specials. Dine in only.



Convenient & Easy to Get To!

734-459-4190

1020 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170
www.bouldersbar.com

Mark McRobb
FranklinAustin White
StevensonDe'Andre Alexander
Redf. ThurstonKiere Daniels
CantonTerrance Guthridge
PlymouthDavid Caloia
Redford UnionWade Stahl
StevensonJeffrey Ricketts
ChurchillJustin Sneddon
CantonRobert Tolentino
Redf. ThurstonMichael Bratcher
Redford UnionJake Morris
John GlennKyle Brindza
PlymouthPat Madish
CantonNate Coleman
FranklinRamsey Hart
Wayne MemorialJeremy Gainer
ClarencevilleDevin Moynihan
ChurchillWyatt Stahl
StevensonConnor Martin
PlymouthBrad Bond
Garden CityJamonne Chester
Redf. CovenantJerome Scales
John GlennDarryl Whitaker
Clarenceville

All-Observer grid team boasts roster of 'Red Zone' stars

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Mark McRobb, Sr. QB, Liv. Franklin: The 5-10, 180-pound senior quarterback completed 59 percent of his passes for a total of 1,359 yards.

McRobb also threw for 13 touchdowns and was intercepted only three times. He also rushed for 530 yards and four TDs.

On the defensive side, McRobb had a total of 55 tackles and four interceptions en route to All-KLAA and Detroit News All-Metro West honors.

"Mark was best surprise of the season," Franklin coach Chris Kelbert said. "We would not have had a good season if Mark was able to handle the offense the way he did. He is one of the best athletes we had in our program."

Jacob Gudeman, Sr. QB, Liv. Stevenson: The 5-10, 170-pound senior quarterback got hot at the right time during Stevenson's run to the Division 1 state semifinals.

Gudeman, an All-KLAA pick, was 93-of-157 passing for 1,340 yards with nine TDs and eight interceptions. He also rushed for 206 yards.

"Jake came into the season poised and confident," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said, "and only got sharper as the season progressed."

"In a six-game stretch, including the playoffs, he hit just under 75 percent of his passes, and really was the difference in several big wins."

Austin White, Jr. RB, Liv. Stevenson: The 6-foot, 187-pound junior rushed for 1,610 yards on 228 carries (7.0 per attempt) and also caught 21 passes for 310 yards.

The Associated Press Division 1 All-Stater accounted for 28 rushing TDs and caught four TD passes. He also averaged 31 yards per kickoff return.

"Austin has an incredible knack for making big plays," Gabel said of the All-KLAA pick and defensive back. "His ability to affect the outcome of the game in so many areas made him a difference maker."

De'Andre Alexander, Sr. RB, Red. Thurston: Whenever a big play needed to be made for Mega Gold champion Thurston, the tough-as-nails Alexander came through — whether at running back or outside linebacker. He was a key factor in the Eagles reaching the playoffs for the first time in five years, earning team MVP honors with 974 yards rushing in 164 attempts in addition to 165 yards on kickoff returns (20.6-yard average) and five catches for 46 yards. On defense, the Mega Gold first-team selection racked up 71 tackles, including five for losses.

"He's as hard a working kid that I've ever coached, both during the season and the off-season," said veteran Thurston head coach Bob Snell. "His work ethic really made him an excellent player. It's great to have a kid like that have a pay-off like this."

Kiere Daniels, Sr. RB, Canton: The transfer from Belleville was an offensive force in the Chiefs' Wing-T running attack, amassing 1,449 total yards (1,170 rushing) and 13 touchdowns. He earned first team All-KLAA honors after averaging 9.1 yards per carry. Daniels has earned interest from Butler University football program.

"Kiere made a lot of big plays for us this season, running and catching the ball," said Canton coach Tim Baechler. "He gave us some much-needed speed."

Terrance Guthridge, Sr. RB, Plymouth: The senior speedster was the catalyst of the Wildcats' offense, rushing for 1,201 yards on 223 carries while catching 10 passes for

ALL-OBSERVER FOOTBALL

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Mark McRobb, Sr. QB, Liv. Franklin

Jacob Gudeman, Sr. QB, Liv. Stevenson

Austin White, Jr. RB, Liv. Stevenson

De'Andre Alexander, Sr. RB, Red. Thurston

Kiere Daniels, Sr. RB, Canton

Terrance Guthridge, Sr. RB, Plymouth

David Caloia, Sr. RB, Redford Union

Wade Stahl, Sr. RB, Liv. Stevenson

Jeff Ricketts, Sr. WR, Liv. Churchill

Dakota Dark-Bird, Jr. TE, Canton

Michael Bratcher, Sr. C, Redford Union

Justin Sneddon, Sr. OL, Canton

Robert Tolentino, Sr. OL, Red. Thurston

Jake Morris, Sr. OT, Westland Glenn

Kyle Brindza, Soph. K, Plymouth

Pat Madish, Sr. DL, Canton

Nate Coleman, Jr. DL, Liv. Franklin

Ramsey Hart, Sr. DL, Wayne

Jeremy Gainer, Sr. LB, Clarenceville

Devin Moynihan, Sr. LB, Liv. Churchill

Ronnie Goble, Sr. LB, Plymouth

Brad Bond, Sr. LB, Garden City

Connor Martin, Sr. LB, Plymouth

Jamonne Chester, Sr. DB, Red. Covenant

Jerome Scales, Sr. DB, Westland Glenn

Darryl Whitaker, All-Purpose, Clarenceville

COACH OF THE YEAR

Ryan Irish, Liv. Clarenceville

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

Ryan Smith, Jr. QB, Redf. Thurston

Kevin Delapaz, Jr. QB, Canton

Adam Payler, Jr. RB, Canton

Levonte Brooks, Jr. RB, Clarenceville

Richard Haley, Sr. RB, Wayne

Mike Baumgartner, Jr. RB, Liv. Franklin

Mike Kowalski, Sr. RB, Liv. Churchill

Zack Hamed, Sr. WR, Plymouth

Cameron Mitchell, Sr. TE, Red. Thurston

Drew Grabowski, Sr. OL, Salem

Carter Staffield, Jr. OL, Canton

Johnathan Edwards, Sr. OL, Red. Covenant

Tony Iltis, Sr. OL, Redford Union

Sam Ahlersguter, Sr. OL, Luth. Westland

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

Jake Gilbert, Sr. DL, Plymouth

Jason Hu, Jr. DL, Canton

De'Andre Hogan, Soph. LB, Clarenceville

Sheldon Hanks, Sr. LB, Westland Glenn

Kyle Hobbins, Sr. LB, Liv. Stevenson

Kyron Boyd, Sr. DB, Westland Glenn

Kyron Nelson, Sr. DB, Red. Thurston

Connor Leidal, Sr. DB, Liv. Franklin

Nick Sweeda, Sr. DB, Canton

Mark Grisa, Sr. DB, Liv. Stevenson

Michael Pack, Sr. DB, Garden City

Grant Morgan, Sr. DB, Liv. Churchill

Heath Parling, Sr. All-Purpose, Salem

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Nathan Zak, Eric Perowski,

Alexander Bay, Franklin: Brandon Lane,

Don Stratz, Mike Gadsby, Canton: Rohn

Gaudi, David Wilcox, Alex Dixon, Bryan

Gerst, Donny Barlow, Daniel Stoney,

Stevenson: Steve Eideh, Rich Sayid, Zeb

Bacigal, Stephen Pollard, Austin Micallef,

Zac Whalen, Andrew Nelson, Jordan

El-Sabeh, Plymouth: Travis Mewton,

Alex Minch, Matt Skubik, Kelly Waite,

Connor McKinney, Matt Priebe, Salem:

Justin Bashl, Anthony Mullins, Austin

Root, John Glenn: Taylor Arancibia,

Steve Murphy, Chase Glover, Steve Smith,

Wayne: Alex Bledsoe, C. J. Johnson,

Zack Hardyniec, Eric Story, Keith Aqee,

Lutheran Westland: Ethan Haller,

Stephen Kemp, Clarenceville: Joe

Baer, Joe Hasapala, Redford Thurston:

Deon Freeman, Kareem Gaymon, Marty

Johnson, Josh Bobblish, Cosmas Ireland,

Redford Union: Dwyane Garrison, Jacob

Blach, Julian Rivera, Red. Covenant:

Grace, C. J. Bayburn, Red. Covenant:

Dominique Williams, Calen Spencer,

backfield during recent years, Tomasaitis added.

Wade Stahl, Sr. WR, Liv. Stevenson: The 6-foot, 180-pound senior wide receiver had 39 receptions for 616 yards and four TDs.

He also rushed for 538 yards on 93 carries (5.7 per attempt) with 10 TDs.

Stahl also excelled as a return specialist with averaging 27.5 per kick return (with one TD) and 17.5 per punt return.

"Wade combines incredible balance, hands and vision with great intelligence," Gabel said. "He could line up in multiple spot on offense, and be a threat to score from any one of them, at any time."

Jeff Ricketts, Sr. WR, Liv. Churchill: The 5-8, 175-pound senior scored 17 TDs this season, while leading the Chargers in total yardage, receiving yards and return yards.

Ricketts, also carries at 3.7 GPA, set a Churchill record with a 96-yard punt return and also held the school mark for receptions (13) and yards receiving (213) in a game, both against Canton.

"Jeff maybe is the best offensive talent I've had here at Churchill," coach John Filiatraut said of the All-KLAA pick. "He was a complete player who blocked, ran and caught the ball well. What sets him apart is what he can do with the ball once he gets it. He was a treat to score every time he touched the ball. He was fun to watch."

Dakota Dark-Bird, Jr. TE, Canton: The junior was one of the most punishing blockers in the area from his tight end position. He was also one of just two players who started on both sides of the ball for the 10-2 Chiefs. When thrown to, he displayed reliable hands, securing four catches for 140 yards, including a 91-yard TD.

"Dakota is a very physical player and a devastating blocker at the right tight end position," said Baechler. "He's a big-time hitter on the defensive side of the ball, too. Playing both ways like he did, Dakota was a big part of the success we had this season."

Michael Bratcher, Sr. C, Redford Union: A key reason for Caloia's running success and of the entire team (2,337 rushing yards) was the powerful, consistent play of the 6-1, 225-pound Bratcher at center, which Tomasaitis called the most important position of the offense.

"Mike has pretty good feet for his size and is the strongest kid on our team," Tomasaitis said. "That combination led to some great runs and devastating blocks."

Bratcher, a two-time All-Mega White first-team selection and co-captain, also guided the defense at linebacker, setting the alignment.

Justin Sneddon, Sr. OL, Canton: Despite his 5-foot-9, barely-over-200-pounds stature, Sneddon was a force for the Chiefs this season. So much so that he merited first-team All-State accolades and KLAA "Offensive Player of the Year" laurels. After being inserted into the Chiefs' starting defensive unit late in the season, he racked up 41.5 tackles.

"Justin had a great year for us," said Baechler. "He's a 350-pound benchwarmer, which is phenomenal when you look at his size. He's one of those kids who's quick, strong and loves to hit people. He dominated for us on the offensive line."

Robert Tolentino, Sr. OL, Red. Thurston: Although All-Observer second-team quarterback Ryan Smith led a balanced offense to a division title and playoff berth, it's a good

bet that wouldn't have happened without the outstanding work up front by Tolentino.

For starters, Tolentino never came off the field as an offensive tackle and defensive end. Out of 147 passing attempts, he only gave up one sack. The Mega Gold first-team selection and Thurston's Most Valuable Lineman also forced two fumbles and defense and returned one of them for a touchdown.

"Robert just got the most out of his abilities," said Snell. "He's an undersized kid to play offensive and defensive line, but he's so good technique wise and with his work ethic, ... that allowed him to be an excellent two-way player for us."

Jake Morris, Sr. OL, Westland Glenn: The 6-2, 267-pound senior anchored the Rockets' offensive line en route to All-KLAA honors. Morris was a team captain and two-year starter.

"Jake anchored our offensive line at left tackle," Glenn coach Tim Hardin said. "He was a team captain and a tremendous leader by example. With a great work ethic, Jake was as dependable as they come. Jake is also a great student in the classroom and in the hallways at school."

Kyle Brindza, Soph. K, Plymouth: Brindza is the first place-kicker in recent memory to earn a spot on the All-Observer football team — and for good reason. The 10th-grader connected on 9-of-12 field goals this season, including three from at least 40 yards out. His biggest three-pointer came against Livonia Franklin when he delivered a 32-yard game winner with no time left on the clock. Brindza was a field-position difference-maker for the Wildcats as 30 of his 48 kick-offs were not returned.

"When people think of kickers, they think of field goals and extra points — I think of defense," said Sawchuk. "When you have a kicker who can kick it in the end zone on a regular basis, it makes the opposing team have to drive 80 yards to score. It is also nice to have the confidence to kick a field goal from 50 yards and in. Kyle has a great work ethic and will probably be recruited by a top-20 program. He is only a sophomore, so there is still room for improvement."

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE
Pat Madish, Sr. DL, Canton: Madish displayed an uncanny nose for the ball, registering 56 tackles and a team-high seven sacks for the Chiefs' swarming defense.

"He's an undersized guy, but he's so strong and fast," said Baechler. "He has a great motor. He's so hard to block because he always keeps his hands and legs moving. He made a lot of big plays for our defense. He's one of those players who flies all over the field."

Nate Coleman, Jr. DL, Liv. Franklin: The 6-3, 280-pound junior captain and two-year starter was force on both sides of the line.

Defensively, Coleman finished with 76 tackles, three sacks, five tackles for loss and two forced fumbles.

"Nate was an anchor on both the defensive and offensive lines," Kelbert said. "He has tremendous strength and has the potential to be great. He is also a great student maintaining a 3.4 GPA."

Ramsey Hart, Sr. DL, Wayne: The 6-2, 195-pound senior played both ways on the offensive line and at defender end where he made 57 total tackles.

"Ramsey has a great motor," Wayne coach Kevin Weber said. "He loves to play football, loves to hit, and loves. pain. He was also the long snap-

per and was quite talented at that. Ramsey was either faster than the guy he went against, or he was stronger."

Jeremy Gainer, Sr. LB, Liv. Clarenceville: Michigan State University didn't waste much time coming after the dynamic Gainer, who was a cog in the wheel for the playoff-bound Trojans.

Showing his considerable versatility, Gainer moved from the defensive secondary to linebacker and still earned Metro Conference defensive MVP honors for the second consecutive time. An All-Metro first-team pick, he tallied 100 tackles and five quarterback sacks while chipping in at running back.

"Jeremy is a tremendous athlete," said Clarenceville head coach Ryan Irish. "He has the ability to make plays all over the field."

Devin Moynihan, Sr. LB, Liv. Churchill: The 5-11, 215-pound senior earned first-team All-Observer honors for the second straight year after breaking his own school record this year with 145 total tackles despite a shoulder injury.

Moynihan, who carries a 3.5 GPA, also holds the school record for career tackles (342) in 2.5 varsity season. He had four games this year of 20 or more tackles.

"Devin was a very productive player at Mike's linebacker for us," Filiatraut said. "He added toughness and smart to our defense over the past two years. He is one of those players that you really can't replace."

Wyatt Stahl, Sr. LB, Liv. Stevenson: The 6-foot, 170-pound senior finished with 136 total tackles, including 11 for losses and two sacks while making the All-KLAA squad.

"Wyatt's great talent for getting to the ball carrier was perfectly complemented by his passion for preparation," Gabel said. "he knew the opponents inside-and-out, and thrived over-playing tendencies."

Ronnie Goble, Sr. LB, Plymouth: Opposing offensive coordinators often designed their game-plan to run the opposite side Goble was stationed at as much as possible. The Division 1 recruit registered 38 solo tackles, 26 assists and 10 tackles for losses. Offensively, he snared 20 passes for 346 yards (17.3 yards per catch).

"Ronnie is one of the most technically sound football players I have ever seen at the high school level," said Sawchuk. "He is the strongest football player that we have ever had here at Plymouth. He has an unbelievable work ethic on and off the field. He is a great football player, but an even greater person."

Brad Bond, Sr. LB, Garden City: There wasn't much to cheer about for the Cougars, who finished 2-7. But the steady, 6-0, 205-pound Bond definitely provided winning character and ability at linebacker as well as running back and punter.

"Brad has been one of the best linebackers I have coached at Garden City High School," said Cougars' head coach Mike Salter. "He is a hard-nosed player. He plays from sideline to sideline and always ends up in the play. He is also a hard runner who breaks a lot of tackles."

Bond made 60 tackles, assisted on 45 others and collected several sacks while contributing more than 400 yards and six touchdowns on offense. His efforts were rewarded with selection to the All-Mega Blue first team.

Connor Martin, Sr. LB, Plymouth: A three-year varsity contributor, Martin made life difficult from his middle linebacker position sideline to

sideline. He recorded 90 solo tackles and 51 assists. Eighteen of his stops were behind the line of scrimmage. Martin also picked off two passes.

"Connor was the heart and soul of our defense for the past two-and-a-half years," said Sawchuk. "His aggressiveness and uncanny ability to read offenses are a tribute to his work ethic on and off the field. Connor will have an immediate impact on his team at the next level."

Jamonne Chester, Sr. DB, Red. Covenant: Chester is headed to Indiana University next year, and he again showed why with a penchant for explosive, big-gaining plays on both sides of the football.

The Southeast Michigan Football Conference first-teamer and Covenant MVP picked off five passes and returned two for TDs in addition to collecting 619 yards and four scores on kickoff returns. He also was spectacular at wide receiver (10 catches for 321 yards and four TDs), running back (25-244, 3 TDs) and quarterback (29-59, 634 yards, 9 TDs).

Jerome Scales, Sr. DB, Westland Glenn: The 5-11, 201-pound senior captain did it all for the Rockets playing both sides of the ball.

On offense, the All-KLAA selection rushed for 696 yards and passed for 722 to go along with six TDs.

"Jerome was very dangerous as a duel threat to run and pass," Hardin said. "He was also a three-year varsity starter on defense. He had great games against Canton and Walled Lake Western leading out team to victory in each case with over 100 yards rushing in each game."

Darryl Whitaker, Sr. All-Purpose, Liv. Clarenceville: Like Chester, Whitaker did it all this season. Not only was he a dangerous threat at running back (120-857, 16 TDs), he helped move the chains as quarterback — completing 16 of 37 attempts for 612 yards and three scores.

Add to that solid play at defensive back and it shouldn't surprise anyone that the Trojans swept through the Metro Conference.

"The best thing about Darryl was that he got better as the year went on," said Irish. "Games are bigger at the end of the year,

Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

ANNIVERSARIES

A tuneful 30 years

Local disc jockeys Mike and Debbie Brown of Garden City, better known as The Gold Tones, are celebrating 30 years of making music at banquets, hall parties, weddings and the like. The business was started by Mike Brown in 1979 at a fund-raiser at St. Gerard's parish. Debbie joined him in 1984. Their repertoire ranges from today's music back to the '40s and anything from country to rap, pop, disco and rock and roll. They call themselves DJ entertainers, lip-synching and pantomiming with real instruments, real guitars, saxes and trumpets, but the sounds come out of the CDs. For more information, call the Browns at (734) 421-0752 or by e-mail at goldtones@aol.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Night on the ice

The Canton Chamber Ambassadors will present "A Night on the Ice" during the Plymouth Whalers vs. Sudbury

hockey game at 7:05 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 24, at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township. The event is good for families, groups, co-workers, etc. Tickets are \$11 per person, while kids age 12 and under are free. There will also be a locker room tour for the kids following the game (no adults allowed in the locker room). Call the Chamber office for details and to register at (734) 453-4040.

Consumer Expo

The Canton Chamber of Commerce Consumer Expo will take place from 5-7:30 p.m., Feb. 12 at Summit on the Park. The Chamber is looking for exhibitors. Each exhibitor is expected to provide a door prize valued at \$25. Door prizes will be drawn at your exhibit during the Expo. Each exhibitor will gain special recognition during the drawing of their door prize. Exhibitor applications will be accepted on a first come/first serve basis (limited space). For more information, contact the Chamber at (734)

453-4040.

Warm Coats, Warm Hearts

Have a coat hanging in the closet you don't know what to do with? Why not donate it to the second annual Warm Hearts and Warm Coats Drive taking place through Jan. 16. You can drop off coats for men, women and children at the Burlington Coat Factory store at 9321 Telegraph Road, Redford, and at 35555 Warren Road, Westland. Coats should be in good condition with working fasteners, no rips and no stains. Donors will receive a receipt for tax purposes. The coats will be distributed to the needy by the Detroit Rescue Mission.

Food collection

TCF Bank is making it easier for you to donate food to feed the needy in our communities this winter. Through Dec. 31, all of TCF's branches are serving as a collection site for non-perishable foods. Stop by the TCF branch at 37151 Warren Road and 360 S. Merriman, both in Westland; 33200

Plymouth Road and 13401 Middlebelt Road, both in Livonia, and 45375 Ford and 46140 Michigan Ave., both in Canton, to drop off your donation. Collected food will be donated to local food banks in early January. For your convenience, TCF Bank is open seven days. For more information, call (800) TCF-Bank (800-823-2263).

ON THE SHELF

A spot of tea

You'll find more than vitamins at The Vitamin Shoppe in Westland. The store also features a selection of organic and original teas and tea items. Some of the hottest natural teas are TeaZen by TwinLabs (\$17.99 for 2 fluid ounces/60 servings), a liquid blend of white tea concentrate and organic white tea; Relax Tea by Pukka (\$6.96 for 20 tea bags), a calming, sweet mellow blend of tea to help you unwind; Organic & Fair Trade Goji Berry Pomegranate Ice Tea by Zhena's Gypsy Tea (\$7.99 for

LEARN BUSINESS BASICS

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to seminars in January offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months. Here's a schedule:

■ **Start a Business** is a seminar for anyone thinking about going into business. Participants examine their entrepreneurial skills, learn how to implement their ideas and receive a list of pitfalls to avoid when starting a business. The class runs from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Jan. 15 at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For location and pre-registration, call (248) 858-0783. The fee is \$30.

■ **Find time in your schedule to spend it with Listening to Your Business**, a half-day workshop from FastTrac. No one knows your business better than you. The class is held from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday, Jan. 16, at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For location specifics and pre-registration, call (248) 858-0783. The fee is \$95.

five 1-quart tea pillows, packed with powerful antioxidants for a refreshing ice tea treat, and Snowflakes Tea by the Tea Spot (\$10.99 for 1.4 ounces/makes 10-50 cups of tea),

a loose tea made with the most delicate of reserve harvest white tea leaves. You'll find more at the store at 35599 Warren Road or go online to www.vitaminshoppe.com.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Bowman and Ed Yono of the Wine Baron Party Store with deli sandwiches, one of the highlights at the store.

Wine Baron stresses fresh ingredients, customer service

Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature:

Wine Baron offers a wide selection of deli sandwiches and salads made daily with only fresh ingredients, and we do not use any process meats. Our most popular sandwich is the West Side sub which has five different meats and a special Italian dressing. All of our meats are fresh. We offer fresh homemade soups daily. We customize holiday gift baskets to your needs. Dearborn Hams are also available during the holiday season.

What makes your business unique:

Wine Baron stocks a variety of wine and beer. We also carry many micro brews. Wine Baron has an extensive liquor inventory. We carry liquors that are unique and if you are looking for a particular brand of liquor, if we don't have it, we will be happy to order it for you. The

WINE BARON

Business: Wine Baron
Owner: Eddie Yono
Hometown: Southfield
Business opened: 1937
Number of employees: 7
Business specialty: Deli, liquor
Hours of operations: 9 a.m. to midnight, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday.
Phone: (313) 533-WINE (9463)

real reason this store stands out in the neighborhood is we give personalized service to every customer that comes in. Our goal is to make our customers feel like family and friends and we would like to thank the people of Redford for supporting us for the last 70 years.

How did you first decide to open your own business:

While I was growing up, my father owned several restaurants and bars. I would stock the bars and kitchen and watch my dad as he ran the business. I learned from him how to be a good business man. He still teaches me today and will give me business advice.

How did you decide to locate in the Redford community:

When Wine Baron was on the market to be sold, I saw a good business opportunity so I went for it. After the sale, I learned what exactly I had bought. I had bought a business that was a unique store with loyal employees. Mary (Bowman) has worked for Wine Baron for 37 years. There are many customers that know her and love her. Her dedication and devotion showed me that I had made an excellent investment. I have made many friends in Redford since I purchased Wine Baron.

MORE NEWSMAKERS

Jacque Martin-Downs, LMSW, BCD of Northville has been recertified as a Board Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work, a prestigious national credential for advanced clinical social workers. Issued by the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work (ABE), the BCD is annually renewable based on high levels of professional achievement and maintenance of state licensure in good standing.

Martin-Downs maintains a private clinical practice with a special focus on children/adolescents and families at 426 S. Main St., Northville. She received her graduate

education at the University of Michigan in 1989 and has a master's degree in special education from Eastern Michigan University, as well.

Her practice specializes in anxiety, depression, phobias, school difficulties, relationship issues and substance abuse.

She can be reached at (800) 940-3808.

Ajay Gupta, M.D., Thoracic Surgery, has joined the staff of St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

Gupta received his undergraduate and medical degrees in general surgery from Wayne State University, and completed a residency at

Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. He completed a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Texas, San Antonio, and a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery at the University of Minnesota.

He is board certified in thoracic surgery and a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, American Association for Thoracic Surgery, and Michigan State Medical Society.

Gupta's office, Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgeons of Ann Arbor, PC, is located at 14555 Levan Road, Suite E-402, Livonia, (734) 779-0750.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

St. Mary Mercy adds to Campaign with Gala

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is moving closer to achieving its goal of upgrading its cancer and cardiac services, thanks to money raised at its recent 16th Annual Gala. Held at the Sheraton Detroit Novi, the black-tie affair raised more than \$125,000 in support of the hospital's Caring for the Future Campaign, benefiting the advancement of cancer care and cardiac services offered in the Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center and the Heart & Vascular Center at the Livonia-based hospital.

"With the outstanding community support of the gala, this brings us closer to our campaign goal and assists us in continuing to offer the latest cancer and cardiac technology to the patients we serve," said Richard DeLoof, vice president of development at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

While the hospital has made a \$27 million investment to upgrade cancer and cardiac services, \$5 million was needed from philanthropy to achieve the vision. With the involvement of many donors and friends, the Caring for the Future Campaign has raised more than \$4.9 million.

"The campaign has been a catalyst for leading-edge technology, new services and recent expansions that offer state-of-the-art facilities to St. Mary Mercy Hospital patients," DeLoof said. "As our efforts near completion, continued support of our campaign is needed to

reach our goal."

At the event, the hospital recognized the generosity of the 16th Annual gala sponsors - platinum, Temperature Services Inc.; gold, AIM Construction Inc., Concord EMS and Guardian Plumbing & Heating Inc.; silver, Barton Malow Company, Huron Valley Ambulance, Livonia Radiology PC and Phillips Service Industries, Inc. and bronze, Bumler Mechanical, Daudlin DeBeaupre & Company, Flowers on the Avenue, Greenfield Health Systems, Kupelian Ormond & Magy PC, Landscape America Inc., and Michigan Heart PC.

A part of the St. Joseph Mercy Health System, St. Mary Mercy is a 304-bed hospital offering 24-hour Emergency Center, Heart & Vascular Center, Cancer Center, Birthing Center, Women's Center, Center for Joint Replacement, Inpatient and Outpatient Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Units, Sleep Center, Wound Care Center and Michigan Bariatric Institute. It offers same-day diagnostic testing and a variety of community health education services.

People interested in making a gift to the campaign or to speak with a St. Mary Mercy Hospital Foundation representative, call (734) 655-2980. A list of naming opportunities also is available. Visit its Web site at www.stmary-mercy.org.



Jason and Robin Beeman (from left), Richard DeLoof, vice president of development, and Cheryl and Tom Korpela were among guests at St. Mary Mercy Hospital's 16th annual Gala.

ADVERTISING THAT MEANS BUSINESS!

Here's your chance to showcase your business on a page geared to business in your community.

By advertising alongside features geared toward local business, you can reach your target audience faster.

If it's important to you, it's important to us.

For advertising information, please call:

Oakland County: 248-901-2500

Wayne County: 734-582-8363

West Oakland County: 248-437-2011



Former Stevenson High QB facing charges in MSU brawl

BY JOE REXRODE
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Two people are facing charges in connection with the Oct. 19 fight involving Michigan State hockey and football players, the Ingham County Prosecutor's office confirmed today.

East Lansing 54-B District Court documents show that freshman running back Glenn Winston will face three counts of misdemeanor aggravated assault, while walk-on freshman defensive back Mitchell White of Livonia will be charged with misdemeanor



Mitchell White

assault and battery, at arraignments to be scheduled. The individuals have not been named by the prosecutor's office because they have not yet been arraigned on the charges, Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunning III said. Warrants have been issued for their arrests.

The three counts of aggravated assault could mean a maximum penalty of a year in

jail for Winston. The assault and battery charge for White carries a maximum sentence of 93 days in jail.

Dunning said the incident took place at a party at a house that was "principally occupied by hockey players." Two men were "having a discussion about a female," Dunning said, and that led to an altercation between some of their friends.

That fight ended, and one of the people involved left and brought back some friends, Dunning said. Heavy fighting ensued.

"And there were serious inju-

ries to two people who really weren't fighting," Dunning said. "I don't know how else to put it. They were just kind of there."

MSU hockey player A.J. Sturges was one of those who received injuries. He was briefly hospitalized with a head injury after the incident.

According to the Associated Press, Michigan State athletic director Mark Hollis said in a statement Monday that "no member of the university community should experience this kind of injury."

"While I am displeased

with the circumstances and actions that led to these charges, I respect the integrity and approach of our coaching staffs, East Lansing Police Department and prosecutor's office in their response to the situation," Hollis said. "Most importantly, my thoughts continue to be with A.J. Sturges, a respected student-athlete on our ice hockey team."

Winston, from Detroit Denby, and White, a 2008 Stevenson High grad, could not immediately be reached for comment.

During the 2007 high school

football season, White, a quarterback, helped lead Stevenson to a 13-1 record and a runner-up finish in the Division 1 state championship game.

White was also the 2008 Division 1 high jump state champion and competed in MSU's first indoor track and field meet this month, clearing 6 feet, 9 inches. Mitchell's twin brother Myles is a scholarship wide receiver who is being red-shirted on the MSU football team.

The Observer sports staff contributed to this report.

LOCAL PERSONALITIES GO HEAD TO HEAD



Mason
WGPR
Radio



Jon Bond
WVMV
Radio



Gator
Anderson
97.1 Radio



Jeff Lesson
CBS
Radio



Keith Lang
Tennyson
Chevrolet



Bob Faust
Jack Demmer
Ford



Ronnie Williams
Perfect
Floors



Tom Flory
Shelton Pontiac
Buick GMC



Ron Fruciano
Friendly
Chrysler Jeep

DUE TO EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES • LAST WEEK'S RECORD WAS NOT COMPLETE WHEN THIS PAGE WENT TO PRINT

125-67

New England
Cincinnati
Green Bay
Tampa Bay
Indianapolis
New York Giants
Carolina
New York Jets
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Baltimore
Atlanta
Chicago
San Diego
Arizona
Washington

118-74

New England
Cincinnati
Green Bay
Tampa Bay
Indianapolis
New York Giants
Carolina
New York Jets
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Baltimore
Atlanta
Chicago
San Diego
Arizona
Washington

120-72

New England
Cincinnati
Green Bay
Tampa Bay
Indianapolis
New York Giants
Carolina
New York Jets
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Baltimore
Atlanta
Chicago
San Diego
Arizona
Washington

119-73

New England
Cincinnati
Green Bay
Tampa Bay
Indianapolis
New York Giants
Carolina
New York Jets
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Baltimore
Atlanta
Chicago
San Diego
Arizona
Washington

129-63

New England
Cincinnati
Green Bay
Tampa Bay
Indianapolis
New York Giants
Carolina
New York Jets
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Baltimore
Atlanta
Chicago
San Diego
Arizona
Washington

125-67

New England
Cincinnati
Green Bay
Tampa Bay
Indianapolis
New York Giants
Carolina
New York Jets
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Baltimore
Atlanta
Chicago
San Diego
Arizona
Washington

130-62

New England
Cincinnati
Green Bay
Tampa Bay
Indianapolis
New York Giants
Carolina
New York Jets
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Baltimore
Atlanta
Chicago
San Diego
Arizona
Washington

126-66

New England
Cincinnati
Green Bay
Tampa Bay
Indianapolis
New York Giants
Carolina
New York Jets
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Baltimore
Atlanta
Chicago
San Diego
Arizona
Washington

121-71

New England
Cincinnati
Green Bay
Tampa Bay
Indianapolis
New York Giants
Carolina
New York Jets
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Baltimore
Atlanta
Chicago
San Diego
Arizona
Washington

DISCOVER THE DEMMER DIFFERENCE!



Lease for
36 Months
\$279*
\$2426 Due
at Signing
STK. #90009

37300 Michigan Ave. at Newburgh
Wayne • Just East of I-275

734-721-2600

www.demmer.com • aplanheadquarters.com

Sales Hours: Mon & Thurs 9 am - 9 pm • Tues • Wed • Fri 8 am - 6 pm
Service Hours: Monday - Friday 7 am - 6 pm
*Plus tax, title, license. Lease is for 10,000 miles per year. Security deposit waived. All applicable factory rebates included in price including owner loyalty. See Jack Demmer Ford for complete details. A-Plan Purchase and Leases. All offers subject to change due to early print deadlines. Sale ends 1-4-09.

SHELTON
PONTIAC BUICK GMC

2009 PONTIAC G6



24 MOS.
12K YR.
\$1000 Due
\$0 Sec. Dep.
See Dealer
for Details
V-6, alloy wheels, remote start,
power windows, locks, tilt, cruise
855 S. Rochester Road • Rochester Hills
(248) 651-5500

*GMS Pricing plus tax, title and plates. All rebates to dealer. Expires 12/30/08.

Jim Riehl's
FRIENDLY
CHRYSLER JEEP



2008
JEEP
COMMANDER
SPORT 4X4
7 PASSENGER
SEATING Only 10 Available
36 Mo. Lease
\$219* \$17,249**
\$499 Due at Signing
MSRP \$32,250

Corner of 14 Mile
& Van Dyke 866-414-2734
Check out our inventory online: www.jimriehl.com

*Cash price plus tax, title, plates, destination, CTR & Doc. Fees. All pricing includes factory rebates and military discount. Must finance through JCR. Based on Tier 1/A credit. Customer must be eligible for Chrysler Employee Discount.
**Leases are plus first payment, 6% of down payment, title, plates, cover & doc. fee. 12,000 miles per year. Offer expires 12/29/08.

PICK THE PROS!
To Play, Go To:
www.hometownlife.com
And Click On The
Pick The Pros Advertisement

WEEKLY PRIZES!
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS
1st Place
Rochester Hills BEERCO
\$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE
(Not interchangeable)
PLUS
For more details, please go to:
www.hometownlife.com
EMAGINE
THE MAGIC OF MOVIES & MORE
MOVIE PASS FOR TWO
2nd Place
EMAGINE
THE MAGIC OF MOVIES & MORE
MOVIE PASS FOR TWO

You'll Always Be
Miles Ahead At...
SALES • PARTS • SERVICE • LEASING •
AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION
ALL DEALERS PAY THE SAME
FOR A VEHICLE FROM THE
MANUFACTURER
"IT'S HOW WE
STRUCTURE THE
DEAL THAT
MAKES IT BEST,
FOR YOU, OUR
CUSTOMER"
BODY SHOP ON PREMISE
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
734-425-6500
32570 Plymouth Rd. • Livonia
Just East of Farmington Rd.
www.tennysonchevy.com
Serving The Community Through 6 Decades
HOURS: MON. & THURS. 8:30am to 9:00pm • TUE., WED. & FRI. 8:30am to 6:00pm

PERFECT FLOORS 2008 SAVINGS
NO PAYMENTS
NO INTEREST
1 YEAR Same as Cash
CARPET • VINYL • HARDWOOD • LAMINATE
PLUSHES
DENSE/DURABLE PLUSH \$199
Chosen From Many Colors
Installed with FREE Heavy Pad
OUR BEST SELLING HEAVY PLUSH
From Mohawk & Shaw
6' Color • 12' x 12' Width
7 Year MacCorkle State Warranty
Installed with FREE Heavy Pad
OUR HEAVIEST PLUSH CARPET
Midland • Premium Nylon
Rust proof & stain resistant
12' x 12' Width, 70 oz.
Installed with FREE Heavy Pad
BERBERS
OUR MOST POPULAR BERBER
Durable
12' x 12' Width
In stock for quick installation
Installed with FREE Heavy Pad
OUR VERY BEST BERBERS
13 Styles
1800 ft. of Color
12' x 12' Width Available
Installed with FREE Heavy Pad
BASEMENT CARPET
Installed
TACETESSE \$319
Durable • Stain Resistant
12' x 12' Width, 800 gsm
Installed with FREE Heavy Pad
LAMINATE SALE
STARTING AT \$129
Squ. Ft.
South Lyon
21946 Pontiac Trail
(south of Nine Mile Rd.)
248-437-2838
Rochester Hills
1015 John R
(corner of John R & Avon)
248-650-5199
*Financing based on credit approval. Minimum \$200 purchase with 25% deposit required. Prior Orders except. See store for details.

WEEK #17 GAMES
Sunday, December 28, 2008
New England at Buffalo
Kansas City at Cincinnati
Detroit at Green Bay
Oakland at Tampa Bay
Tennessee at Indianapolis
New York Giants at Minnesota
Carolina at New Orleans
Miami at New York Jets
Dallas at Philadelphia
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Jacksonville at Baltimore
St. Louis at Atlanta
Chicago at Houston
Denver at San Diego
Seattle at Arizona
Washington at San Francisco

Olympian Taormina triathlon inductee

Former University of Georgia swimming stand-out and four-time Olympian Sheila Taormina will be part of a five-member class to be inducted into the inaugural USA Triathlon Hall of Fame early next year.

The Livonia Stevenson High grad, who earned 13 All-America certificates during her four-year Georgia swimming career, is the only American woman to qualify for the Olympic Games in three different sports.

Her triathlon career began following her first Olympic appearance in Atlanta in 1996, where Taormina earned a gold medal in swimming with the 800-meter freestyle relay team.

She is the only U.S. woman to make two USA Olympic Triathlon teams, finishing sixth in 2000 and 23rd in 2004.

Also during her triathlon career, Taormina won silver at the 2003 Pan American Games, gold at the 2004 International Triathlon

Union World Championship and has earned 10 top-three finishes in ITU World Cups, including three victories.

Following her triathlon career, Taormina took up the sport of modern pentathlon beginning in 2005 and has risen to the top of that sport in a little less than four years.

Following three podium World Cup finishes, she made her fourth Olympic Games in three different sports when she was placed on the U.S. modern pentathlon roster for the 2008 Beijing Olympics and finished in 19th place.

The induction ceremony will be Jan. 17 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

USA Triathlon will induct five individuals in its inaugural class, including Verne Scott (contributor), Jon Gray Noll (contributor), Judy Flannery (age-group athlete), Karen Smyers (pre-2000 elite athlete) and Taormina (post-1999 elite athlete).

The ceremony will be part of the USAT Race Director's Symposium.

Redford Parks & Rec cagers tip off season

Talk about a logjam. Of course, what else would one expect following Week 1 of the Redford Township Parks and Recreation-sponsored Men's Sunday Basketball League with seven games taking place at Hilbert Middle School on Sunday, Dec. 7.

That means — let's do the math — seven winners and seven losers. But there actually are eight teams deadlocked for first and another eight right behind them because the opening week's scheduled game for 9 p.m. did not get played. L.D.J. won via forfeit from Murningham.

The standings should start to shake up a bit as early as Week 2, but for now a lot of teams can say they share the top spot.

Following is a recap of the opening-week action, Dec. 7:

■ 2 p.m.: Cheli's Chili must have been slow cookin' in the off season, because they came in thick and too much to handle for newcomers the 1800, winning 68-57. Nate Labadie led the way for the victors with 27 points with scoring help coming from Dave Nichols (9 points), Matt Schief (6), Mike Bright and Dan Regan (each with 4).

Pacing the 1800 was George Johnson, who poured in 20 points. Chipping in with 15 was West Hicks. Other contributors included Eugene Baker (8), Reginald Hodo and Frank

Bickerstaff (each with 6) and Richard Gamble (2).

■ 3 p.m.: Two more new squads tipped it off with Puck's Bar & Grill nipping Captain Nemo's by a 36-33 score.

Puck's boasted balanced scoring, spearheaded by Josh Sobas' 15-point performance. But Sobas had help from Mike Cochran and Jay Fontaine (each with 6), Jeff Mornings and Mike Discher (each with 3), Ryan Bushoff (2) and Alan Gerhke (1).

For Nemo's, Mike Murphy tallied 13 points while Rodney Hurst chipped in with eight. Art Tinker (5), Joe Weaver (4) and Greg Murphy (3) rounded out the scoring.

■ 4 p.m.: The Motor City Ballers put a down payment on the Layaways, winning 52-22. Pacing the Ballers with 15 points was James Hill while Tyrone Temple registered nine. Each adding five to the scoresheet were Mitchell Jones, Bill Johnson, Mike Green and Boe Shelby. LeTorian Paul (4 points), Martin McElroy and Walter Reese (each with 2) provided some offensive insurance.

For the Layaways, Matt Patra and Phil Garrett tallied nine and eight points, respectively. Aaron Moran scored three while Ryan Donovan and Chris Respondek provided a bucket each.

■ 5 p.m.: The Dirty Dozen

opened the season with a 75-64 win over the Affiliates, with Dion Sherry's 31 points more than leading the way. Chipping in with 16 points for the winning side was David Smith while Reynolda Brown scored 10. Other helpers included Troy Coleman (8), Wes Williams (7) and Darnell Royal (3).

Scoring 24 points for the Affiliates was Ted Barker while Reddick Borkins also was in double figures with 11. Brad Barenie (9), Brian Davies (8), Dese Zuberi (5), Courtney McIntosh (4) and Justin Gerwatowski (3) contributed points.

■ 6 p.m.: The Arsenal needed overtime to defeat the Good Guys, 74-66. Mike Robinson led the Arsenal with 28 points, followed by Dady Smith (21), LaRon Griffin (15), Kobie Landry (6), Wes Hazel (4) and Mike Boggs (2).

Leading the Good Guys were three players in double figures — Aaron Nelson (24), Ray Moss (19) and Jason Allen (16). Adding seven points was Ralph White.

■ 7 p.m.: The Heavyweights outlasted the Shooters, 76-64. Sparking the winning side were James Jenkins and Leroy Blyden, with 20 and 18 points, respectively. Helping out were Ryan Wimbley and Johnnie Green (each with 10) and Cedric McSween (6).

Registering 27 points for the Shooters was Keith Roberts, although he had support from Devin Dell (18) and Jordan Marshall (10). Adding three points was Harold Marshall.

■ 8 p.m.: Week 1 ended with newcomer Team Cole falling 80-44 to RNG. Pouring in 26 points for RNG was Linzee Bennett, although Khari Reid (17) and Scag (13) also were in double figures. They were augmented by Jeff Kennedy (8), Chin Ten (6), Drew Bradford (4), Thomas Jefferson and Ron Matlock (each with 3).

Team Cole's top scorer was Ian Wincher, with 13 points. Helpers included Damian Williams (7), Jason Cole (6), Eric Jones (4), Lawrence Kemp and Milton Frazier (each with 2).

STANDINGS AFTER WEEK 1
1st (tie) — Run N'Gun, MC Ballers, Heavyweights, Dirty Dozen, Cheli's Chili, Arsenal, Puck's Bar & Grill, L.D.J. (each 1-0, 2 pts); 2nd (tie) — Murningham, Capt. Nemo's, Good Guys, 1800, Affiliates, Shooters, Layaways, Team Cole (each 0-1, 0 pts).

SCORING LEADERS
1. D. Sherry (DD), 31.0 points per game; 2. K. Roberts (Shoot), 27.0; 3. N. Labadie (CC), 27.0; 4. L. Bennett (RNG), 26.0; 5. M. Robinson (Ars), 26.0; 6. T. Barker (Aff), 24.0; 7. A. Nelson (GG), 24.0; 8. D. Smith (Ars), 21.0; 9. J. Jenkins (Hwts), 20.0; 10. G. Johnson (1800), 20.0; 11. R. Moss (GG), 19.0; 12. D. Kurtanitis (CC), 18.0; 13. L. Blyden (Hwts), 18.0; 14. D. Dell (Shoot), 18.0; 15. K. Reid (RNG), 17.0; 16. J. Allen (GG), 17.0; 17. D. Smith (DD), 16.0; 18. L. Griffin (Ars), 15.0; 19. W. Hicks (1800), 15.0; 20. J. Sobas (Puck), 15.0; 21. J. Hill (MCB), 15.0; 22. Scag (RNG), 13.0; 23. M. Murphy (C.Ws), 13.0; 24. L. Wincher (TC), 13.0; 25. Ho. B. Hwts, 12.0; 26. R. Borkins (Aff), 11.0; 27. R. Brown (DD), 10.0; 28. J. Marshall (Shoot), 10.0; 29. R. Wimbley (Hwts), 10.0; 30. J. Green (Hwts), 10.0.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com



"Looking for that special place to call home? Look no further!!"

Community Home Finder

800.579-7355

oads@hometownlife.com

For Even More Listings
See Our Classified Section
In Today's Paper

3000-3800
Real Estate For Sale

Homes 3000

PLYMOUTH ONE MONTH FREE RENT!
Twin Arbor Apartments. Call for details. 734-452-2800
twinarbors.com

Garden City 3170

REAL ESTATE & CONTENTS AUCTION
Sun. Jan 19 at 2 p.m.
8409 Whitley. Beautiful 3 bdrm Ranch on Double Lot. Home Your Price! AEauctions.com (248) 473-1547 Preview: Tues. Jan. 13 from 6-7:30.

Mobile Homes 3750

CANTON - 2 & 3 bdrms, mobile homes as low as \$100/mo. plus lot rent.
Jim 313-277-1907

4000-4900
Real Estate For Lease

Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

BIRMINGHAM AREA-TROY
1 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1100 sq. ft., \$750/mo. 248-882-0748

Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

LIVONIA FREE RENT UNTIL FEBRUARY!
Woodridge Apartments. Call now for details. 248-477-6448.
woodridgeapartments.com

PLYMOUTH 1 bdrm, in a 4 unit bldg, appliances, c/a, \$585/mo, plus sec. (231) 392-6373

THE MEADOWS OF LIVONIA
Seniors 55 & Older
2 MONTHS FREE RENT \$99 Move-In
• 1 Bdrms Starting at \$775
• 2 Bdrms starting at \$900
• No Application Fees
• Heat/Water & Trash Incl
• Emergency Response System
• Key Pad Entry
• Livonia Transit
734-522-1151
*Some Restrictions Apply. Limited Time Only

WESTLAND
1 bdrm w/appliances. \$475/mo. 248-892-0262

WESTLAND
2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, close to schools. \$500/month. 248-892-0262

Condos/Townhouses 4020

BIRMINGHAM - DOWNTOWN
2 bdrm townhouses, 1.5 bath, hardwood floors, a/c, banit, washer/dryer. No pets, non-smoking. \$1100/mo. 248-911-0425

ROCHESTER
Big 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1st floor \$750/mo. 248-350-2991

Duplexes 4030

CANTON 2 bdrm, 1.5 baths, convenient location near Ford Rd., & I-275, c/a, full bsm, appliances incl., washer/dryer \$800/mo. + sec. dep., rest of Dec. FREE. 248-887-8759

LIVONIA - 2 bdrm, fireplace, all appliances, banit, fenced yard. \$775/mo. 231-392-6373

Homes For Rent 4060

FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm, 2 baths, new carpet & paint, bsm, a/c, deck, no pets. Must See! \$875/mo. 248-214-7857.

LIVONIA
Beautiful 3 bdrm, 1500 sq ft. Ranch w/master bdrm suite. \$1295
www.birdsallproperties.com
248-943-2863

ROYAL OAK 3 bdrm, 1200 sq ft., c/a, all appliances, fenced yard, 1 car attached garage. \$875/mo. 248-549-1188.

"We Work For You!"
hometownlife.com

SOUTHFIELD
3 bdrm, finished bsm, 2 car, duck appliances, incl. Southfield & 12 Mile. \$1150 + util. 248-558-6520

Rooms For Rent 4140

NORTHVILLE or PLYMOUTH
Downtown, 1st week with full deposit. Furnished sleeping rooms. Newly decorated. \$85 weekly. Security deposit. 724-355-9453, 248-305-9944

QUALITY SUITES
Low weekly rates
Livonia
734-261-6800

Find it here!

WAREHOUSE HELP WANTED
No experience necessary, all shifts available.
Call 313-000-0000

"It's All About Results!"

To Place Your Own Classified Ad, Call
1-800-579-SELL
www.hometownlife.com

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Your Weekly Guide to Apartment Living

WAYNE
Mid Town Square Apartments
Holiday Special

★ Let Us Buy Your Christmas Gifts! ★
★ \$250 Gift Card To Westland Mall ★

1, 2 & 3 bedrooms.
Newly decorated.
734-326-7800

What a great place to find your next...or maybe your first apartment!

Pick your community and give them a call to take advantage of some really great values.

CALL TODAY FOR A GREAT RATE... **1-800-579-7355**

Look no further for the best local classifieds!

TO PLACE YOUR AD:
1-800-579-7355



Thanksgiving champions

The Farmington Hills Vipers, whose roster is stocked with players from throughout the Observerland area, captured the Michigan Travelers Thanksgiving Tournament last month. It was the fourth significant title the team has won in the past 11 months. The Vipers defeated the Southgate Stars in the final. Pictured are (front row) Jacob Ponder, (second row from left) John Clark, Parker Hodges, Max Bradley, Mike Scarpello, (third row from left) Adam Fine, Sean Wigler, Matt Goldin, Spencer Bowman, C.J. Myers, Paul Hildebrandt, Nicky Heffron, (fourth row from left) Brad Rupar, Max VanAntwerp and Jalen Cooper. Not pictured are coaches Dave Wigler, Jim Myers, Paul VanAntwerp, Don Clark and manager Denise Goldin.

MU softball coach White signs 5

Coach Al White has gotten an early jump on the 2010 Madonna University women's softball season with the announcement Wednesday of the signing of five high school seniors to NAIA letters-of-intent.

Among those in the fold are Livonia Franklin pitcher Natalie Sanborn, Farmington High outfielder Ali Robinson and Westland infielder Katelyn Hamann from Dearborn Divine Child.

White also signed infielders Ariele Cox and Erica Landress, both of Carleton Airport.

"We are very excited to have this group," said White, who guided the Crusaders to the 2008 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season and playoff crowns. "With this group, we are almost done recruiting already. We are looking forward to a very bright future with the talent level of the players we have signed so early in the process."

White calls Sanborn, a right-hander who posted an 1.82 earned run average as a junior, as a "hidden gem."

"She has a lot of potential," the MU coach said. "She can throw hard and now we just have to polish that diamond that we think we have found."

Hamann, the niece of former Crusader Stacey Sexsmith (2003-06), earned three letters at DC and two more in volleyball. She helped the Falcons to a pair of district titles and was named All-City, All-District and honorable mention All-Catholic League as a junior. "She's a fireball," White said. "Katelyn is a sparkplug type of player. She does anything at second base or shortstop to keep the ball on the infield."

Crusaders secure setter

Madonna University women's volleyball coach Jerry Abraham wasted little time in signing his first recruit for the 2009 season.

Milford High's 5-foot-9 senior setter Evia Frieditis signed an NAIA letter-of-intent Wednesday. Frieditis, who handed out 2,254 assist-to-kills over the last two seasons for the Mavericks, is a three-time All-Conference selection who made All-State as a junior.

She holds school records for aces, assists per set (10) and total assists. She had 58 assists in a match this fall.

"Evia is fast, has great hands and is very experienced with excellent court sense," said Abraham, whose team was ranked 11th in the nation. "She has the ability to

run a multiple style offense while becoming a great leader on the floor. She's a player we are very excited to add to our volleyball family."

Thomas adds soccer pair

Madonna University women's soccer coach Paul Thomas added two recruits for the 2009 fall season by signing Chelsea Budlong, an outside back and midfielder from Novi, and Lauryn Dostillo, a three-time All-Macomb Area Conference selection from Sterling Heights.

Budlong earned three letters at Novi and was a member of the Wildcats' 2007 state championship team. She was also an All-Academic selection.

Dostillo also earned three letters for the Stallions and was a three-time All-Macomb County pick.

"I believe these two players are a great start to our recruiting class as both have great club and high school pedigrees," Thomas said. "Both are quality players and will improve our standard of play, which is what we're looking to do in 2009. I expect both of these players to hit the ground running and make a big impact on the team as a freshman."

Churchill's red-hot Motta not enough to cool down CC icers

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP HOCKEY

Goaltender Adrian Motta has been Livonia Churchill's saving grace so far this hockey season. But despite stopping 41-of-45 shots Saturday night, it wasn't enough as the Chargers fell to Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 4-2, in a non-league game played at Compuware Arena's Olympic Rink.

The loss drops Churchill to 1-3-2 overall, while CC improves to 6-1-1.

Motta, a senior who is also the starting goalie on Churchill's boys soccer team, withstood a barrage of CC shots, including 25 in the second period, to keep it respectable.

"Adrian has been phenomenal all season long," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "And he wasn't even in the conversation until tryouts. He's been our MVP. He bails us out more than he needs to."

CC led 1-0 after one period on Mike Zylik's power-play goal from Steven Hensley and Nicholas Crowley at 3:22.

Churchill came back and tied it at the 4-minute mark of the second period when Scott Hamill ripped a drive off a face-off won by teammate Andrew Sieber.

But it took the Shamrocks only 11 seconds to respond as Zylik notched his second of the night from Austin Hervey and David Swierski to make it

2-1.

Only 48 seconds later, Churchill's Stefan Kubas scored after CC goalie Zack Cisek drifted too far out from his crease trying to play a loose puck. Kody Strong and Steve Klisz drew the assists on the game-tying goal.

But the Shamrocks continue to apply heavy pressure on Motta and answered again twice, just 14 and 31 seconds later on a pair of goals by senior forward Dan Brown, both from linemates Kyle Nelson and Brad Wilhelm.

"We've been struggling to score lately," Mazzoni said. "I think we got so excited to score that we forgot to play the next shift."

Motta was able to keep the Shamrocks off the board the final 24 minutes and 30 seconds, but Churchill could not muster enough offense, registering just 14 shots on the CC goal.

"We've had a number of games where we've put pucks on goalies," CC coach Todd Johnson said. "We just keep shooting, shooting, shooting. I thought Motta made some really good saves. He played really good."

Motta played last season for the Flames and coach Bill Ried in a house league. He has seized his new-found opportunity.

"Three-on-zeros, two-on-ones, I work on those a lot more," the senior netminder said of practice time. "I just try and work my tail off in practice every day. I'm getting a lot more ice time. I just try to go out and try to get better every game."

On the other side, Cizek didn't have a lot of action, but did prevent two Churchill breakaway attempts — one by Brent Mishowski to end the first period and the other by James Lelekatch in the final period.

"Churchill's style is to sit back, get blocks and jump on loose pucks to create breakaways," Johnson said. "We had to minimize that as much as possible and I thought Cizek made a couple of key saves."

CC has not won a state title since winning their fifth in a row back in 2005, but this Shamrock team could be capable.

"This is one of the better ones they've had over the last couple of years," Mazzoni said. "They have good puck skills and move the puck very well. They have size and speed."

Meanwhile, Churchill is off until Jan. 5 when the Chargers play Salem.

And Mazzoni said the theme will be simple during the holiday practice schedule.

"We have to work on being more aggressive on both ends of the ice," he said.

bemons@hometownlife.com

PREP SWIMMING

ANN ARBOR HURON 123 CANTON 63

Tuesday at Canton

200-yard medley relay: 1. Huron (Pat Richardson, Michael Swain, Nathan Nemon, Raymond Viviano), 1:45.16; 2. Canton, 1:48.85; 3. Huron, 1:51.51.

200 freestyle: 1. Richard Zhang (C), 1:52.13; 2. Michael Everett (H), 1:55.38; 3. Ben Kirsch (H), 1:58.27.

200 IM: 1. Victor Zhang (C), 2:01.61; 2. Leopold Chen (H), 2:03.50; 3. Charlie Zhang (H), 2:10.64.

50 freestyle: 1. Michael Swain (H), 23.35;

2. Pat Richardson (H), 23.43; 3. Nick Clyde (H), 23.93.

1-meter diving: 1. Jeff Camala (H), 221.50 points; 2. Matt Figlewicz (C), 181.70; 3. Nate Argatsinger (H), 172.40.

100 butterfly: 1. Victor Zhang (C), 54.66; 2. Ben Kirsch (H), 59.27; 3. James Riegger (H), 1:02.45.

100 freestyle: 1. Richard Zhang (C), 50.62; 2. Nathan Nemon (H), 50.97; 3. Pat Richardson (H), 52.29.

500 freestyle: 1. Nick Clyde (H), 5:07.32; 2. Jay Jin (C), 5:07.79; 3. Keeley Maher (H), 5:17.19.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Huron (Jonathan Geldermans, Charlie Zhang, Pat Richardson, Nathan Nemon), 1:35.09; 2. Canton, 1:38.02; 3. Huron, 1:42.82.

100 backstroke: 1. Michael Swain (H), 58.45; 2. Jin Jay (C), 1:00.61; 3. Raymond Viviano (H), 1:02.56.

100 breaststroke: 1. Charlie Zhang (H), 1:10.96; 2. Ryan Boes (C), 1:13.67; 3. Nick Wang (H), 1:14.31.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Huron (Michael Swain, Geldermans, Michael Everett, Nathan Nemon), 3:29.10; 2. Huron, 3:30.63; 3. Canton, 3:33.42.

CANTON'S RECORD: 0-1.

A PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN FORMED TO BETTER SERVE OUR COMMUNITY



Bob Jeannotte
Buick Pontiac GMC
(734) 259-2816

ACT NOW!!!!!!!

Donate before the end of the year to **GUARANTEE** the 2008 **FAIR MARKET VALUE** for your donated vehicle to: **CHARITY MOTORS, INC.** No other car donation program in Michigan can make that guarantee—**PERIOD!!**

Your driveable vehicle may be dropped off at:

Bob Jeannotte Buick Pontiac GMC
14949 Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170

For donation information and free towing:
Donate Online at www.charitymotors.org
or call: (313) 933-4000 or (888) 908-2277

CE00837053

We have "No Problem" saving you money.



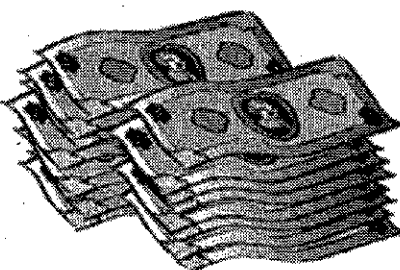
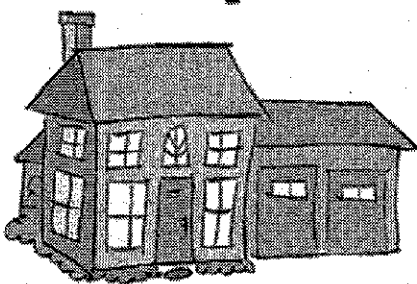
When you insure both your car and home with us, through

Auto-Owners Insurance Company,

we'll save you money! Stop in, or

call us today for a "No Problem"

insurance check-up.



Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business
The "No Problem" People®

METRO AGENCY, INC.

"THE PERSONAL TOUCH"

Insurance

Best Possible Premiums. Happy Customers Since 1959.

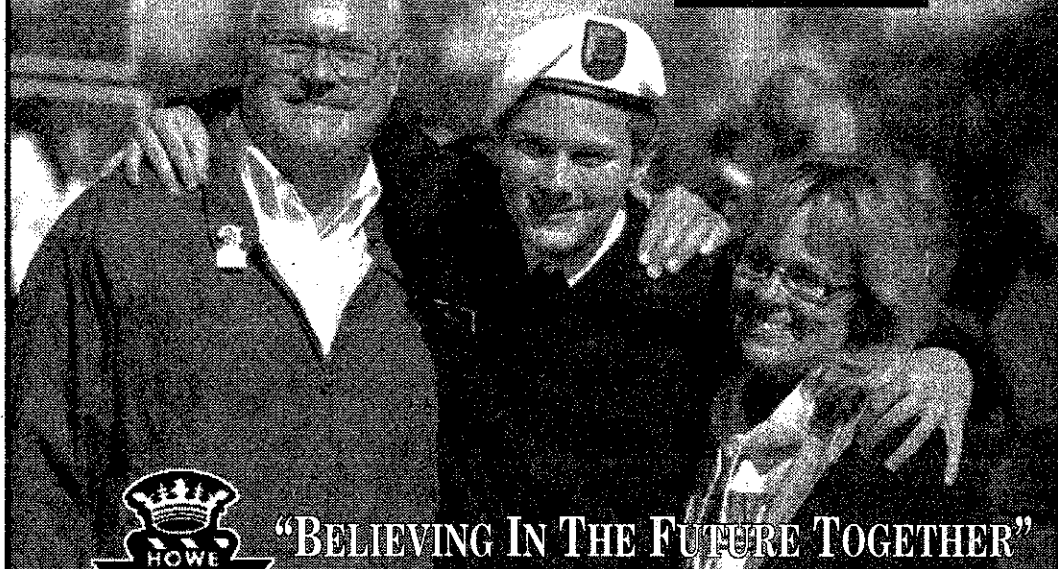
32646 Five Mile Road • Livonia, MI 48154

734-555-3900

www.metroagency.net

CE00837103

HOWE



"BELIEVING IN THE FUTURE TOGETHER"

You Are Invited
to an informational reception

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009 7pm - 9pm

Location:

The Inn at St. John's
Golf & Conference Center
44045 Five Mile Road • Plymouth, MI 48170

Howe students achieve through self-confidence, self-discipline, leadership, respect and organization

Fully accredited by the NCA, ISACS and the State of Indiana
1-888-GO-2-HOWE • (1-888-462-4693)

www.howemilitary.com

CE00837162

SPORTS ROUNDUP

GCYBSA news

Registration for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball and Softball Association's 2009 season will open Jan. 9 and close March 10.

GCYBSA offers T-Ball through 18U baseball and 8U through 18U softball.

Registration information is available online at www.gcybsa.com.

gcybsa.com.

For more information, contact cott@canton-mi.org or call (734) 394-5489.

Cheer clinic

The Canton competitive cheer team will be hosting a kids clinic in the Canton High School cafeteria on Saturday, Jan. 17.

Check-in will begin at 9 a.m.

with the clinic running from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Kids from kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to participate.

For more information, call (734) 765-1998. The registration deadline is Jan. 7.

Precision camps

Precision Baseball in Canton will be hosting softball and baseball camps for kids in grades 1st through 8th later this month.

The softball camp will be held Dec. 26-27 with a cost of \$65 per session or \$115 for both.

The cost of the baseball camp, which will be held Dec. 26-28, is \$65 per day or \$180 for all three days.

For more information, call (734) 459-5921 or visit www.precisionbaseballone.com.

Softball fundamentals

The Madonna University women's softball program will stage two sessions of fundamentals camps from 9 a.m. until noon each Saturday, Jan. 3, 10, 17 and 24 (Session I); and

Sunday, Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22.

The cost for each session is \$150.

For more information, or to register, call MU coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or visit www.madonnacrusaders.com.

WYAA basketball signup

Basketball registration for the Westland Youth Athletic Association will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Age groups offered include: Right Start (7-8), Freshman (9-10), Junior Varsity (11-12), Varsity (13-14-15) and Senior (16-19).

JV- and Varsity-age players involved in middle school basketball will be eligible for WYAA play once their seasons conclude.

For more information, call the WYAA building at (734) 421-0640.

Glenn baseball training

Westland John Glenn High

School will host a six-week Spring Training 2009 baseball program for players in grades 1-12 from Jan. 18 through Feb. 22.

John Glenn varsity coach Tom Wakefield will direct the program in conjunction with the Midwest Baseball Academy. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching and catching with a cost as low as \$99 for six weeks. Space is limited and registration is underway.

For more information, call toll-free at (866) MBA-HITS; or visit www.baseballacademy.net.

Prep coaches wanted

Westland John Glenn High School has coaching openings for varsity girls soccer. Those interested can apply online at www.wyaa.net.

Livonia Ladywood has openings for the following coaches: girls varsity track and field (2009 spring season); girls cross country (2009 fall season); and girls JV golf coach (2009 fall season).

Those interested should fax

a resume to Ladywood High School at (734) 591-2386.

Practice with Kessel

Play It Again Sports in Canton and Livonia, along with Nike Bauer Hockey, will be offering a "A Practice of a Lifetime" national sweepstakes to award one lucky hockey devotee, along with 20 teammates, to win a personal practice session with Boston Bruin Phil Kessel, the fifth pick of the 2006 NHL Entry Draft and Master Memorial Trophy winner his rookie year.

The drawing ends Dec. 31. For more information, visit www.playitagainsports.com.

Baseball Academy

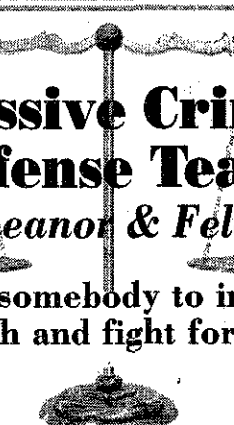
The Pro Secrets Baseball Academy will be conducting showcase sessions for high school players as well as skill sessions in power pitching, hitting and fielding.

The latest pro pitch trainer will be used and former Phillies pitcher Mark Rutherford will be the featured instructor.

For more information, call (734) 421-4928.

Happy Hounds
We also offer
Cage-Free Overnight Boarding
and
Dog Obedience Classes
Adult & Puppy Classes
See our website to enroll!
www.happyhoundsdaycare.com
Dog Day Care
Tired of finding your own entertainment?
Come play with us instead!

While you are at work, we are at work caring for your loyal friend & companion.
734.459.DOGS
673 S. Main St. • Plymouth, MI 48170
www.happyhoundsdaycare.com • plymouthdogmom@msn.com
Look in on them on our doggie web cams!
"A HAPPY DOG DAY... IS A DAY OF DOG PLAY!"

Aggressive Criminal Defense Team
All Misdemeanor & Felony Cases
"You need somebody to investigate, research and fight for you."

You Need Attorney Christopher Brown
Former Police Officer
It's my experience as an investigator and attorney that will make the difference in your case!
248-649-1160
After business hours or for weekend appointments please call...313-819-1056

CITY OF WESTLAND
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 24 12/15/08
Presiding: President Pro-Tem Graunstadt
Present: Johnson, Kehr, Pickering, Reeves, Stottlemeyer
254- Appr. minutes of 12/1/08.
- Appr. to allow Res. Recyl. Syst. to create a Carbon Footprint Study for the City
- Appr. of rate inc. from OHM
- Appr. of Cont. w/ MI Humane Soc. To exp. 6-30-09
- Appr. of Intergov't. Agree. betw. Wayne Cnty, Livonia & Westland to resurface Joy Rd. betw. Middlebelt & Inkster, amt. \$44,088
- Intro. Of Budget Amend. 2008-07
- Intro. Ord. 248-A-62 to amend Zoning Ord. 248
255- Granted req. to go into closed study session imm. after mtg.
257- Appr. Site Plan, 35700 Warren, par. #020-03-0006-000, n.w. corn of Warren & Nankin
258- Appr. Spec. Land Use, 8077 Middlebelt, par. #005-02-0063-300, w. side of Middlebelt, n. of Ann Arbor Tr.
259- Appr. Spec. Land Use, 4687 Middlebelt, par. #083-02-0007-302, s.e. corner of Middlebelt & Annapolis
260- Appr. Officials' & Mayor's Off. Pay Plan, 1-1-09 thru 12-31-09
261- Appr. City Clerk's Benefit Pkg., 1-1-09 thru 12-31-09
262- Appr. Deputy City Clerk's Pay/Benefit Pkg., 1-1-09 thru 12-31-09
263- Appr. Checklist: \$740,120.28 & Prepaid: \$1,947,478.24.
Minutes available in the Clerk's office.
Cheryl Graunstadt,
Council President Pro-Tem
Eileen DeHart, CMC,
City Clerk
Publish: December 25, 2008

The Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan will provide for the first time an opportunity for 100 high school girls and 100 high school boys to gather for a day under MHSAA and BCAM supervision to learn what it takes to become a college basketball player and succeed in college life at the Reaching Higher Experience on April 26.

In separate events for boys and girls at Brighton and South Lyon High Schools, respectively, these students, selected by BCAM members, will have classroom sessions, engage in on-court drills and testing, and scrimmage. Classroom sessions will be conducted for parents as well.

College coaching staffs will be invited to observe. "This is a day of education," says MHSAA Executive Director John E. "Jack" Roberts, who proposed the idea on a two-year experimental basis to the MHSAA Representative Council and BCAM's Board of Directors,

which both enthusiastically approved the initiative. "The events intend to strengthen the ties between high school players and coaches, to show students and parents how to prepare for college on the court and in the classroom, and to provide college coaches a convenient and inexpensive means for evaluating a large number of players with potential to 'reach higher.'"

April's events are the first of a multi-phase program intended to encourage an educational orientation for sports

participation for high school, middle school and even younger students. As each phase is implemented, it will be evaluated and thereafter adapted for application in other sports.

Letters from the MHSAA to head girls and boys basketball coaches of all Association member high schools have already been mailed inviting them to nominate players. In mid-February, 100 girls and 100 boys, plus up to 40 alternates will be identified by BCAM Selection Committee members.


Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Temporary relief for families when it's needed most
**Judson Center**
Rose E. Kennedy Respite Center for adults and children with developmental disability or physical impairment.
Staffed by well-trained, attentive and compassionate caregivers offering:
• Individualized personal care
• 24-hour supervision
• Focusing on:
- Homemaking
- Language development
- Social skills
- Orientation to community participation
Transportation assistance available
For more information call: 313-794-5653 ext. 2060

LIVONIA now has...
REAL MONEY POKER!
Charitable Poker Room
HOSTING: ST. VALENTINE SCHOOL
\$144,478 PROCEEDS BENEFIT OF
Holiday Giveaway
Dec. 26-28
Win a flat screen TV & much more!
FREE ROLLS EVERYDAY!
Merri-Bowl Lanes
30950 Five Mile Road • Livonia, MI 48154
Hours: **Thursdays & Fridays 5 pm-2 am**
Saturdays & Sundays 2 pm-2 am
Offering daily tournaments and a variety of cash games.
For more information call (800) 203-4089
www.poker@merri-bowl.com
Ages 18 & Up!

The REAL 1/2 OFF Sale

ONE DAY ONLY
Sat., Dec 27th
10am - 7pm
We are not raising our prices just to offer you 1/2 off like other stores do! We are looking to move merchandise to make room for new shipments.
Save 1/2 off on Brand Names:
Serta, Riverside, Clayton Marcus, Lane, England and Vaughn-Bassett
Mason FAMILY FURNITURE
Absolutely NO 1/2 off sale will be made before Sat., Dec. 27th 10am. Sale on in-stock merchandise only. Not Subject to prior sales.
32104 Plymouth Road • Livonia
734-525-1737
SHOP EARLY FOR BEST SELECTION
5 piece Queen bedroom set Made in America Was \$2839 now 1/2 off \$1419.50
Visa

Happy Holidays To You And Your Pets!
30% OFF ANY CHRISTMAS ITEMS
*Excluding food and sale items. Good thru 12-31-08
15% OFF ANY PET FOOD All Brands
Good thru 12-31-08
• Additional Savings throughout the store

PET SUPPLIES
Advice You Can Trust
1449 Ann Arbor Road (Between Main Street and Sheldon)
734.453.6930
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10-7:30 Sat. 10-6 Sun. 12-4
Visit our website for a complete list of products...www.specialtypet.com



Thursday, December 25, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Habitat needs you for Mississippi trip, other efforts

BY JULIE BROWN
OGE STAFF WRITER

Volunteers from Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County will again travel to Mississippi next March to help with home building in hurricane-devastated areas.

Sally LePla, executive director for the affiliate, knows how important those volunteers are.

"It's just our affiliate that does this, and people from all over the metro Detroit area join us," said LePla of Rochester Hills. "The catastrophic devastation that happened in the Gulf was something we felt we needed to help with."

At the time of the hurricanes, the nearest Habitat affiliate was 100 miles away; Oakland partnered with them. "Most of the volunteers on the trip pay their own way. We do what we can to help sponsor it," LePla said. "It's a way of giving back. We feel we need to help people when there's catastrophic need in the United States here as well."

The trip to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi will be in March 2009. Because of the affiliate's close association with the local Habitat affiliate in Mississippi, participants will make their seventh trip to Mississippi, which was devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

They will build a house during the week of March 23, and can accommodate 25 people. Many people have been on previous Habitat trips, found them rewarding and returned.

TRIP DETAILS

■ Please make your own arrangements to get to Bay St. Louis, Miss. The closest airport is Gulfport, Miss. New Orleans is an option, but you might have to make your own arrangements to get to BSL from there. All participants are responsible for their own transportation costs. In order to be there in time for dinner on Sunday, March 22, you should plan to be in Bay St. Louis, Miss., by 5 p.m.

■ Plan to depart on the morning of March 28.

■ HFHOC will arrange for and pay room and board costs for the team at Lagniappe (<http://www.lagniappe-church.com/>).

For transportation in Mississippi, organizers will make sure that they have enough vehicles to provide group transportation to and from the work site, while in Mississippi. If you plan to drive and can help with additional transport, please let organizers know.



Ute Brantsch of Detroit, Pat Palmer of Grand Blanc and Mimi Zwolak of Rochester Hills were among those on last year's Habitat trip to Mississippi. Volunteers from Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County find their annual treks to the Gulf Coast rewarding.

If you plan to fly and rent a car, please let organizers know.

For more information or to save your spot, send an e-mail to: Gretchen Hurlbert, Habitat for Humanity, Oakland County, MI volunteer coordinator, Mississippi Recovery, (248) 618-9912 home, (248) 722-7466 cell, (248) 618-9907 fax, e-mail ms@habitatoakland.org.

Hurlbert said she still has spots. "We have a lot of people this is what they do. It's really nice to have some new people in the group," said the Lake Angelus resident and retired teacher.

"The last trip was absolutely fabulous," said Hurlbert. Volunteers had the roof on by end of the first day. They hung cabinets the last day, with only flooring and carpeting left to be done before the dedication. "It's a five-day deal."

"There's nothing more uplifting than seeing someone who thought their world was coming to an end," said Hurlbert, noting recipients are grateful for strangers who care. "That

you can improve another person's life by taking a week of your own, it's the best."

OTHER HELPERS

"We are also looking for people who would like to volunteer and help fund our homes" locally, LePla said. "The need in southeast Michigan has grown immensely," Habitat Oakland hopes to build 14 homes in 2009, primarily in Pontiac. "The economy's just so terrible," LePla said.

"In economic downturns the people of Michigan reach deeper into their pocket. I think that is truly reflect of Michigan culture. These are wonderful people who live in southeast Michigan," LePla said.

If you're not handy, you can donate furniture, appliances or building materials to the ReStore, which accepts new and gently used building items of that nature. "We can do the deconstruction for them," LePla said of those tearing down a kitchen and willing to donate materials. Money goes back into mission work. Habitat

can pick items up for the ReStore, attached to the building in Pontiac.

"They could donate that couch or chair that's been sitting in the basement and still make a difference," LePla said.

The Oakland affiliate just had three home dedications in Pontiac. "They're in their homes and they're celebrating Christmas," she said, urging those interested to attend a home dedication.

"Habitat's about giving families a future." Home recipients involved in the Christian ministry contribute "sweat equity" hours building, get zero percent mortgage and have house payments.

"For the first time in their lives they can save. It truly transforms their lives to get their own home." LePla noted many new homeowners can begin to save for children's higher education.

For ReStore information or other Habitat questions, contact LePla at (248) 338-1843 or e-mail director@habitatoakland.org.

Seek lawyer's help on notice

Q: We got a notice that the government was foreclosing on our property but I never got a certified letter and apparently it was returned undelivered. The treasurer of our county then posted a foreclosure notice on the property and we later found out that a notice ran in the newspaper. We never got it, because it was sent to the wrong address. Do you think that the notice was proper?

A: The Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment requires foreclosing government units



Robert Meisner

to employ reasonable follow-up methods to notify property owners of foreclosure proceedings when a certified mail notice has been returned undelivered. Although the government must take reasonable steps to notify the owner, it may not include searching through the phone book or income tax role to see where the owner's new address may be. However, if there is more than one address, the government may be under the responsibility to serve you with that notice. My best advice is to seek legal assistance.

Q: I purchased two parcels at a tax sale with the idea of constructing a single family house. I took the parcels "subject to all existing restrictions of record." I did not see any restrictions on the title report or policy that I got. Am I going to be stuck with those title restrictions even though the plat was not recorded?

A: It depends on what state you are in but in a similar case out of New York, the court held that there was no statutory requirement to record a plat in the chain of title but that a reasonable title search would include the subdivision plans filed in the county clerk's Office. The court went on to say that examination of the plat would have revealed a restriction that one was obligated to determine whether in fact there was a plat. The court commented that the ability to impose restrictions on land use would be meaningless without the ability to enforce them against subsequent purchasers. That decision seemed to suggest that sheer negligence, not unreasonable search burdens, would explain the failure of so many to learn of the restriction. This places a burden on someone to determine whether in fact there are any restrictions of record.

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

BRIEFS

Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

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

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

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

Investors

"Strategies for Property Tax Assessment Appeals," presented by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland County, with David Nykanen as the speaker.

He will discuss property tax appeals, including working with a Board of Review and procedures for filing with the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

It will be 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake, Troy. Call (800) 747-6742 or visit www.REIAofOakland.com.

HOMES SOLD

These are residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 1-5, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton		
954 Abington Way		\$405,000
50321 Black Horse Ln		\$79,000
3951 Brighton Ln		\$175,000
6565 Carriage Hills Dr		\$164,000
1728 Christopher Dr		\$118,000
49803 Courtyard Ln		\$218,000
41965 Echo Forest Dr		\$315,000
193 Essex Ln		\$185,000
43797 Fredericksburg St		\$159,000
2871 Haverford Dr		\$320,000
50164 Jackson Ln		\$226,000
139 Mornington Ct		\$275,000
43634 Nowland Ct		\$252,000
47775 Pavilion Rd		\$374,000
Farmington		
24143 Saint Mary Ct		\$167,000
Farmington Hills		
21937 Arbor Ln		\$190,000
23115 Ashley St		\$126,000
29813 Briarwood Ct		\$303,000
23451 Cliffview Ct		\$170,000
35794 Congress Rd		\$185,000
38844 Country Cir		\$90,000
21038 Gill Rd		\$78,000
29475 Gramercy Ct		\$198,000
37055 Howard Rd		\$750,000
24545 Lakeland St		\$123,000
29457 N Meadowridge		\$150,000
32534 Nestlewood St		\$177,000
21544 Randall St		\$73,000
21235 Rensselaer St		\$70,000
30017 S Meadowridge		\$165,000
Garden City		

27423 Cambridge St		\$75,000
6505 Fairfield St		\$135,000
Livonia		
14748 Auburndale St		\$110,000
29103 Barkley St		\$117,000
8935 Brentwood St		\$125,000
14043 Brentwood St		\$140,000
19134 Canterbury Dr		\$85,000
34945 Elmira St		\$195,000
32967 Fargo St		\$41,000
33871 Gable Dr		\$170,000
8815 Georgia Dr		\$127,000
8880 Hanlon Ave		\$230,000
31378 Hillbrook St		\$230,000
18111 Lathers St		\$156,000
19790 Merriman Rd		\$96,000
9243 Montana St		\$118,000
34650 Norfolk St		\$186,000
33909 Orangelawn St		\$151,000
31784 Penn St		\$130,000
19382 Shady Side St		\$210,000
27550 Terrence St		\$240,000

1057 Eagle Dr		\$280,000
423 East St		\$212,000
228 S Houghton St		\$150,000
Northville		
16932 Algonquin Dr		\$352,000
16254 Appleby Ln		\$273,000
44481 Broadmoor Blvd		\$342,000
19805 Crystal Lake Dr		\$107,000
49590 Deer Run		\$480,000
16290 Forest Lake Dr		\$235,000
39583 Legend Ct		\$372,000
15946 Morningside		\$158,000
39692 Rockcrest Ln		\$130,000
49543 Waterstone Estates Cir		\$475,000
48453 Wicker Creel Dr		\$180,000

40437 Guilford		\$190,000
24382 Jamestown Rd		\$200,000
Novi		

25737 Lochmoor Ln		\$325,000
51085 Luke Ln		\$85,000
22201 Pondview		\$155,000
26220 Taft Rd		\$150,000
27050 Victoria Rd		\$85,000
43099 Westchester Ct		\$360,000
Plymouth		
598 Ann St		\$175,000
397 Auburn St		\$205,000
644 Blunk St		\$115,000
9075 Hackberry Ave		\$205,000
40447 Newport Dr		\$118,000
44788 Oregon Trl		\$195,000
14517 Oxford		\$152,000
1274 Penniman Ave		\$290,000
9047 Quail Run Dr N		\$340,000
46150 W Ann Arbor Trl		\$207,000

14022 Centralia		\$97,000
18247 Denby		\$98,000
12265 Dixie		\$890,000
19817 Five Points St		\$51,000
13479 Garfield		\$75,000
17720 Olympia		\$100,000
11357 Wormer		\$48,000
South Lyon		
21890 Berry Ln		\$232,000
1335 Coach House Ln		\$310,000
26780 Daria Cir E		\$100,000
1105 Fountain View Cir		\$110,000
54818 Grenelle Cir E		\$345,000
60608 Lillian St		\$167,000
61191 Saddle Creek Dr		\$300,000
1041 Shetland Dr		\$238,000

37431 Colonial Dr		\$78,000
35740 Glenwood Rd		\$100,000
32620 Grandview Ave		\$95,000
610 N Newburgh Rd		\$100,000
30559 Rustic Ln		\$112,000
39325 Worcester St		\$116,000
Westland		



Thinking Real Estate?

Think Opportunity!

Think TODAY.

888.21.HOMES

6 Offices, 400 Agents.

Century21Today.com

Thursday

PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Trouser half
- 4 Cancel a launch
- 9 Gymnast Mary — Retton
- 12 Khan of note
- 13 Tex-Mex treat
- 14 Greedy sort
- 15 Flowering tree
- 17 Visual aid
- 19 Purchase
- 20 Gets bills
- 21 Starlet's aspiration
- 24 Green lights (nyph.)
- 28 Tape over
- 30 Gourmet's staffer
- 31 Dorothy's aunt
- 32 Cosmonaut space lab
- 33 Line
- 35 New Zealand parrot
- 36 Not them
- 37 Vibes

DOWN

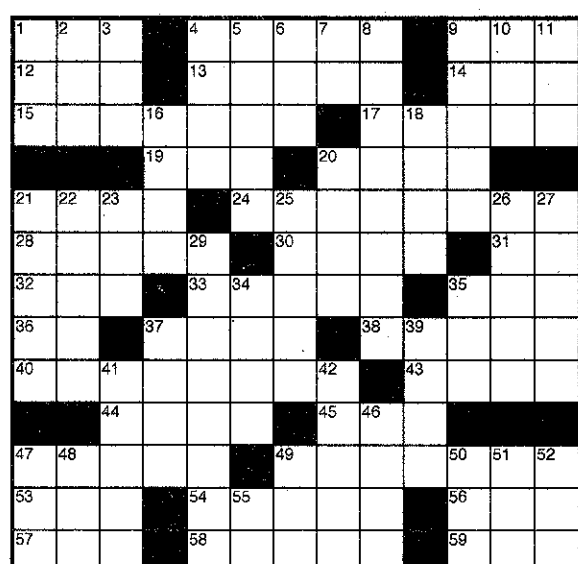
- 1 Terhune collie
- 2 "I" trouble
- 3 Quip
- 4 Barge
- 5 Cheech's partner
- 6 Free of
- 7 Appliance-tag letters
- 38 Towers over
- 40 Adjusts the tires
- 43 "Nonsense!"
- 44 Wine and dine
- 45 Open meadow
- 47 Danke, in Dijon
- 49 Make books
- 53 Incan treasure
- 54 Helen, in Spanish
- 56 Thai neighbor
- 57 — Montgomery of jazz
- 58 Not crisp
- 59 Caustic substance

Answer to Previous Puzzle

DIG EDIE GRAB
OVA LUNA RATE
CAPTIONS OMEN
KNEAD STEW
GEM LLAMA
ECRU EMMY PIG
WEEP MAE SERE
EDS ZONE AXED
RETRO KIT
HOWL LEASE
CLAY RAPIDITY
HELM IDEA DUE
IDLE TEND ADD

12-8 © 2007 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

- 8 Honcho (2 wds.)
- 9 Dalai Lama's city
- 10 Alley from Moo
- 11 Gross!
- 16 Adversities
- 18 Lagoon protector
- 20 Maui neighbor
- 21 Thigh bone
- 22 Pop up
- 23 Nick or scratch
- 25 Shark domain
- 26 Regards as
- 27 Crush
- 29 Stocks
- 34 Argue for
- 35 Colorful carp
- 37 Evelyn Waugh's brother
- 39 Fiery gem
- 41 Curly coils
- 42 Hurler
- 46 Online auction
- 47 Keep the lawn neat
- 48 Before now
- 49 Secure a tent
- 50 Down with the flu
- 51 Respond
- 52 Ground breaker
- 55 Behold!



SUDOKU

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

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!

Fun By The Numbers

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

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

CHIMNEY
COOKIES
ELVES
GIFTS

LIST
MILK
REINDEER
SANTA

SLEIGH
SNOW
STOCKING
TOYS

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

Real Estate

Observer & Eccentric

Classified

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

4 easy ways to place your ad:

PHONE..... 1-800-579-SELL (7355)
FAX..... 734-953-2232
ONLINE..... www.hometownlife.com
EMAIL..... ceads@hometownlife.com

Deadlines:

Sunday edition 4:30 p.m. Friday
Thursday edition..... 11:00 a.m. Wednesday

Offices and Hours:

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

POLICY

All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. Copies are available from the advertising department. Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 591-0900. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer and Eccentric Newspaper sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

3000-3890
Real Estate
For Sale
HOMES

Clawson 3095

SHARP 2 BDRM COLONIAL,
2 full baths, all appliances, 1
car, fenced yard, \$114,900.
D&H Properties 248-888-9133

Garden City 3170

REAL ESTATE &
CONTENTS AUCTION
Sun. Jan 19 at 2 pm.
6409 Whitby. Beautiful 3 bdrm
Ranch on Double Lot. Name
Your Price! AEauctions.com
(248) 473-1547 Preview:
Tues. Jan. 13 from 6-7:30.

Observer & Eccentric
Making Life
A lot EASIER!
hometownlife.com

Manufactured Homes 3740

HUGE
DISCOUNTS ON
REPOSSESSED
HOMES! EASY
FINANCING
AVAILABLE!

Call Steve @ (734) 414-9760
in Plymouth Hills

8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

NORTHVILLE
CROSSING
HOLIDAY
SAVINGS
EXTRAVAGANZA

8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8
Move in to your new home
before the New Year and
We will pay for your
Christmas presents!
\$3000 Visa
Gift Card
with purchase!
Payments start at \$650
per month
Call (248) 446-6600
for more information

Home and Service Guide

0001-2450
Home & Service
Guide
A-1 HAULING

Brick, Block & Cement 0290

ALL BLOCK, BRICK WORK
Concrete Foundations
Res. & Comm. Lic. & Ins.
Call Anytime, 248-478-2802

Carpentry 0410

FINISH CARPENTER
Crowns, Doors, Oak Railings
NO JOB TOO SMALL!
Licensed • 734-927-4479

Computer Sales &
Service 0540
Hardware/Software Setup
Network Installation, Training
on Microsoft Products,
Fix All Problems (guaranteed).
Very Reasonable Rates.
Call: 248.787.6572 or
rickspagnuolo@sbcglobal.net

Convalescent Care 0583

MEDILIDGE

When seeking
out the best
deal check out
the Observer
& Eccentric Classifieds!
1-800-579-7355

More than just
a highly skilled
rehabilitation
facility, it's a
loving, family
centered community where
residents & staff share their
lives. www.medilodge.com

Handyman M/F 1020

Complete Service Handyman
Any size job. Licensed &
insured. 734-453-9818 or
734-259-9326

SMALL OR LARGE JOBS
Quick Response Time
Free Estimates
Tim Shelton: 248-721-5094

Hauling/Clean Up 1030

A-1 HAULING
Move scrap metal, clean base-
ments, garages, stores, etc.
Lowest prices in town. Quick
service. Free est. Wayne/
Oakland. Central location.
248-547-2764, 248-559-8138

Clean-up/Hauling Service
Cheapest Prices! Garages,
bsmts, attics, free estimates
248-489-5955, 248-521-8818
www.lacoureservices.com

Landscaping 1210

COMPLETE LANDSCAPING
BY LACOURS SERVICES
Spring clean-ups, landscaping,
grading, sodding, hydro-
seeding, all types retaining
walls, brick walks & patios.
Drainage & lawn irrigation
systems, low foundations
built up. Weekly lawn main-
tenance. Haul away unwanted
items. Comm. Res. 35 years
exp. Lic & Ins. Free Est.
www.lacoureservices.com
248-489-5955, 248-521-8818

Painting/Decorating
Paperhangers 1420

PAINTING BY MICHAEL •
HIGHEST QUALITY
Interior
• Staining • Textured Ceilings •
Faux Finish • Plaster Drywall
Repair • Wallpaper Removal •
Senior Rates • Holiday Rates •
Free Est • 248-349-7499
734-464-8147

Roofing 1640

APEX ROOFING
Quality work completed with
pride. Family owned. Lic. Ins.
For honesty & integrity:
248-476-6984; 248-855-7223

LEAK SPECIALIST Flashings,
Valleys, Chimneys, etc. Warr.
Member BBB. 30 yrs. exp.
Lic / Ins. Call: (248) 827-3233

"We Work
For You!"

hometownlife.com

Rooftop Snow & Ice Removal
Gutters cleared. 25 year pro.
Fully Insured. Livonia Roofing:
(734) 637-6828

Attention Advertisers!

Looking for a new angle for
finding that perfect employee?

Check out our new
"MUST SEE"

Guide to Employment!

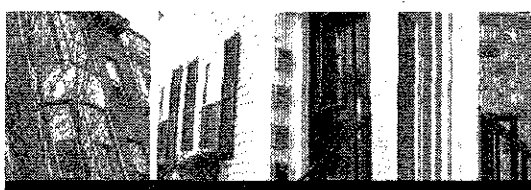
Catch the eye of that perfect employee
who may not be actively seeking
searching for a new career! This is an
excellent enhancement to our already
"Award Winning" Classified Section.

Contact us today to
be included on this
"limited"
employment page!



1-800-579-7355
careers@oe.homecomm.net

THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS



Apartments

Observer & Eccentric

HOMETOWN/life.com

4000-4990
Real Estate For Lease

Apartments/
Unfurnished

4000

BIRMINGHAM

1ST MONTH FREE

Studios, 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms
Furnished apartments avail.
Gorgeous new kitchens and
baths. Available in town
Birmingham at the
555 Building.
Call Michelle (248) 645-1191

BIRMINGHAM-DOWNTOWN

1 bdrm apt. cozy, very clean, lg
closets, new bath, 825 sq. ft.
\$750/mo. (313) 805-7940

FARMINGTON HILLS

ANNIE APTS.

NO APPLICATION FEE

FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom

\$505. 9 Mile/ Middlebelt

248-478-7489

FARMINGTON HILLS

FREEDOM VILLAGE APTS.

1 Bdrm. 1 Month Free

Luxury 1 & 2 bdrm. Laundry

in unit. Water incl., no pets.

\$575-700/mo. 566-254-9511

FARMINGTON PLAZA APTS

Luxury 2 bdrms, A/C, pool &

parking. New kitchen & baths.

laundry rooms, heat incl.

\$650/mo. Call for specials.

(248) 478-8722

FIVE, FIVE, FIVE

1ST MONTH FREE

Studios, 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms

Furnished apartments avail.

Gorgeous new kitchens

and baths. Available in town

Birmingham at the

555 Building.
Call Michelle (248) 645-1191

LINCOLN PARK

Deluxa 1 & 2 bedrooms.

Lowest rent in the area.

Quiet, private balcony's

storage, laundry, ceiling

fans w/ lights & blinds.

313-866-6720

LIVONIA Spacious 1 bdrm,

great location, across from

Livonia rec. center. \$675/mo.

+ util. 248-255-2412

Apartments/
Unfurnished

4000

Novi EHO

WESTGATE VI

Apartments

LIMITED TIME OFFER

\$50 OFF/MONTH

On Select Apts.

With Move In

By 11/30/08!

From \$570

FREE CITY WATER

CALL NOW!

(248) 624-8555

On West Park Dr.

Just S. of Pontiac Tr.

www.cmlproperties.net

*Select Models

NOVI

FREE FLAT SCREEN TV

Newly updated 1 & 2 bdrm

apts. New berber carpet, new

cherry flooring, full size washer

dryers, central air.

EHO

TREE TOP MEADOWS

10 Mile, W. of Meadowbrook

248-348-9590

www.BGcommunities.com

NOVI-MAIN STREET AREA.

1 & 2 Bdrm Apts. Washer/

Dryer. Private Entrance &

Balcony. 248-466-0626 EHO

PLYMOUTH

1 Bdrm. \$600. 2 Bdrm. \$670

First month free w/approved

credit. W/ 1 yr. lease. Walk-in

closets. (734) 455-1215

PLYMOUTH - OLD VILLAGE.

Small 1 bdrm, hardwood

floors, ceiling fan, breakfast

bar, cable ready, storage and

laundry, very clean and cute.

\$145/wk incl all utilities, 1 yr

lease. (248) 425-4853, broker.

PLYMOUTH - Prime location,

1 bdrm avail, \$580 plus secu-

rity. Near downtown. Incl.

heat. No dogs. 734-455-2635

PLYMOUTH 1 bdrm,

in a 4 unit bldg,

appliances, c/a.

\$595/mo, plus sec.

(231) 392-6373

Apartments/
Unfurnished

4000

PLYMOUTH

1 Bdrm. \$637/mo.

\$300 Sec Dep

1st Month Free

Washer/Dryer included

Single story, attic storage.

(734) 459-6640 EHO

Plymouth

Free Rent

Until 12/31/08

1 & 2 Bedroom Apts.

Plymouth Manor

Plymouth House

734-455-3880

www.yorkcommunities.com

PLYMOUTH, Lg 1 bdrm, newly

remodeled, \$595. Incl. heat &

water. Mo to mo lease. 734-

641-7751, LYNN C.I.R. Inc.

PLYMOUTH-SHELDON PARK

Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms.

From \$565

\$300 Security

50% off 1st 3 Months

w/ good credit!

Call: (734) 453-8811

WALLED LAKE

1 Bedroom Apartments

\$499

Reduced Deposit

Plus: 1st Month Free

Section 8 & Pets Welcome

(248) 624-6606 EHO

WESTLAND

No Rent until 2009

1 Bedroom - \$485/mo.

Immediate Occupancy

Newburgh Colonial Apts.

2400 Newburgh Rd.

(734) 721-6699 EHO

WESTLAND

1 bdrm w/appliances.

\$475/mo.

248-892-0262

WESTLAND

1.5 bath, close to

schools. \$600/month.

248-892-0262

Apartments/
Unfurnished

4000

Westland

Estates

"WOW"

One

Bedrooms

from \$495

No fine print in this ad!

Heat/Water included

-\$30.00 Application Fee

-\$200 Deposit w/ Credit

New Resident's Only

734-722-4700

734-444-5655

Mon. - Fri. 10-9pm

Sat. Sun. 10-4pm

Westland Park Apts.

LOOK

FREE RENT

1st month Free and

Reduced Rate

2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath,

\$565, 936 Sq. Ft.

1 Bdrm, \$490,

728 Sq. Ft.

\$200 Security Deposit

Heat and Water Incl

(New residents only)

with approved credit

No Pets, C/A, Vertical

Blinds, Intercom.

Appliances include

dishwasher.

Very clean Apartments

Excellent Maintenance

(734) 729-6636

Westland

VENO PINES APTS.

Rent Starting

at \$499

• 1 & 2 bdrm apts.

with fireplace.

(734) 261-7394

www.yorkcommunities.com

Apartments/
Unfurnished

4000

Westland-LIVONIA SCHOOLS

1 & 2 bdrm, 2 baths.

Washer & dryer.

Private entrance & balcony

(734) 459-1711 EHO

Ypsilanti - Reduced Rent

Plus \$99 Sec Dep*

Section 8 Welcome

Large 1 & 2 bedroom

734-434-0576 EHO

*Some restrictions apply

Apartments/
Furnished

4010

CANTON A country setting,

furnished 1 bdrm, non-smok-

ing, incl. util., heat, & cable.

\$700/mo. + 1st. mo. & sec.

dep. No pets. Avail Now.

734-495-3000, 734-644-3104

Condos/Townhouses

4020

BIRMINGHAM - DOWNTOWN

2 bdrm townhouse, 1.5 bath,

hardwood floors, a/c, bsmt,

washer/dryer. No pets, non-

smoking, \$1100/mo.

248-901-0425

CANTON, Haggerty/Palmer Rd

area. 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 800 sq.

ft. condo. All appliances incl

washer & dryer, doorwall to

private patio. Window treat-

ments & vertical blinds, \$525.

248-425-4853. See pics.

www.bekammanagement.com

LYON TWP

\$499* per mo.

2 Bedroom, 1.5 baths,

Immediate Occupancy,

Call 248-290-5300 ext 306

*First 3 months.

TROY - Northfield Hills. 2 bed-

room, 1.5 bath condo.

Minimum 1 yr. lease.

\$1000/mo. 248-745-5815

WESTLAND CONDO

1 bdrm loft, washer/dryer in

unit, \$650/mo. + dep, incl

heat & water. (734) 658-9267

Duplexes

4030

CANTON

3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, move-in

mid December. 1741 Elm-

hurst, \$900/mo. + security

deposit. (734) 455-1215.

LIVONIA - 2 bdrm,

fireplace, all appli-

ances, bsmt, fenced

yard. \$775/mo.

231-392-6373

LIVONIA - 2 bdrm, w/bsmt, 1

car garage, fenced, yard, appli-

ances, no pets, non-smoker.

\$800 + sec. 989-635-7250

Homes For Rent

4050

CANTON 4 bdrm., 2010 sq.

ft., 2 1/2 bath, fireplace, 2 car

attached garage, appliances.

\$1450/mo. 248-444-8999

CANTON 41004 Westfield

Circle. 2000 sq. ft., 4 bdrm, 2

1/2 bath, 2 car attached

garage, family rm & fireplace.

Avail. now! \$1795/mo.

Showing Wed & Sun. at 4pm.

734-444-5212, 313-920-5966

CANTON Remodeled 1100 sq

ft. 2 bdrm bungalow. Water,

all appliances & outside maint.

Incl. \$795/mo. 734-776-2222

CLAWSON - Sharp 2 bdrm

colonial, 2 full baths, all appli-

ances, 1 car, fenced yard.

\$850/mo. D&H Properties:

(248) 888-9133

Homes For Rent

4050

DETROIT

2 bdrm, basement, \$575/mo.

16580 Woodbine, 6 mile &

Telegraph. (248) 476-6488

Detroit - Lasher Road Area

2 bdrm, bsmt, \$475/mo.

18971 Westbrook

3 bdrm, bsmt, garage, \$600.

20021 Chapel

(248) 476-6498

DETROIT

Telegraph & Plymouth. 2-3

bdrm, 1.5 bath, a/c, finished

bsmt, all appliances, 2 car,

fenced, \$895 + sec. + utili-

ties. 313-929-8595

FARMINGTON HILLS - 21603

Roosevelt Ave. 2 bdrm, new

carpet, avail now. 1st & last

mo rent, \$750. 248-684-1713

FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm,

2 bdrm, new carpet & paint,

bsmt, a/c, deck, no pets. Must

See! \$875/mo. 248-214-7857.

FREE RENT

TIL FEBRUARY!

3 bedroom / 2 bathroom

Home \$729

Includes washer/dryer

& central air

HURRY WON'T LAST

Market Place

Observer & Eccentric
HOMETOWNlife.com

HOLIDAY EARLY ADVERTISING DEADLINES: for December 28 and January 1, 2009

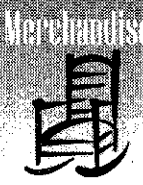
Due to the holidays,
the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers
will be having early deadlines for advertising

	Issue of 12-28	Issue of 1-1-09
Real Estate Display	Mon. Dec. 22 4pm	Fri. Dec 26 4pm
Automotive Display	Tue. Dec. 23, 4pm	Mon. Dec 29, Noon
Recruitment Display	Tues. Dec. 23, 4pm	Mon., Dec. 29, 3pm
Classified Liners	Fri. Dec. 26 4pm	Tues Dec. 30 11am
Obituaries	Fri. Dec. 26, 4pm	Tues Dec 30, 10am

Call to place your ad today:
1-800-579-7355

CS08657015

7000-7780



Household Goods 7160

FURNITURE (Like New)
Computer hutch \$135; Large L shape table unit \$125; desk \$100; futon with exc. futon mattress \$135; 2 bookcase \$50/ea; 1 table w/drawers \$50. 246-861-3363

Household Goods 7160

MATTRESS - \$150
New queen pillow-top mattress, can deliver. 734-444-7277

Miscellaneous For Sale 7500

JUKEBOX
1988, 496 Rockola, 200 play, restored near mint, \$700 or best offer. 734-788-1626

REAL-ESTATE
at it's best!
Observer & Eccentric

Days 7840

SCHNAUZERS (MINI)
AKC puppies, non-shedding, beautiful. 989-738-6734, 989-738-5006

SHIH TZU AKC PUPS
Assorted colors, many solids \$400+ 248.636.5133

Horses & Equipment 7860

HORSE STALL MATS
670 mats, 2X2 Interlocking. \$9/each. 248-486-1449

Lost - Pets 7930

LOST CAT
Black & Brown Tabby Cat. Short hair, female. Please call if found. 248-470-3868

Showers of Great Deals in your Classifieds!

1-800-579-SELL

A E F U I J K O M P

A E F U I J K O M P

A E F U I J K O M P

The Observer & Eccentric Classifieds

Local news.

You don't have to fish for it.
It's right here, from the front to the back of your

Observer & Eccentric

NEWSPAPERS
TOTALLY LOCAL COVERAGE!



To subscribe call 866-88-PAPER

careerbuilder.com™

Observer & Eccentric
HOMETOWNlife.com



**MICH-CAN
STATEWIDE
CLASSIFIED**

**BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITIES**

100% RECESSION PROOF! Do you earn up to \$800/day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 Machines and Candy. All for \$9,995. Call 1-888-744-4651.

EMPLOYMENT

DRIVERS- ASAP! Sign-on Bonus. 35-41 cpm. Earn over \$1000 weekly. Excellent benefits. Need CDL-A & 3 mos recent OTR. 877-258-8782 www.meltontruck.com

WOODTRUCKING, INC./MCT. Great New Career! Job Guaranteed on completion of Free 3 week CDL-A Training. 1 year commitment required. 1-800-621-4878

PLACE YOUR STATE-WIDE AD HERE! \$299 buys a 25-word classified ad offering over 1.8 million circulation and 3.6 million readers. Contact this newspaper for details.

**FINANCIAL
SERVICES**

BEST HOME LOANS!*
Land Contract and Mortgage Payoffs, Home-Improvements, Debt-Consolidation, Property Taxes, Foreclosures, Houses/Doublewides/Mobiles. Good/Bad/Ugly Credit! 1-800-246-8100 Anytime! United Mortgage Services. Www.umsmortgage.com

DR. DANIELS AND SON
Real Estate Loans. Cash for land contracts. \$10,000 to \$500,000 - Fast funding, free consultation. 800-837-8166. 248-335-6166. allan@drdanielsandson.com

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE VEHICLE:
RECEIVE \$1,000 grocery coupons, your choice. Noah's Arc, no kill animal shelters. Advance veterinary treatments. Free towing, IRS tax deduction. Non-runners. 1-866-912-GIVE

SCHOOLS

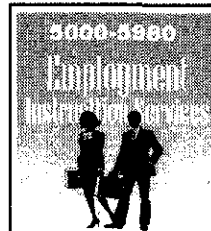
ADULT HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA at home fast! Nationally accredited. \$399 payment plan. Free brochure. 800-470-4723. www.diplomaathome.com

NOW AVAILABLE! 2008
Post Office jobs. \$18-20/HR. No experience. Paid training. Fed Benefits, Vacations. Call 800-910-9941 TODAY! Ref #M108



Look no further for the best local classifieds!

TO PLACE YOUR AD:
1-800-579-7355



Help Wanted-General 5000

ACCOUNTING;
Bookkeeper BBA, MBA or CPA Full Time w/benefits. Hartland & NW Detroit Fax to: (313) 535-4403 or Email: HVAC@MECC1.com

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

BOWLING CENTER now hiring afternoon Shift Manager. Full or Part-Time. Please apply in person: Ford Lanes, 23100 Van Born, Dearborn Heights.

We always find the best stuff in the Observer & Eccentric

DIRECT CARE- Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want to! Assist with personal care, meals, taking care of their homes, getting places etc. Many locations, many shifts! If you are at least 18 years old, have a valid Michigan's Driver's License & are CLS, Inc. trained, call our Job Line 734-728-4201, or

Help Wanted-General 5000

55 New Driver Trainees Needed In Michigan!
Learn to drive for Swift Transportation! \$750+ per week CDL in 3 weeks! No experience needed to start! Swift may cover costs if training at No-Way! 1-888-922-8743

A Merry Christmas!
Unwrap your new Career today at Integrity Truck Driving School The Best Gift Ever! A steady Paycheck and job Stability No Experience needed! Financial Aid Available Call today. Have a job Tomorrow! Michigan's Premier Truck Driving School 866-316-9199 Integritytds.com

Observer & Eccentric Classifieds
Just a quick call away....
1-800-579-SELL

Free Tax School
Register now for free tax school. Day & evening classes forming in January. Job opportunities available. Call 734-326-1040 Leave a msg for more information

Get Paid to Wave
Costume character wanted. Must be outgoing and energetic. Call 734-326-1040. Leave a msg for more info.

Help Wanted-General 5000

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

Is the stuff in your house piling up?
Call Classifieds today!
1-800-579-7355

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

Snow Removal
On call snow removal help needed for Canton, Southfield, Farmington Hills, and Beverly Hills locations. Call 248.851.0111

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

LEGAL SECRETARY
The law firm of Bernstein & Bernstein has an immediate opening for a professional Legal Secretary in our Southfield office. The ideal candidate should have knowledge of legal documents, pleadings and court procedures. Candidate must have 2 or more years experience in personal injury litigation. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word. Knowledge of Needles software is beneficial. Position is full-time with benefits. Please send resume to: Sharon Lovelace C/O Law Firm of Bernstein, PC 3000 Town Center Suite 1601 Southfield, MI 48075

LEGAL SECRETARY (ASSISTANT)
Exp. in Family Law & time slips preferred. Flexible hours. Bloomfield Hills, sole practitioner. Email resume to: mrobbinslaw@aol.com

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds! 1-800-579-7355

Secretary/Telemarketing Manager & Telemarketers
Exp'd. Good Pay for Good People. Jason: 248-231-2102

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

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Medical Biller
2+ yrs. exp. Must be proficient in physician billing, CPT & ICD-9 coding, dependable. Full-Time/Benefits. Email: gpressley@psbsb.net

Medical Receptionist
2+ yrs. exp. Must be professional, dependable, provide excellent customer service maintain multi phone line. Full-time, benefits. Email: gpressley@psbsb.net

PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION
Saturday accelerated classes beginning in January 10-4pm, Garden City; \$90 (313) 382-3857

PHYSICIAN/PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
Part-Time for Internal Medicine Practice

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST/ASSISTANT
Needed. Experience required. Please fax resume to: (734) 421-9954

Advanced Home Care
Private Duty Division Immediate Openings for ★ RNs ★ LPNs ★ CENAs ★ HHA's ★ Case Mgrs Needed: •Must have strong clinical skills •Willing to train Call LaKia 866-605-0070 Fax resume: 248-284-1101 Email: laKia@advancedhomecare.net

Residential Housekeeper
Gardner/Handyman, Cook 3 positions. Exp. refs. Non-smoking. 800-436-2195

A penny earned, is a penny saved.



"It's All About Results!"

To Place Your Own Classified Ad, Call
1-800-579-SELL
www.hometownlife.com



Automotive

Observer & Eccentric

HOMETOWNlife.com

8000-8780
Automotive
Recreational Vehicles

Auto Misc. (8150)

NO MONEY DOWN
Guaranteed financing or your car is free!
Tyme finances everyone.
TYME AUTO 734-455-5566

Autos Wanted (8190)

WE WANT YOUR CAR!
ANY CONDITION. TOP \$\$\$
(FREE TOWING)
248-335-7480, 248-939-6123

Junk Cars Wanted (8200)

AACHEN AUTO.com
RECEIVE CASH & TAX DEDUCTION
For Running, Wrecked, Junk Cars. Call info
FREE TOWING 24/7
(888) 484-0508

ALL AUTOS TOP \$\$
Junked • Wrecked • Running
E & M 248-474-4425
Evenings 734-717-0428

Trucks for Sale (8220)

CHEVY COLORADO Z71 2005
Crew Cab, 4x4, Superior Blue,
Test Drive Today! Just \$13,995
888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

CHEVY S-10 LS 2003 37K
miles, automatic, 4 cylinder,
very clean, pewter,
airbags, warranty \$7,995
RALPH THAYER AUTO
734-425-5400

CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
1-800-579-7355

Trucks for Sale (8220)

CHEVY SILVERADO Z71 2005
Artic White, 4x4, Remote
Starter, Many Options! Winter
Warrior! \$17,995
888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

FORD F-150 2000
Reg Cab, long bed, hard to
find! Only 26K! \$6,950
NORTH BROS. FORD
1-800-586-3518

FORD F-150 2004 Super
Cab, FX4, V8, loaded, 5.4
Liter, trailer tow \$14,994
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

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 XLT 2007 Crew
Cab, 4x4, 26K miles, extra
clean \$19,900
Hines Park Lincoln Mercury
1-866-455-5332

FORD F-150 XLT 2007 Super
Crew, 4x4, black, loaded
\$21,997
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD F-150 XLT 2008 Only
7,900 miles, V8, auto,
loaded, sharp! \$24,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

FORD F-350 KING RANCH
2007 Crew Cab, diesel, dual-
ly 4x4, \$32,997
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD RANGER XLT 2006
4x4, Ext Cab, \$14,998
AVIS FORD
(248) 355-7515

GMC SIERRA 1500 SLE 2006
4x4, Ext Cab, Z71, 5.3 V8,
auto, only 14K miles \$20,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

GMC SIERRA 2500 SLE 2004
4x4, Ext Cab, 6.0 V8, auto,
loaded \$15,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

Trucks for Sale (8220)

LINCOLN MARK LT 2006
4x4, 24K miles, 20" chrome
wheels, moonroof, excellent
condition! \$23,500
Hines Park Lincoln Mercury
1-866-455-5332

Mini-Vans (8240)

BUICK TERRAZA 2005
Leather, DVD, blue, loaded,
only \$13,995
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

CHEVY UPLANDER 2007
Only 29K Miles, Maroon, ABS
and Alloys. Room For The
Whole Family! Just \$16,995!
888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

DODGE CARAVAN 2005
Take the whole family! \$9,890
Stk. 8T3004A
NORTH BROS. FORD
1-800-586-3518

DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
SXT 2007 6 cylinder, 42,950
miles, \$12,997
SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON
734-397-9900

FORD FREESTAR 2006 Gray,
A/C, 23K, certified \$11,996
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD WINDSTAR 1999
Green, sharp, only \$4,995
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

KIA SEDONA LX 2008 7
pass, V6, 21,378 mi, \$13,990
SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON
734-397-9900

MERCURY MONTEREY 2006
\$13,998
AVIS FORD
(248) 355-7515

MERCURY MONTEREY 2007
Leather, hot/cold seats, clean
\$16,955
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

Vans (8260)

CHEVY EXPRESS 1500 2004
Cargo van, V8, auto, air, bulk
head, cargo mat \$10,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

FORD E-150 CLUB XLT 2008
V8, dual A/C, heat, 8 passen-
ger, low miles \$16,998
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD E-350 2008
Passenger van \$13,998
AVIS FORD
(248) 355-7515

4 Wheel Drive (8280)

FORD ESCAPE XLS 2007
4 door, auto, A/C, certified
\$12,955
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

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

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

FORD FREESTYLE LTD 2007
AWD, power moonroof, navi-
gation, clean \$17,997
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD FREESTYLES 2007 8 to
choose starting from \$12,997
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

Sports Utility (8290)

BUICK RAINIER 2004 Silver,
moon, navigation, 4x4, \$6,995
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

BUICK RENDEZVOUS 2006
Tan, loaded, only \$13,995
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

Sports Utility (8290)

BUICK RENDEZVOUS CXL
2005 Moonroof, leather, 2-
tone \$9,995
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

CADILLAC ESCALADE 2004
ESV, low miles, leather, moon-
roof, 3rd row, only \$21,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

CHEVROLET HHR 2008
Two to Choose From, Nicely
Equipped, GM Certified,
Starting at \$15,755
888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

CHEVY TAHOE HYBRID 2008
Midnight Black, Fully Loaded,
Can't Miss This One! Call for
Details!
888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

CHEVY TAHOE LT Z71 2004
Moonroof, DVD, leather,
loaded, \$AVE! \$19,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 2006
EXT. Seating for 7, DVD, Front
& Rear Air, Alloy Wheels &
More, Priced to Go! #P7867
888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

CHEVY TRAILBLAZERS 2006
Several to Choose From,
Nicely Equipped, Winter
Ready, Starting at \$11,995
888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

DODGE DURANGO 2004
SLT, Red hot! 3rd row seat.
\$11,123 or \$55 per week.
WAC + TTL
NORTH BROS. FORD
1-800-586-3518

END OF THE YEAR CLEARANCE!
EVERYTHING MUST GO!
NORTH BROS. FORD
1-800-586-3518

Sports Utility (8290)

FORD EXPEDITION EL 2006
Eddie Bauer, 4x4, 11K \$26,998
AVIS FORD
(248) 355-7515

FORD EXPEDITION 2004
Eddie Bauer, black, 47K,
\$13,995
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

FORD EXPEDITION XLT 2007
3rd seat, loaded, full power,
only \$15,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

FORD EXPLORER 2007
Eddie Bauer, 4x4, power
moon, 3rd seat, 10K, \$19,997
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

GMC ENVOY XL SLT

58K, \$9,998

AVIS FORD

(248) 355-7515

GMC SUBURBAN 2500 SLE

1995 Diesel, auto, air, loaded,

only \$6,950

JOHN ROGIN BUICK

734-525-0900

GMC SUBURBAN LT 1999

Leather, 3rd seat, loaded,

sharp! \$6,950

JOHN ROGIN BUICK

734-525-0900

GMC YUKON 2007

Holiday Special! Remote Start,

ABS, Alloys, Sunroof, and

Ready For Winter! \$25,995

888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

GMC YUKON SLE 2006 Rear

heat/air, 3rd seat, fully

loaded, only \$15,950

JOHN ROGIN BUICK

734-525-0900

GMC YUKON SLT 2007

Navigation, DVD, white, 4x4,

only \$21,495

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

JEEP COMMANDER 2006

4x4, 26K miles, full power,

new car warranty, \$12,900

Hines Park Lincoln Mercury

1-866-455-5332

Sports Utility (8290)

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
LAREDO 2006 4x4, 27K,
sharp! \$12,900
Hines Park Lincoln Mercury
1-866-455-5332

MERCURY MOUNTAINEER
2008 AWD, leather \$17,998
AVIS FORD
(248) 355-7515

SATURN VUE 2005
Silver, 4 cylinder \$10,995
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

SATURN VUE 2006 Auto, air,
moon, red, only \$12,495
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

SATURN VUE 2006 Red, 27K,

moonroof, only \$12,995

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

Sports & Imported (8300)

BMW 330i 2002

\$11,998

AVIS FORD

(248) 355-7515

CORVETTE COUPE 2008

Jet stream blue, auto,

loaded, 251 pkg, Bose

stereo, beige leather,

chrome wheels, glass roof,

8,000 miles, \$39,405,
734-546-1056

MERCEDES S430 2000

Moonroof, navigation system,

71K, showroom condition,

must see to appreciate!
\$14,900

Hines Park Lincoln Mercury

1-866-455-5332

MINI COOPER 2007 Just

13,959 miles, moonroof, 6-

speed Supercharger \$16,997
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

PARK AVENUE ULTRA 2004

Moonroof, leather, blue,

loaded \$16,995
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

Audi (8350)

AUDI A4 2001
\$9,998
AVIS FORD
(248) 355-7515

Buick (8360)

CENTURY 2004-2005 8 to

choose, certified, loaded, low

miles, from \$9,950

JOHN ROGIN BUICK

734-525-0900

LACROSSE CXL 2005

Leather, sharp, blue \$15,495

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

LACROSSE LT 2006

Brown, only \$12,495

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

LESABRE 2004

White, leather, only 12K

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

LESABRE 2005

Gray, 18K, only \$16,495

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

LESABRE LIMITED 2005

Leather, tan, only \$11,995

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

LUCERNE CX 2006

Dark blue, 4 door \$13,995

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

LUCERNE CXL 2006

White, heated and cooling

seats, loaded \$17,995

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

PARK AVENUE ULTRA 2004

Moonroof, leather, blue,

loaded \$16,995
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

Buick (8360)

RAINIER CXL 2004 9 to
choose, leather, moonroof,
navigation, certified, from
\$10,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

RENDEZVOUS 2005-2006 12
to choose, CX, CXL, leather,
moonroof, from \$11,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

RIVIERA 1997 Burg, super
charged, 69K, only \$6,495
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

Cadillac (8380)

CTS 2005

Luxury for less, white dia-

mond, \$17,500 or \$75 per

week, WAC + TTL

NORTH BROS. FORD

1-800-586-3518

CTS 2007

Black, 3.6 V6, moon \$17,495

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

CTS 2007 White, moon, 30K

& more \$18,995

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

DEVILLE 2000

DNS, red, \$6,995

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

(734) 453-2500

DTS 2005 Leather, moonroof,

loaded, sharp! Only \$16,950

JOHN ROGIN BUICK

734-525-0900

SRX 2004 Leather, loaded,

moonroof, full power, sharp!
\$16,950

JOHN ROGIN BUICK

734-525-0900

SRX 2005 Platinum Metallic,

Luxurious Options, Hurry In!

Save Big! Low Price of

\$16,995

888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

STS 2005

THE
Observer & Eccentric
AND
Mirror
NEWSPAPERS

Automotive

Classifieds inside

To place an ad call toll free
1-800-579-SELL (7355)
Fax: (734) 953-2232

Finishing Strong: Cpo Sales To Match Last Year's

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

Search high and low through statistics about U.S. auto sales this year, and you'll find practically nothing to brag about. But one silver lining does emerge: sales of "certified pre-owned" vehicles.

Even through the industry's darkest days of the third quarter, sales of certified pre-owned units for most OEMs selling in the American market were ahead of or at least even with last year - while new and general used-car sales had declined at ferocious double-digit rates.

The fourth quarter finally has managed to bring down the "CPO" segment a bit, but these vehicles have remained the most robust portion of an extremely weak overall market.

As they finish the year relatively strong, in fact, the biggest drag on CPO sales may not be consumers' general reluctance to buy vehicles but, actually, a restricted supply of top-shelf used automobiles that are eligible for OEM certification.

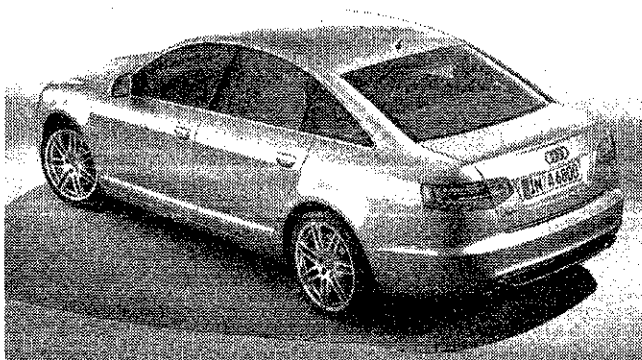
"There is an incredible shortage of one-to-five-year-old used cars because so many have been purchased under long-term contracts that people don't want to get rid of them," said Art Spinella, president of CNW Marketing Research, in Brandon, Ore.

"So people can't find good certifiable used cars. You have to rely on daily rentals and corporate fleets now to find them, and most of them are pretty beat up."

Even through the teeth of the incipient automotive recession, American consumers have been demonstrating strong demand for CPOs.

Ford's CPO sales were up by 29 percent over last year, through November, in its Southwest Region and up by nearly 8 percent in California - the two parts of the country where the company first launched a round of program improvements earlier this year.

And for the year through November, Chrysler's overall CPO sales were up by about 1 percent.



The A6 sedan is among the Audi models that have become hot in the Certified Pre-Owned market.

GM's overall Certified Used Vehicles sales were off only 7 percent for the year to date, through November. Cadillac Certified Used sales had risen by 7 percent for the year. And this arena remained practically the only solace this year for GM's troubled brands: Hummer's Certified Used sales through October rose by 66 percent compared with a year ago, while Saab's Certified Used sales were up nearly 4 percent.

Audi's pre-owned sales remained nearly 23 percent higher through November than a year earlier, and the company was on pace to exceed 32,000 U.S. CPO sales after 27,000 last year. Meanwhile, BMW's CPO sales in the United States rose by 16 percent for the year, through November.

And Lexus CPO sales were up about 5 percent through November; for the year, with the company still projecting the possibility that, for all of 2008, they will surpass the 2007 level that was up about 8 percent over 2006 CPO sales.

Through November, industry-wide sales of factory-certified CPO vehicles actually were almost exactly flat with a year ago, at 1.547 million units sold, according to Edmunds.com, while new-car sales were down nearly 15 percent overall, and used-car sales at franchised dealers through October were down by 7 percent.

So most OEMs are backing their CPO programs more heavily than ever. Among the recent initiatives are a couple by GM.

GM's Certified Used effort has been suffering lately in contrast with those even of other Detroit Three automakers in large part because of the perception that



Hummer's new 2009 H3T is finding demand by CPO buyers.

GM dealers are having difficulty financing all consumer purchases.

But GM also has been going aggressively after more CPO business. Last spring, for example, it began listing its Certified Used inventories on eBay Motors, free for dealers. Vehicles are listed as online classifieds rather than for sale in an eBay online auction.

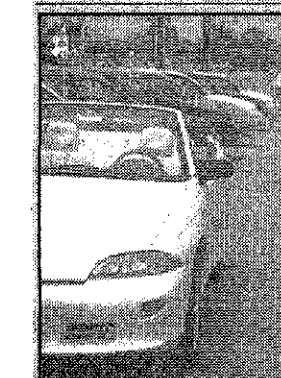
"It's meeting all of our expectations so far," said Mark Mathews, GM's director of used-car activities. "Leads are coming off of it. But we're still trying to make it as vibrant as possible," he said, including feeding eBay Motors GM's ideas about how to improve navigation and graphics.

Meanwhile, GM also approved Sister Technologies, Dallas, as a vendor to create used-vehicle walk-around videos for its U.S. dealers to use on their sites as well as on auto portals and YouTube. About 25 percent of all U.S. dealers now use online video, said Howard Poliner, director of industry relations for AutoTrader.com, the Atlanta-based online service3.

"It's far more engaging for customers to look at video instead of still pictures," Mathews said. About 85 percent to 90 percent more leads come from videos than from photos, "and we get about 70 percent more calls directly to a dealer in terms of inventory searches," he said. "We're encouraging our Certified Used dealers to use this."

CLASSIFIED INDEX

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER
Employment	5000-5999
Announcements	6000-6999
Merchandise	7000-7540
Autos/RVs	8000-8760
Boats, Motors	8820
Motorcycles, Mini Bikes	8970
Trucks	9220



Call Toll Free

1-800-579-SELL (7355)

Fax Your Ad: (734) 953-2232

Walk-In Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After Hours: Call (734) 591-0900

Deadlines: To place,

cancel or correct ads.

Sunday

5:30 p.m. Friday

Sunday Real Estate

5:30 p.m. Thursday

Thursday

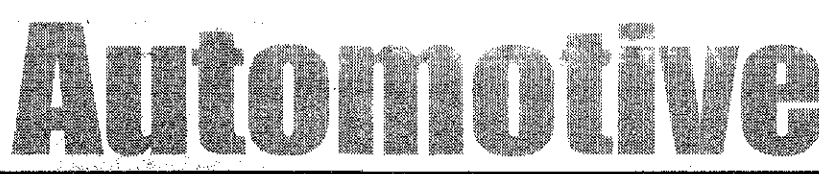
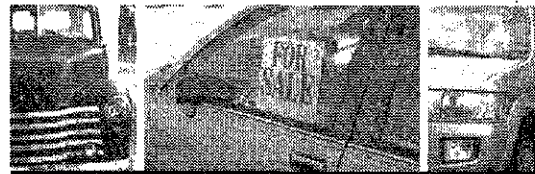
6 p.m. Tuesday

Thursday Real Estate Display

3 p.m. Monday

View the Observer & Eccentric Automotive Classifieds on the web:

www.observeandeccentric.com



Observer & Eccentric

HOMETOWN/life.com

Chevrolet 8400

AVEO 2007 4 Door Sedan, Victory Red, Great on Gas, Auto, Only \$10,995 888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

AVEO 2008 Black, 5-Speed, 21K, PL, PW, Gas Saver! Act Quickly! \$11,495 888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

1-800-579-7355

AVEO LS 2006 Black, Auto, Cruise, Perfect Car, Perfect Price, Perfect Timing! Only \$8,995! 888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

AVEO LS 5 door, 4 cylinder, 40,797 miles, \$7,990 **SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON** 734-397-9900

CAVALIER 2005

2 door, beige, 52,000 miles, original owner, \$6,500. Evenings 7-8pm. Call: (734) 464-9246

COBALT LS 2006 2 door, blue, 35K, auto, spoiler, very clean, warranty \$9,817 **RALPH THAYER AUTO** 734-425-5400

COBALTS 2008 GM Certified, 2 & 4 Door, Many to Choose From, Starting at \$11,995 888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

CORVETTE CONV 2007 Sunburst Yellow, 6K, Chrome, Get Noticed! Only \$47,995 888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

HHR LT 2008 4 cylinder, 28,898 miles, \$11,990 **SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON** 734-397-9900

IMPALA 2005 Candy Apple Red, Sunroof, Alloys, CD and More! Only 33K, A Must Test Drive! Reduced to \$10,997 888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

IMPALA SS 2006 Fully Loaded, AFM, Fun & Excitement on 4 Wheels, Act Fast! Only \$13,995 888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

MALIBU 2005 Snowdust White, Sips Gas, Won't Be Around Long! Reduced to \$10,997! Great Buy! 888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

Chevrolet 8400

MARAUDER 2004 Silver, 69K miles, clean CARFAX \$15,994 **Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

VENTURA 2004

After Christmas Special!! 50,000 miles. \$3,700 **TYME AUTO** 734-455-5566

Chrysler-Plymouth 8420

300 LX 2008 V6, 31,169 miles, \$15,650 **SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON** 734-397-9900

PT CRUISER 2007 Touring, Sport Cruiser, excellent gas mileage \$9,530 Stk. P20728

NORTH BROS. FORD 1-800-586-3518

PT CRUISER LIMITED 2003

Leather, moonroof, auto, loaded, only \$8,950 **JOHN ROGIN BUICK** 734-525-0900

SEBRING CONV 2004

Winter Priced! \$8,450 Stk. 871473A **NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

Dodge 8440

CARAVAN 2006 SXT Pwr locks, windows & seals. Remote keyless entry, cruise control, trip computer. 1 year remaining on factory warranty. Only 19,300 miles. 6 cyl. \$12,000. 734-421-1144.

CHARGER 2008

\$15,495 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

CHARGER SXT 2007 Auto, air, fully loaded, full power, low miles \$14,950 **JOHN ROGIN BUICK** 734-525-0900

MAGNUM SE 2008 V6, black, 19,948 miles, \$14,990 **SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON** 734-397-9900

Ford 8480

\$250 GAS CARD W/PURCHASE OF A BRAND NEW PRE-OWNED VEHICLE! **NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

500 LIMITED 2007 AWD, silver, navigation, power moon, chrome \$17,997 **Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

EDGE 2007 6 to choose starting from \$16,997 **Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

Ford 8480

EDGE SEL 2008 \$18,498 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

ESCAPE XL 2008

Like brand new! Buy me and get a free remote starter! \$16,900 Stk. P20635 **NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

ESCAPE XLT 2007

Moonroof, only 32K, 100K mile warranty included, \$13,490 **NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

ESCORT 1997 Automatic, air, red, very clean, 4 door, great gas mileage, \$3,045 **RALPH THAYER AUTO** 734-425-5400

EXPLORER 2003

Auto, air, \$3500 **TYME AUTO** 734-455-5566

FOCUS 2001

Auto, air, moonroof, \$3199. **TYME AUTO** 734-455-5566

FOCUS 2002 Cpe, black, auto, air \$5,995 **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

FOCUS 2006 ZX4

4 door, 32,000 miles. \$6500. **TYME AUTO** 734-455-5566

FOCUS 2007 10 to choose, auto, A/C, clean, from \$9,955 **Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

FOCUS 2008

\$12,498 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

FOCUS 2008

2 Door, Warranty Better Than New! \$12,970 Stk. 871482A **NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

FOCUS ZXW 2005

Wagon \$9,998 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

FREESTYLE LIMITED 2006

\$14,998 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

FUSION 2006

\$13,998 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

FUSION 2007 All Wheel Drive, V6, 2 to choose, red or blue, starting at \$14,897 **Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

FUSION SE 2007 Full power, aluminum wheels, auto, 31K miles, \$19,900 **Hines Park Lincoln Mercury** 1-866-455-5332

Ford 8480

FUSION SEL 2006 V6, 19K, \$15,998 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

FUSION SEL 2006

Leather, certified, Retail Book \$16,500, SALE \$13,995 **NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

FUSION SEL 2009

\$15,998 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

MUSTANG GT 2002

Convertible, 42K, \$11,998 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

ONE YEAR FREE OIL CHANGES ON ALL CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

NORTH BROS. FORD 1-800-586-3518

TAURUS 1995 GL

93,000 miles, new shocks, struts & battery, exc. cond. \$1,900/best offer. 248-667-1088.

TAURUS SE 1999

Midsummer Blue, 59K, Multi-CD, PL, PW! A Must See To Believe! Only \$6,495! 888-372-9836

Lou LaRiche

TAURUS SE 2004

\$5,498 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

TAURUS SEL 2003

Leather, moon, 21K, \$9,998 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

TAURUS X 2008

E.B., AWD \$16,998 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

THUNDERBIRD 2002

Premium Package, hard top, leather, chrome, spotless, 46K miles \$16,900 **Hines Park Lincoln Mercury** 1-866-455-5332

Accord EX 2004 Leather, V6, inspected & warranted, must see! \$10,900 **Hines Park Lincoln Mercury** 1-866-455-5332

Accord EXL 2006

\$16,998 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

HONDA CR-V 2006

AWD, silver, 19K, \$16,998 **Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

Hyundai 8524

ELANTRA 2007 Red, side airbags, moonroof \$10,955 **Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

SANTA FE GLS 2005 V6,

power windows/locks, automatic, front side airbags, AM/FM/CD, warranty \$13,946 **RALPH THAYER AUTO** 734-425-5400

SONATA GLS 2008 4 cylinder,

40,722 miles, \$12,990 **SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON** 734-397-9900

TUCSON 2005 Auto, 4x4,

front/side airbags, factory warranty, 28K, \$11,990 **RALPH THAYER AUTO** 734-425-5400

OPTIMA LX 2008 4 cylinder,

13,841 miles, \$12,990 **SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON** 734-397-9900

SPORTAGE LX 2007 4 cyl,

2WD, 29,272 miles, \$11,990 **SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON** 734-397-9900

X TYPE 2008 Moon, AWD,

22K, \$21,995 **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

Jeep 8635

LIBERTY 4WD 2007

GET READY FOR WINTER! ABS traction control, EXP eligible \$11,795 **NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

Lincoln 8560

LINCOLN MKX 2008 AWD, Vista Roof, navigation, video headrests \$32,998 **Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

MKX 2007 Navigation, moon-

roof, AWD \$22,998 **AVIS FORD** (248) 355-7515

MKZ 2007 All Wheel Drive,

23K miles, spotless! \$18,900 **Hines Park Lincoln Mercury** 1-866-455-5332

TOWN CAR SIGNATURE 2006

49,654 miles, \$13,990 **SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON** 734-397-9900

TOWN CAR SIGNATURE LTD 2006 13K, showroom new!

\$18,900 **Hines Park Lincoln Mercury** 1-866-455-5332