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# Cupcake maker taps into a 'sweeter' lifestyle

**BY TIFFANY L. PARKS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Jacqueline Rankin has traded corporate America for butter cream frosting.

"I never envisioned having a cafe, but this has been a lot of fun," said

the former mortgage loan officer of Swirls Cafe, the cupcake haven she opened nearly a year ago in Canton. The eatery, located at 42480 Cherry

Hill Road, touts itself as having "the best cupcakes

such as apple pie spice, cherry charm and mocha nut swirl.

Rankin, a Canton resident and a married mother of two, said the idea for the business was planted after she watched a television program featuring a cupcake entrepreneur.

"Cupcakes tap into a center of innocence," she said, adding that she had grown frustrated with the mortgage lending business and wanted a change

of pace. "I wanted to do something different, but I wanted it to be something

that hadn't

been done to

And with

"I started

### **SWIRLS CAFE**

death." **Owner:** Jacqueline Rankin Address: 42480 Cherry Hill Road the resur-Telephone: (734) 983-0334 gence of the Web site: www.swirlscafe.com bake-sale sta-Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondayple, Rankin says she found Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday her niche. In addition to its variety of cupcakes, Swirls offers coffee products taking cupand corned beef sandwiches. On cakes to work, jazz and poetry nights, the hours my husband will extend to midnight. took cupcakes to work and

my daughin Canton" and features flavors ter took some to school and everyone loved them," she said. "They are nostalgic."

Swirls, which is in a space previously occupied by an espresso cafe, aims to go beyond the standard yellow and chocolate cake flavors.

"These are not your typical

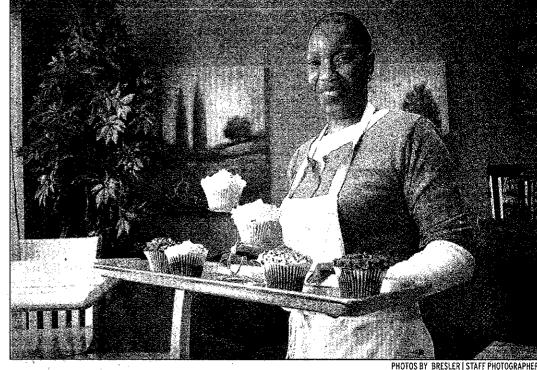


#### Customer Yazeed Al Ghamdib tries a chocolate swirl cupcake.

cupcakes," Rankin grinned, while pointing to customer favorites such as lemon drop, Reese's cup, red velvet, sweet sweet chocolate and strawberry cheesecake.

Rankin, who now offers "cupcake greetings," is set to introduce the cafe's first jazz night Jan. 30.

We need something like this in Canton," she said.



Jackie Rankin, owner of Swirls Cafe, says it best to "Say it with Cupcakes!" She is holding a tray of her specialty cupcakes, including Mocha Swirl, Red Velvet, Sweet Sweet Chocolate, and Reeses Cup.

And when asked whether she has any regrets over choosing baking instead of lending, Ranking looks down at her

sneakers and chuckles. "I do miss my heels and getting dressed up, but I have. found something that I enjoy,"

she said.

tiparks@hometownlife.com (313) 222-5379

Patterson hints at run

# Family 'overjoyed' at 'amazing Christmas gift'



# for attorney general

#### **BY KURT KUBAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

State Sen. Bruce Patterson says he is seriously thinking about running for Michigan attorney general in 2010. The Republican senator from Canton, who is in his second term, says he is "kicking around the idea" and will make a decision in the coming months.

"I've got some people interested in helping me get elected to the position," Patterson said Wednesday from Texas. where he is on a business trip.

Patterson, who also served two terms in the State House of Representatives before running for the Senate, said he has a long interest in law enforcement, and running for attorney general makes sense for him. He will be term limited in the Senate after his current term expires in 2010.

"It's a logical progression for me," he said of the attorney general position. "I want to serve, but I don't need to serve. I just need some time to think it through.

Patterson turns 62 next month, and has had some health problems in the last year. He was diagnosed with diabetes in May, but has been taking medication. He said he has lost about 40 pounds and is exercising regularly.

At this point it appears his main opposition to get the Republican nomination will be former Congressman and outgoing Appeals Court Judge Bill Schuette, who is considered the frontrunner, and State Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, who has yet to announce his intentions. Patterson and Bishop, who will also be term limited in 2010, have had an ongoing feud over the course of the last year, beginning when Bishop failed to support



Patterson's attempt to thwart Livonia's annexation plans of the former state psychiatric hospital property in Northville Township.

Bill Ballenger, editor/publisher of the Inside Michigan Politics, said Schuette is the man to beat at this point, but that it is

Patterson still early.

"Right now, hands down, I would say that Bill Schuette would have the upper hand to get the nomination," he said. "But we still have 20 months before this thing plays out."

Ballenger points out that the winner of the nomination will be selected at the Republican convention, not by voters, so candidates will have to court support "among real insiders, not the rank and file Republicans."

He said not to count out Patterson, because he comes from an area that has clout in Lansing.

"Patterson has a chance. He comes from a better geographical area than Schuette. Western Wayne County is a real fertile area. There are lots of voters, and they have influence on what happens in Lansing," Ballenger said.

Patterson said he has a lot of respect for Schuette, who hails from the Midland area, and has known him for the better part of 20 years. But Patterson said he is also respected in Lansing.

"I think I have the credentials with people in Lansing. My reputation is one of being brutally honest and being tenacious when it comes to getting to the bottom of an issue," he said.

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

The Christmas season is a ready-made time for miracles.

When West Middle School music teacher Marc Whitlock picked up the phone three days before Christmas, he received the miracle he and his wife, Kellie, had been looking for.

The word from doctors at Children's Hospital in Detroit indicated their 2-year-old daughter, Macaylah - who was born with transient leukemia and had been undergoing treatment - was cancerfree.

"I was so overjoyed," said Marc Whitlock. "It's what we'd been praying for over the last year. There is no cancer in the blood and no cancer in the bone



The family is jubilant at Macaylah's news.

marrow. The good cells are rebuilding themselves and starting to grow. What an amazing Christmas gift we have received."

Whitlock said they still have to tackle Down syndrome and associated deafness. But, for a few days, he and Kellie want to give thanks to God and express their appreciation for all the support given his family.

We are grateful for all those who have helped us along the way," said Whitlock. "This has taught us a lot, and we certainly plan to do our part in paying it forward."

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# Welcoming baby new year

When the clock struck midnight last Thursday, Dr. Gulnaz Khan could not have cared less about celebratory kisses, ball drops or new year's resolutions - her son was on his way. "I didn't expect this," said Khan, a Canton resident, of birthing one of the first 2009 babies in the area. "I started having contractions early on the 31st, so I expected him to come then but the labor continued on." Making his arrival at 12:10 a.m. at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit, Shaheer Irfan Hameed, is the first child of Khan and her husband, Dr. Irfan Hameed. "He is beautiful," Khan said of her son. "And when he grows up, he will have a story to tell."

By Tiffany L. Parks

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> Volume 34 Number 56

Warming Homes and Hearts The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) is a nonprofit

organization established to provide low-income families with energy assistance during crisis. For the 2007-2008 heating season, THAW distributed more than \$10,928,000 in energy assistance to more than 8,600 household in Michigan.

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**APARTMENTS** 

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### LOCAL NEWS

#### Car seat safety checks

A2 (C)

The Canton Fire Department is offering car seat safety checks to Canton residents. It has been estimated that four out of five car seats are used improperly. By scheduling an appointment with one of the Fire Department's Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians, residents can learn the proper installation of their child's car seat, how to secure their child properly in the seat, and determine if the seat is appropriate for their child, all based on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration guidelines.

Car seat safety checks are available by appointment only. To schedule your appointment contact the Canton Fire Prevention Unit at (734) 394-5456.

#### Grief support group

The Compassionate Coffee Hour is an ongoing grief support group for widows and widowers hosted by Compassionate Care Hospice. The group is held 3-4 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month at Heartland Healthcare Center, 7025 N. Lilley Road, Canton. The focus of the group is on the later. stages of grief, with an empha-

sis on learning to live with the loss. This group is open to anyone grieving the loss of a spouse or partner. There is no charge. For more information, contact Ann Christensen at (734) 983-9050.

#### Comedy troupe to perform

The Capitol Steps, a comedy troupe that specializes in political satire, will perform at 8 p.m., Jan. 16 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

Capitol Steps began as a group of U.S. Senate staffers who set out to satirize the very people and places that employed them in December 1981. Most cast members have worked on Capitol Hill - some for Democrats, some for Republicans, and others for politicians who firmly straddle the fences. Although not all of the current members of Capitol Steps are former Capitol Hill staffers, taken together the performers have worked in a total of 18 Congressional offices and represent 62 years of collective House and Senate staff experience. They will perform their political song parodies and skits straight out of current headlines.

Tickets are on sale now for \$45 for all seats. To purchase

#### **AROUND CANTON**

tickets online, visit www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater or call (734) 394-5300. For more information about Capitol Steps, visit www.capsteps.com.

#### Free throw championship

All boys and girls, ages 9 to 14, are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship, which will be held on Sunday, Jan. 18 at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton. Registration starts at 3 p.m. District level competitions are scheduled for Feb. 8 at a time and location to be announced.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district, and state competitions. International champions are announced by the K of C headquarters based on scores from the state-level competitions. All boys and girls will compete in their respective age and gender divisions.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information contact Andy Emmert at (734) 981-2367

#### **Comedian Rogers to** perform

Comedian Kivi Rogers will perform at 8 p.m., Jan. 10 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Rogers has appeared on HBO's "Def Comedy Jam," 'The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," and has

> guest star on several television shows

including The West Wing, Dharma and Greg, Home Improvement and Everybody Loves Raymond. He has also appeared in the feature film Romy and Michelle's Highs School Reunion with Lisa Kudrow and Mira Sorvino. Rogers most recently landed a development deal with Castle Rock Entertainment to star in



### Youth artist deadline

The application deadline for the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society's Youth Artist Competition is Tuesday, Jan. 20. The competition is scheduled to take place on Sunday, Feb. 1, at Evola Music, 7170 N. Haggerty Road, Canton. The competition is composed of three divisions: Senior Instrumental (grades 10-12), Senior Piano (grades 10-12), and Junior Combined (grades 7-9). Applicants must be piano, band or orchestra students residing in one of the following school districts: Clarenceville, Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton, Van Buren (Belleville) or Wayne-Westland, Members of the Celebration Youth Orchestra or students at Evola Music are also eligible. The distribution of scholarship funds for the first place winners in each division is as follows: Senior Instrumental - \$500, Senior Piano - \$500, and Junior Combined - \$250. If applicable, honorable mentions will also be acknowledged. Applications are available through the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society. Past participants are encouraged to reapply. For an application and/or further information, please contact Jane Libbing at (734) 451-2112 or by e-mail at jane@ plymouthsymphony.org. Applications are also available on the Plymouth Symphony Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org.

his own sitcom.

the following dates: Monday, Jan. 12 at Palermo's; Thursday, Feb. 12 at Caravel; Monday, April 6 at Palermo's; men have built their witty and Thursday, May 7, also at reputations with cutting-edge Palermo's. All restaurants are on Ford Road in Canton. Detail information and a

flyer is available at http://web. pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/ classof/2009/senior-party09. htm (this flyer must be presented at time of purchase for us to receive 20% credit of your purchase).

Visit the committee's blog at http://pcep09seniorparty. blogspot.com/ or its Web page at http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/ pcep/pages/classof/2009/ senior-party09.htm

To volunteer or for questions, contact pcep-senior-party@ comcast.net.

#### Elvis night

Elvis Presley will be highlighted when the State Wayne Theater (35310 Michigan

TOWN 'N' COUNTRY LANES

Avenue in Wayne) hosts a classic movie night Jan. 8, which would have been Elvis' 74th birthday.

The night will feature two showings of the 1964 classic film "Viva Las Vegas" starring Elvis and Ann Margret, at 6:15 p.m. and 9 p.m. At 8 p.m., there will be a special performance by Fred Wolfe, an Elvis tribute artist.

All tickets are \$5, and includes both shows. For more information, call the theater at (734) 326-4600 or visit www. ci.wayne.mi.us.

#### Ryan Hamilton to perform

Comedian Ryan Hamilton will perform at 8 p.m., Jan. 23 at the Village Theater at Cherry



Hill. Known for his clean brand of comedy, Hamilton continues to receive national attention for his quick wit and was recently

Hamilton

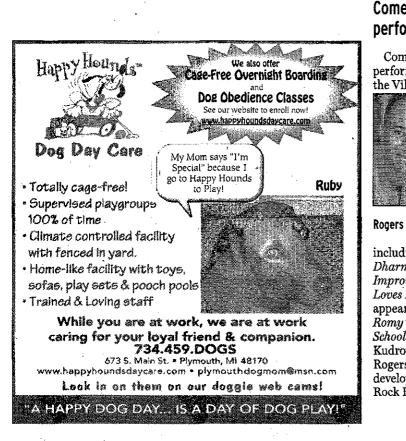
featured on NBC's "Last Comic Standing." In 2003, Hamilton was chosen as a semi-finalist in the Seattle International Comedy Competition and was also a finalist at the Las Vegas Comedy Festival's "Laugh Across America Contest."

Tickets are \$15, which also includes a performance by comedian Steve Macone.

Please be advised that content may contain adult material.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater. Tickets can also be purchased at Summit on the Park by phone at (734) 394-5460 or in person. To purchase tickets at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill box office, stop by during box office hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 7-9 p.m. and Sunday, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Village Theater ticket office will also be open one hour prior to each performance.



comedy. Please be advised that content may contain adult material. Tickets are \$15 and are available online at www. canton-mi.org/village the ateror by calling (734) 394-5300. For more information on Kivi Rogers' scheduled performance, call (734) 394-5460. appeared as a

Senior party fund-raisers

The PCEP Senior Party Committee is inviting diners to dine out for "a wonderful cause," supporting the senior party by dining out at one (or more) of the area restaurants which have agreed to donate 20 percent of the purchases made during a specific time and date.

Fund-raisers take place at the following restaurants on

The evening will also include a performance by comedian Mike Malec. These funny-



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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO RELOCATE A BANK BRANCH

Notice is hereby given that Monroe Bank & Trust has made application with the FDIC for permission to relocate a bank branch from 133 West Main Street, Northville, MI 48168 to 201 East Main Street, Northville, MI 48168.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its Regional Office (500 West Monroe Street, Suite 3600, Chicago, Illinois 60661) before processing of the application has been completed. Processing will be completed no earlier than the 15th day following either the date of this publication or the date of receipt of the application by the FDIC, whichever is later. The period may be extended by the Regional Director for good cause. The non-confidential portion of the application file is available for inspection within one day following the request for such file. It may be inspected in the Corporation's Regional Office during regular business hours. Photocopies of information in the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request. A schedule of charges for such copies can be obtained from the Region Director.

> By: H. Douglas Chaffin President & CEO January 8, 2009

# Kettle drive soars past 2008 goal

#### BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

When the Plymouth Salvation Army braintrust got together and set the goal for the 2008 Red Kettle Campaign at \$235,000, the raised eyebrows came and the whispers started.

"In these kinds of financial times, you're never gonna make that," the conventional wisdom went.

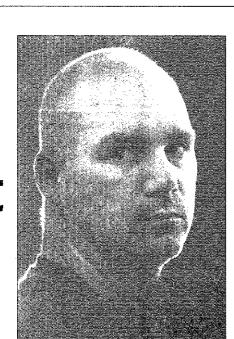
If that really was the conventional wisdom, it wasn't all that wise. Benefitting from what Salvation Army officials call an "incredibly generous" community, this year's Red Kettle Campaign, the Army's biggest fundraiser, raised more than \$244,000, an 18-percent increase over last year's campaign.

"The story there is the need is just incredible," said Maj. Jim Irvine, commander of the Plymouth Salvation Army, which serves the Plymouths, Canton, Northville and Belleville. "Everyone is feeling that; it doesn't come as a surprise to anyone. What comes as the big surprise is how well we did in these financially hard times.'

That figure is in contrast to how the overall campaign is doing around metropolitan Detroit. District Salvation Army officials noted in a release the overall campaign was some \$839,000 behind as of Dec. 29. The metro Detroit goal is \$8.5 million.

Irvine said the local Salvation Army was able to far exceed its goal by "streamlining the use of kettles" at some 20 locations around those communities "to get the best use we could" out of the kettles.

But the real push, Irvine acknowledged, was from volunteers and the donors themselves. "We had people who knew we were hurting, and they came out nonstop to ring the bells," Irvine said. "It was people passing the kettles who knew their families were hurting. We didn't get any single big-check donations, as we've had in the past. It was all the one-dollar, five-dollar and 10-dollar donations people were putting in that made all the difference." The donations will help the Plymouth Salvation Army finance all of its programs, including things like the Thanksgiving and Christmas family adoptions. That need, Irvine pointed out, increased dramatically this year. The Plymouth Salvation Army served 436 families (up 27 percent over 2007) and 1,037 children, some 300 more than a year ago. And all of it was made possible, Irvine said, with the generosity of donors and volunteers. "It would be one thing if we had three or four big foundations behind us, but that's not the case," Irvine said.



Steele

# Trial in torture case pushed back to February

#### **BY TIFFANY L. PARKS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

If all remains according to schedule, Gary Allen Steele will have his day in court Feb. 23.

Steele, a suspended Detroit police officer, has been charged with torture, assault with intent to murder and assault with intent to do great bodily harm stemming from a March 4 incident with his former girlfriend, who resides in Canton.

The 42-year-old's trial before Judge Ulysses W. Boykin in Wayne County Circuit Court has been pushed back from its previous dates in August and December.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said December's trial date was rescheduled because the capital murder trial of an incarcerated defendant took priority over Steele, who made bond in May.

Steele, who Boykin ordered to wear a tether, faces up to life in prison for allegedly assaulting Kimberly Ann Golematis and firing a gun near her head at her township home.

Golematis testified at Steele's preliminary hearing that the two had ended their six-month relationship and he became violent after stopping by her home to retrieve the last of his items.

After allegedly hitting her left leg with a baseball bat, Golematis said Steele choked her and straddled her after she fell to the ground. He is then accused of firing three shots near the left side of her head and threatening to kill her.

At that hearing, Golematis called Steele a "good person who made a really bad choice."

An evidentiary hearing is scheduled for Feb. 9.

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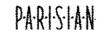
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LOCAL NEWS

# **Adding Abe artifacts**

# Museum adds little-seen items to Lincoln exhibit

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

The Plymouth Historical Museum, which already has the state's largest Abraham -Lincoln collection, scored another coup to celebrate the 200th birthday (Feb. 12) of the United States' 16th president.

The museum will have on loan from The Henry Ford in Dearborn four pieces that belonged to Honest Abe in Springfield, Ill., which were sold before he moved to the White House in 1861. They will be the cornerstones of the "In the Presence of Lincoln" display at the Plymouth Historical Museum, from Jan. 21-Nov. 4.

"We're getting two rockers, which belonged to Abe and his wife, Mary," said Dan Packer, Lincoln curator and board member at the Plymouth Historical Museum. "Other than the



It's not Kramer from 'Seinfeld' but a painting of a younger Lincoln, before the presidency.

assassination chair at The Henry Ford, this is second best.

"There's a parlor table, mahogany with claw feet; and a mantle clock which Lincoln was standing next to when the Republican delegation came to him with the nomination for president of the United States," Packer added. "Outside of Springfield, this museum is on par with major museums around the country when it comes to Lincoln.\*

The search for the items began when ancestors of the man who bought the pieces from Lincoln showed up the Plymouth Historical Museum looking for them. Packer led the family members to The Henry Ford, which - with Packer's help - found them in a warehouse used to store items not on display in the main Dearborn museum. The four items have been displayed to the public before, but it's unlikely many have seen them.

"They had previously been on display at the Logan County Courthouse, where Lincoln practiced law," said

Leslie Mio, loan coordinator at The Henry Ford. "But, it's been decades since they were shown."

The Plymouth Historical Museum had to fill out a 50-page facilities report in order to get the items.

"As a result, we've enhanced the level of security in the whole building, not just for the Lincoln items, but for our displays, too," said Liz Kerstens, museum director, who said the four pieces will be put in the former doll house outside the permanent Lincoln room with special humidity and light levels to preserve them. "It's still a community museum, and nothing will take away from that, but because we will be having items we believe haven't been displayed for such a long time, hopefully the word will get out."

Along with the new items and current Lincoln room display - which includes a



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lincoln archivist Dan Packer collects Lincoln memorabilia of a less serious nature. This Lincoln Talking Head is a best-seller at the gift shop in the new visitor's center at Gettysburg.

lock of Lincoln's hair and the dictionary he used as a child - there will be speakers and workshops during the nearly year-long celebration of Lincoln.

Kerstens is fund-raising to pay for the cost of borrowing the furniture, additional security, advertising and other costs, which she said will be in the "tens of thousands" of dollars. The major sponsor for the event is Hines Park Lincoln-Mercury.

The Plymouth Historical Museum's Lincoln artifacts were purchased in 1998 from Dr. Weldon Petz of West Bloomfield. The museum fund-raised for \$150,000 to pay Petz, as well as develop and preserve the display which opened in 2002.

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1992	Dodge	Daytona	2-Dr	1B3XW44K6NN253884
1997	Ford	F-150	P/U	1FTDX1765VKA02285
1997	Plymouth	Neon	4-Dr	3P3ES47CXVT602874
1990	Lincoln	Continental	2-Dr	1LNCM93E0LY805740
1 <del>9</del> 94	Pontiac	Sunbird	4-Dr	1G2JB54H7R7591710
1991	Chevy	1500	P/U	2GCEC19K3M1116469
1994	Ford	Crown Vic	4-Dr	2FALP74WXRX162738
1998	Chevy	Lumina	4-Dr	2G1WL52M7W9226168
1989	Ford	F-150	P/U	1FTHF25H8KLB28578
1999	Pontiac	Grand Prix	2-Dr	1G2WP12K8XF308748
1997	Ford	Taurus	4-Dr	1FALP52U8VG300556
Publish:	January 8 and 11			•
				CE08638974-2X3

Architectural quality store 1946

Kurtyzk, Wayne	E162 20x20	Kitchen Set, Nordic Trak, "retro" covered stroller, toddler bike, Halloween décor, 25+ Boxes, misc. household goods.
Ray Schultz	D157 10x10	Vacuum Cleaner, 27" CRT TV, box-spring size: full, instrument case, misc. bedroom furniture, coffee table, copier and scanner, picture frame, large tote.
Great Lakes Finance c/o Tara Meabrod	H310 20x20	Cubicle dividers, Pallets, Table, Wastepaper baskets, Plastic carpet protectors.
Craig Smith	C73 5x5	Standing dolly, Skill saw, 2 ladders, misc. boxes & totes, Many misc. tools.
Publish: January 1, 2008		QE08637966 - 2x4

ESTIMATED ALLOCATIO 19 % PUBLIC SERVI	
	Allocation
PUBLIC SERVICES	\$19,950.00
Senior Services	\$5,440.37
Council on Aging	\$3,489.26
Senior Alliance	\$1,951.11
Transportation	\$14,509.64
Disabled Van	\$4,793.99
Senior Transportation	\$9,715.65
ADMINISTRATION	\$10,500.00
Administration	\$10,500.00
Planning	\$0.00
BRICK & MORTAR	\$74,550.00
Multi-year Program: Expansion & Acq	uisition*
	\$74,550.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$105,000.00
* Previously Approved	

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s of	Council on Aging	\$11,806.44
t to	Senior Alliance	\$2,224.00
ion:	Transportation	\$37,419.59
MI	Disabled Van	\$12,384.02
	Senior Transportation	\$25,035.57
	ADMINISTRATION	\$10,500.00
	Administration	\$10,500.00
ller	Planning	\$0.00
	BRICK & MORTAR	843,050.00
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10,		\$43,050,00
TV,	TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$105,000.00
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6 - 2x4	Published: January 8, 2009	OE08636903-2010

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### **COUNTY NEWS**

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# Be prepared, guard against financial scams

the holiday season is behind us and we're all getting back to work and our normal routines. Unfortunately, the problems of 2008 are still here.

Southeast Michigan faces an uncertain economic future. particularly with the condition of the



Big Three. Most of what is happening in the global economic crisis is beyond your control and mine.

there are cer-

tain things

that we can

Money Matters However,

**Rick Bloom** 

control and in those areas we must be more vigilant than ever.

At the end of 2008, a major financial scam unfolded. By now, most have heard about the Madoff scandal. Bernard Madoff instrumented one of the biggest Ponzi schemes in the history of Wall Street.

Typically, these schemes are set up by flimflam artists who promise unrealistic returns and who cook the books to fool investors. According to published reports, Madoff scammed some of the wealthiest individuals in the world, as well as businesses and charitable organizations, out

of a reported \$50 billion. Although much of the information about how the scam was perpetuated for years is still being discovered, it is clear investors let their guard down enticed by unrealistic returns.

The average investor seems to believe that the wealthy are more sophisticated, immune to fraud. They can hire investment professionals who are supposed to be able to detect fraud. In my experience, the wealthy are just as susceptible as the rest of us. Investors, no matter what level of the ladder they are on, must be aware of unscrupulous individuals.

In reality it is impossible

to completely shield oneself from an investment fraud. However, there are some steps to minimize your risk.

1.) Don't invest in anything that cannot be checked independently. I like using mutual funds because I can look at a variety of independent sources regarding the fund. Investors with Madoff could not check out his investments independently. It has been reported his investment policy was a mere few lines.

2.) Don't invest in anything that does not have a track record. Three, five and 10 years are relevant.

3.) Don't invest in anything you don't understand. When it comes to an investment, take time to know how you can make money, how you can lose money and how to get your money out. One of the ways scam artists are able to perpetuate fraud is by convincing investors that the investment strategy is too complex to explain.

4.) Before investing, know the costs - what it costs to buy, hold and sell. One common thread that runs throughout every investment scam is fees.

5.) If something is too good to be true, it generally is. In the Madoff situation, investors were told that in good times, bad times, no matter what, they would get a 12-percent return. That should have raised a big red flag.

It is our responsibility to protect our money. We can't be influenced by what other people are doing or fooled by what fast-talking sales people want us to believe. Be proactive and protect yourself and your hard-earned money by doing your homework.

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

# Zoo's a delight, even in winter

When the weather outside is frightful, the Detroit Zoo's Wild Winter Weekends are sure to be delightful. The annual series of events will be held on the second weekends in January, February and March, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Ford Education Center.

Wild Winter Weekends offer entertainment for the entire family and are a fun way to experience the magic of the Detroit Zoo in the wintertime. Visitors can enjoy their favorite animal habitats, both indoors and out, as well as activities such as children's music, keeper talks, games and crafts, All activities are free with regular zoo admission.

Wild Winter Carnival — January 10 and 11. Wild Winter Carnival kicks off the series of weekend events

Wild Winter Weekends offer entertainment for the entire family and are a fun way to experience the magic of the Detroit Zoo in the wintertime. Visitors can enjoy their favorite animal habitats, both indoors and out, as well as activities such as children's music, keeper talks, games and crafts.

with face painting, carnival games, ice carving demonstrations by Henry Ford Community College and the roaming entertainment of Zeemo's One Man Circus.

Wild Winter Mardi Gras – February 7 and 8. Celebrate Mardi Gras the Detroit Zoo way. Live entertainment, storytelling and a colorful parade are just a few of the fun activities. Kids can create a special

Mardi Gras mask for the parade and collect a few prizes, t00.

Wild Winter Zoobilee - March 7 and 8. Come celebrate the animal kingdom at Wild Winter Zoobilee. Enjoy animal arts and crafts, face painting, animal enrichment activities and talks by the zoo's expert keepers. Live performances by Gemini both days round out the weekend's festivities.

The Detroit Zoological Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. Situated on 125 acres of naturalistic exhibits, the Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak.

The Detroit Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October. Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free.

For more information, call (248) 541-5717 or visit www. detroitzoo.org.

PURE ENTERTAINMENTI Story Thusseday

# Boike elected Wayne County Commission chair

The Wayne County Commission Tuesday unanimously elected Commissioner Edward A. Boike, Jr., D-Taylor, as chairman of the commission. The election took place at the commission's organizational meeting for the 2009-2010 legislative session.

Boike will serve a two-year term as chair of the 15-person legislative body, and will be responsible for the commission's 72 employees and its \$11.3 million annual budget. The commission provides fiscal and legislative oversight of Wayne County's \$2.25 billion budget.

"It is truly an honor to selected chairman," Boike said in his acceptance speech. "I will work to uphold the Wayne County Charter, set policy and provide financial accountability for the taxpayers of Wayne

County."

His agenda for the commission includes streamlining the organization and finding ways to make it work more efficiently and effectively.

With Wayne County facing its worst economic downturn since the Depression, Boike said the challenge facing the commission is to minimize the reduction in services and programs the county provides its citizens and its communities.

"Our task is to balance the needs and resources available for all 43 communities and be attuned to their needs," he said. "We must seek additional funding sources to improve roads, maintain drains, fight foreclosures and redevelop underutilized properties."

A common denominator for all 43 communities is

the need for jobs, and Boike pledged that the commission would work in partnership with County Executive Robert Ficano to diversify Wayne County's economy, create new employment and generate additional tax base.

Boike said Wayne County would emerge from the current economic storm by being strong and united. "We are not a county of city and suburb. We are one Wayne County," he said.

Boike is the longest-serving member of the commission. He was first elected to his seat in 1988, and has been re-elected 10 times by the voters of district 15. His district includes Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Huron Township, Rockwood, Romulus, and Taylor.



At the meeting today, com-D. Williams as vice chair of the commission and Ilona Varga as vice chair pro tempore.

(\*) A5



**Edward Boike** missioners also elected Keith







The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

# **OUR VIEWS** Schools should have moved with S'craft

When the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education voted last month to move its elections from odd-year May to every November, Trustee Dianne Gonzalez was the only dissenter, arguing instead for even more cost savings by moving to even-year Novembers.

We agree with Gonzalez.

Page A6 (C)

Thursday, January 8

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

Had they chosen to remain with odd-year May elections, Plymouth-Canton would have had to absorb the \$100,000 price tag themselves. By moving to odd-year Novembers, district officials estimate elections will cost \$84,000 in

the odd years, when there is Had they chosen to no national election.

As trustees were making the decision to move to every November, Gonzalez was arguing - correctly, in our estimation — that some \$16,000 in cost savings the \$100,000 price tag wasn't enough.

Shifting to even-year Novembers certainly has to odd-year Novembers, its complications. It would have meant pushing the next election to November 2010, which would have added 2.5 years to everyone's term. Trustee Nancy Eggenberger's argument - "We need national election. to give (the community) the opportunity to vote on school board members" - is

remain with oddyear May elections, **Plymouth-Canton would** have had to absorb themselves. By moving district officials estimate elections will cost \$84,000 in the odd years, when there is no

a valid one. However, considering voter turnout is generally in single digits, one can wonder whether voters would really care if terms were extended.

The other argument against even-year November elections doesn't hold much water, in our opinion. The idea that even-year elections "would encourage political parties to influence our elections" suggests they don't already. Would a political party be dissuaded from exerting its influence, if it so chose, just because the elections are in off-years? We don't think so.

The problems with a move to even-year November elections were easily solved. The district, which has for years decried its dearth of cash, had the opportunity to save itself \$100,000 every two years.

Gonzalez was right - they should have taken it.

# Legislature has to begin

Don't renew parks millage I would like to respond to the

Observer's recent shallow and simplistic editorial ("Ordinance on park funds alters intent of millage," Dec. 25) regarding a proposed Wayne County Commission ordinance to return 25 percent of the parks millage to funding communities.

The editorial contends the ordinance represents bad public policy and would divest funds from the intended purpose. It also suggests that voters approved the millage for improvements to county parks.

Consider the following: 1. Special county-wide millages are bad public policy. They are typically vaguely written, widely interrupted and seldom deliver on their promises.

2. It is not unusual for 25 percent or more of the millage to be spent on non-county projects.

LETTERS

EGISUTIK

NE L

not delivered. The snow on the shoul- tion of whether they would have der is not my responsibility and it's too dangerous to even consider shoveling it. Is this how it's going to be all winter?

Ford Road is a main thoroughfare. How can it be placed on the list as a "blue" road? The real question I have, is why, if we are only going to get minimal plowings, doesn't Wayne County at least do it right and include the shoulder of the road. I also got stuck on the shoulder of the road trying to back into my driveway on Friday, so I can get a "running start" to get out the next time. It is dangerous enough pulling in and out of a Ford Road driveway on a sunny, dry day. Having to "rock" my car or dig it out on the shoulder is a death trap.

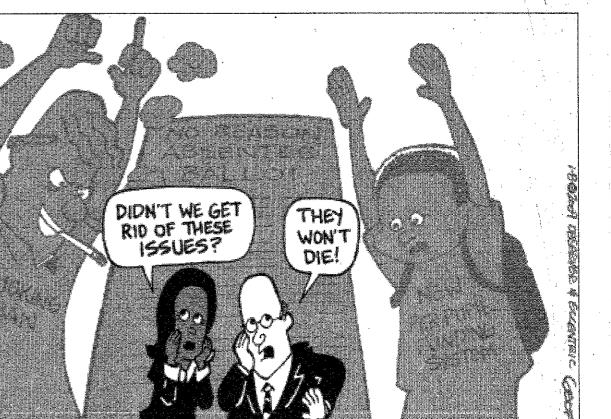
Ford Road and its intersections have always been dangerous, how can Canton Township allow them to become even more of a hazard in inclement weather? Why can't Wayne County see the error of this decision? changed. One problem is that adop-How many accidents or deaths will have to occur before someone does something to change this situation back to the plowing contract we had before? I've seen a lot of accidents and deaths at Ford and Beck. It took years to get a light there. I sure hope that this decision to "save money" doesn't end up costing anyone who travels Ford Road their life or the lives of their families.

\$3,000 in their pocket today, or have an 80 percent chance of getting \$4,000. Most of the students took the \$3,000. This is because the fear of losing money is bigger than gaining money. This is true about what is going on now because people are taking their money out of the stock market now before they lose all of their money. Remember, if we don't put money in the stock market now, it will only take longer for it to improve!

> **Tommy Parrelly** Canton

#### Adoption system needs fixing

We have been doing some research on adoption for a school project and neither of us believes adoption is wrong. We actually think it is a very good process. Unfortunately there are some defects in the system. We believe these defects should be tion is too expensive for the average American. The average American makes \$50,233 a year. The average cost of adoption is \$20,000-\$30,000. That is more than half of the income that most adults make a vear. Money is going to be needed to take care of the child. The economy is already bad enough, which results in some people not getting paid and that decreases the amount of money an adult gets per year. Another issue is that the process of adoption takes a long time. The average amount of time that it takes for adoption to be complete, for the child to be in their new parent's hands, is 18-30 months. When children are taken out of orphanages or from their parents and placed with different people, it is a life-changing experience for them. If they can be placed with good families, why should the kids be deprived of a good life, just because of cost or time? **Gabrielle Giroux and Rachael Heuer** Canton



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### work on holdover issues

The state Legislature has no time to waste as it digs in for a session that's bound to be both complex and controversial.

While the budget will be an ongoing struggle, there are other issues for legislators to address immediately, without waiting for the governor's State of the State address. Consider the following three holdovers from last year.

Smoking ban: If ever there was ample evidence of the influence of lobbyists, it was found in the struggle over whether to ban smoking in all work places. But there are two clear facts that legislators need to focus on.

First, smoking and indirect smoke kills people; and, second, other states have found that prohibiting smoking doesn't kill business.

Obviously, exceptions need to be made for such businesses as smoke shops, but this isn't rocket science.

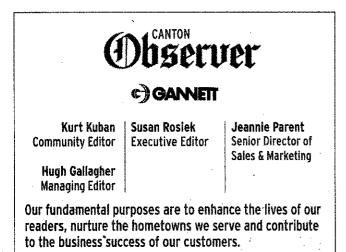
■ Absentee voting: The concept is clear — namely, to increase voter participation by making voting more accessible to all through absentee voting.

Given today's technology, there is no logical reason why people have to stand in line, sometimes for hours in heated contests, to vote. Voting should not be a test of fortitude, but a commitment to democracy.

School aid: State funding for education is like buying a car and not knowing whether you'll have enough to pay for it. Here's why: School budgets uniformly run with a budget year that begins July 1. State school aid, however, isn't approved until October and even then there are sometimes cuts made mid-year.

The problems have been exacerbated by the poor economy and a Legislature that can't make up its mind, but the real solution is to pass legislation requiring that districts be given solid numbers before their new budgets go into effect.

All it will take is leadership, good common sense and the right attitude to resolve all three issues.



3. The parks millage provides the county's CEO with a taxpayer slush fund to "buy votes" or punish or reward commissioners or communities.

4. County park funds have been used on questionable projects, some may be contrary to the ballot language.

5. No legitimate county process exists to consider and grant community projects.

6. Only a handful of Canton residents utilize county parks, hardly justifying the million dollars a year sent to the county.

7. A significant portion of the parks millage is spent on operations not capital improvements.

8. The county has not increased general fund park funding in years. Given all the facts I believe that

the commission's actions were justified. I also believe that in 2010 taxpayers should reject renewing this millage.

Canton

### **Plowing decision wrong**

I have lived on Ford Road since 1966. On Friday, Dec. 19, it was the worst I have seen it. I understand that there was a storm that day, but to only plow it once, and then to not clear the shoulder of the road ...

We didn't get our mail on Friday, I saw the mail lady, as I drove by her, get out of her vehicle and walk to a box, thinking to myself, is she really going to do that all the way down Ford Road. I got my answer a few minutes later, as she gave up and drove by my house and all of my neighbors. I can't blame her, the post office has strict rules about the shoulder being cleared. I don't know if we had a plow come by on Saturday, but again the shoulder was not plowed and our mail was again,

Robyn Lamb

Canton

#### We need to regain confidence

This economic crisis that we are in needs to be put to an end! Many homes are being foreclosed on here in Michigan. If we don't straighten Tom Yack all of this out soon, we may just enter another depression.

All of this is happening because our stock market is down (which makes it extremely hard for companies to make enough money they need to pay the workers and pay for the utilities they need). Until our confidence rises in the stock market, we could stay this way for quite a while. We need to put money back into the stock market in order for it to get better. Also, consumer confidence is what everyone needs right now. As soon as everyone is confident in the stock market, they will invest in it once again. This would also help people keep their jobs and stop from going bankrupt. Right now, everyone is scared, they fear that if they invest their money, that they will lose it.

People are crawling under a bunker and pulling metal sheets over their heads because they think the sky is falling. Also, in a recent study, students were asked the ques-

### **SHARE YOUR OPINIONS**

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

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Fax: (313) 223-4650

E-mail: kkuban@hometownlife.com

### QUOTABLE

"From its beginning, America has been a country of immigrants. And I want to encourage others to come and be a part of the political system, because none of the young kids growing up here are going back to India. They are as American as anyone else and they should be a part of the government's administration." - Indian-born Syed Taj, who was recently elected to the Canton Board of Trustees 11



# A mountain of toys and compassion

Canton Goodfellows board members Lisa Rozum (left) and Corrie Calado were surrounded by a mountain of toys last month as they made final preparations to deliver toys to local families through the organization's No Child Without A Christmas program. They are just two of the many volunteers who helped the Goodfellows provide Christmas cheer to 629 children and 30 seniors last month. It is a tradition that dates back to 1949, when the Canton Goodfellow tradition was started by Edward Hauk and Robert Waldecker, who acted as president and vice-president. For the last two years the Goodfellows have taken over the lower level of the township building to collect, sort and package Christmas for families in need. Each year the numbers grow larger than the previous year. This year the group was aided by "The Ford Team" (a group of 14 Ford workers from Dearborn), a local Girl Scout troop and teens from Plymouth Christian High School, as well as many others.

#### Rock thrown at car

Canton officers were called to the McDonald's on Michigan Avenue near Lotz Road Dec. 28 after a man reported that a rock had been thrown at his windshield. The owner of the vehicle said he was driving eastbound on Michigan when the object cracked his windshield. He then pulled into the fast food restaurant and stopped a group of kids he believed were the offenders. When officers arrived, they interviewed the group and a boy admitting to throwing the rock. He was ticketed for the incident and turned over to his mother. The windshield was valued at \$200.

#### Teen vandals

A resident of the Crossings of Canton apartment complex reported to township police Dec. 27 that a railing in one of the development's common areas had been damaged after

#### Canton soldier promoted

Private First Class Shaun Burke of Canton, a member of the 1776th Military Police Company, Michigan Army National Guard, was recently promoted to the rank of spe-

### CANTON COP CALLS

she walked in on a group of teenage boys allegedly smoking marijuana. The woman said that when she entered one of the complex's laundry areas, she noticed about 15 teens who then ran off. As they exited, one of the boys ripped the railing from the wall.

A maintenance worker for the complex said the railing was valued at \$100 and confirmed it was the only damage done to the area.

#### Bracelot found

A Canton employee turned over a black and silver bracelet to officers Dec. 27 after he discovered it lying on the floor in the police department's lobby. The item was bagged and placed with other found property.

# Stolen diamond ring returned

A 31-year-old township woman filed a report Dec.

#### **MILITARY NEWS**

cialist. Specialist Burke also recently graduated from the Army Warrior Transition Course at White Sands Missile Base in New Mexico. The Warrior Transition Course is a six week course for prior return of a diamond ring she got as a Christmas gift from her husband. The woman said that she

26 to document the theft and

left the ring in a box near her front door before she left the residence and returned to find it missing. When she asked her roommate, a 47-year-old woman, about the item, the roommate then contacted her daughter, a 22-year-old Ypsilanti woman.

The roommate told officers that her daughter had brought a friend to the residence Christmas day but that she hadn't noticed the theft. The woman said she called her daughter and told her to return the ring by the next morning or she was calling the police.

The daughter then returned the piece of jewelry. The owner of the ring, which is valued at \$300, did not want to press charges.

– By Tiffany L. Parks

service personnel transitioning from either the Navy or Air Force.

Specialist Burke has served in the Army National Guard for one year after serving in the Air Force for a year.

# Create a new you with Canton's 100 Days of Health program

#### **BY TIFFANY L. PARKS** OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If your new year's resolution has anything to do with family fitness, Canton Leisure Services' 100 Days to Health program could get you off to a running start.

"This program offers something for everyone," said Amy Lockmondy, Leisure Services health and wellness coordinator. "It targets families that want to get healthy together."

The annual festivities will begin at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 17 with an aerobics session followed by a kickoff breakfast at 9 a.m. Additional aerobics sessions will take place at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The program, which promotes creating "a new you" for the new year, will run through April 25 and features a variety of classes, activities, programs and special events. The calendar includes informational sessions on "Strong hearts for men" and "Healthy menopause."

Family-friendly activities include a soccer clinic, beginners Tai Chi, a skate night, and Wii bowling practice. Scheduled classes include "Healthy cooking on a budget."

Lockmondy said the program, which was created seven years ago, was initially introduced in the summer months, but later switched to January and was well received.

"In January, people are looking for something to do and many make resolutions to lose weight," she said, adding that participants are free to pick and choose which events to attend.

The program, which is free for children age 3 and under, is \$15 for Canton residents age 16 and older and \$5 for township kids ages 4-15. The cost for non-Canton residents is \$25 for adults and \$5 for children.

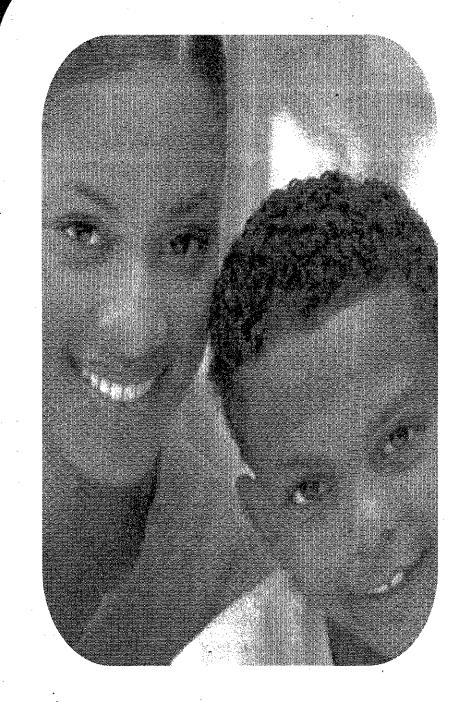
Those interested may register before the kickoff, at the kickoff or anytime afterward. The first 500 families will receive a travel first-aid kit.

For more information, call the 100 Days hot line at (734) 394-5496 or log on to leisure.canton-mi.org.

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5379



KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's **Sports** section

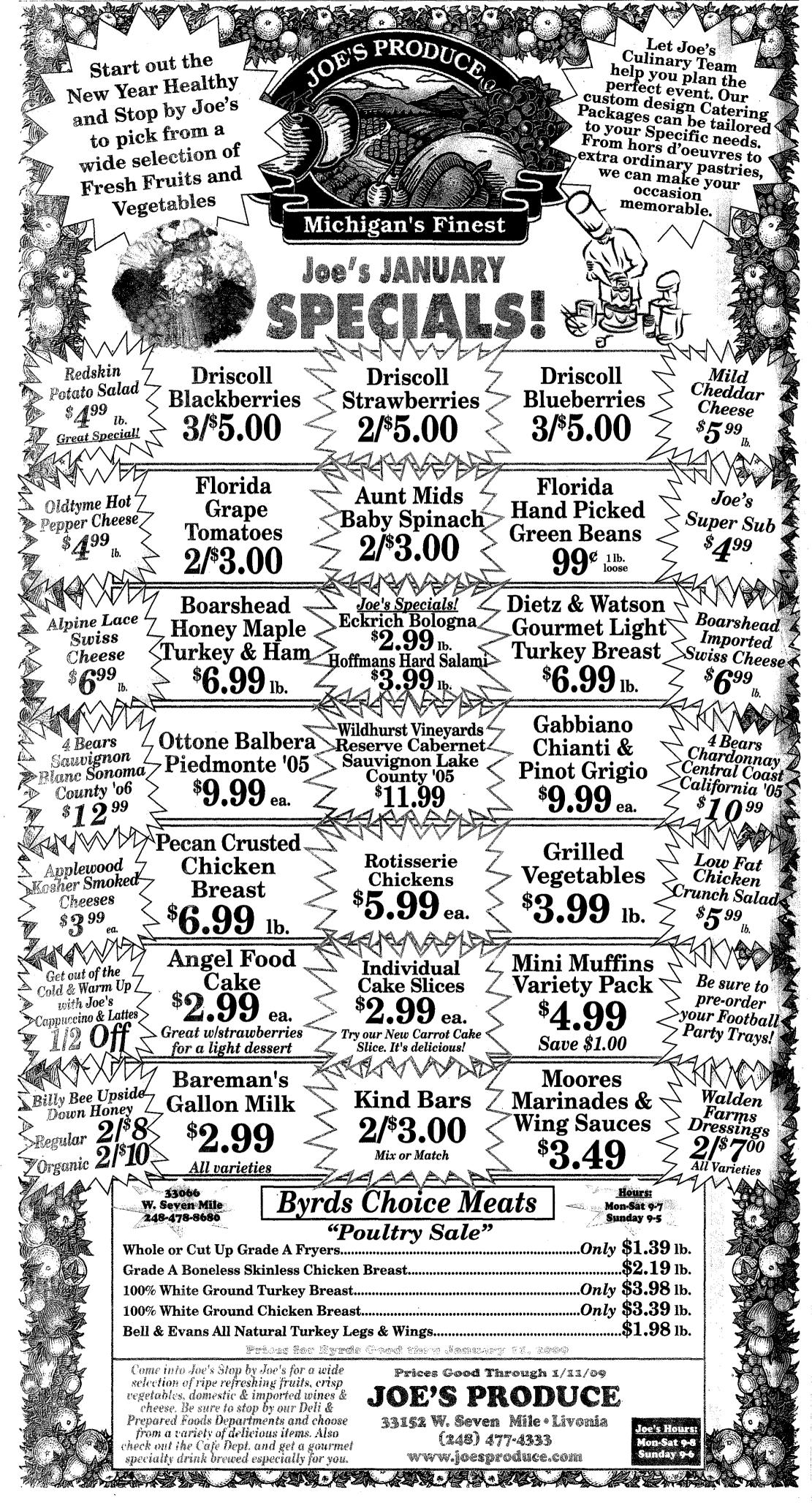


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**,** 8





No, Mercy: Youthful Chiefs hook Marlins

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With each game Canton's girls basketball team plays this season, the Chiefs are finding out how much they missed Carolann Sexauer *last* season.

The sweet-shooting sophomore, who missed the entire 2007-08 campaign with an injury, pumped in a team-high 11 points in Saturday's eye-opening 46-29 victory over Farmington Hills Mercy, which entered the game unbeaten.

The triumph improved Canton's record to 4-0 despite a formidable early-season schedule that has included the likes of Birmingham Marian and Howell. The Chiefs are

#### PREP GIRLS HOOP

just one win away from matching last year's win total when they sorely missed Sexauer's dead-on

"This is a very competitive group of girls, so I knew we'd be in every game," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "Did I think we'd be 4-0 right now? Not necessarily, but I knew we'd be competitive."

The Chiefs' attack was the epitome of balanced as Sara Schmitt added 10, Kayla Bridges twined eight and Kari Schmitt recorded six.

Kari Schmitt excelled in all phases of the game, adding 11 rebounds and seven blocked shots.

Bridgette Hickey led the Marlins

with 10 points.

"I thought Alyssa Cottrell and Sara Schmitt did a great job defensively on their leading scorer, Jordan Mueller," Samulski added. "And Robyn Mack did a really nice job running the point for us."

Canton led from the get-go and never looked back, building leads of 14-9 after one quarter and 24-13 at the break.

The Chiefs padded their advantage to 36-20 with eight minutes to play.

Canton nailed six of nine free throws while the Marlins misfired on all six of their shots from the charity stripe.

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

# Klonowski the hero in Plymouth's win

Stacey Klonowski sent the Plymouth girls basketball fans home happy Tuesday night when she converted a put-back with less than four seconds to play to lift the Wildcats over Southgate Anderson, 38-37.

Klonowski, who finished with eight points and six rebounds, grabbed the rebound following a missed Kelsi Robinson jumper and the ball into the hoop to cap an exciting non-conference game.

Senior center Shaakira Haywood played a pivotal role in the Wildcats' victory, too, netting 16 points and seven rebounds.

Becca Jarvis led the Titans with 16 points.

Plymouth trailed, 22-14, at the half.

# Double dose of drama Salem falls to Cougars in 20T

#### BY ED WRIGHT Observer staff writer

In a game overflowing with intensity and tenacity, it was only fitting that the most intense and tenacious player on the court in Tuesday night's thrill-a-minute showdown between Salem and Garden City made the loudest impact.

That would be Garden City senior guard Ronald Pummill, who was the ring-leader of the Cougars' high-drama 80-76 triumph over the host Rocks.

Pummill not only poured in a game-high 25 points — 15 were the result of five long-range triples — he repeatedly fired up his teammates and the large contingent of "Cougar Crazies" on hand with enthusiasm-injecting fist pumps and loose-ball-chasing floor dives.

"He's fearless," said Garden City head coach Greg Williamson, in reference to his wiry and fiery 6-foot-2, 175-pound senior captain. "With all due respect to Ron, he's not the quickest athlete out there, but he compensates in other



# Moss rolls in Wildcat cagers' win

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER\*

Once Southgate Anderson's basketball team realized it wasn't going to stop Plymouth's Justin Moss Tuesday night, the Titans attempted to at least contain him.

That didn't work very well either. Moss, only a sophomore, had a career night in the Wildcats' 45-40 road victory. The 6-foot-6 center exploded for 15 points, 10 rebounds, five blocked shots and two steals.

"Southgate came out in a man-toman defense and they couldn't stop (Moss)," said Plymouth coach Tom VanWagoner. "After a while, they switched to a zone to try and slow it down. Justin played a great game."

Another sophomore — Mike Nadratowski — also turned in a stellar effort for the winners, registering



#### Martin nominated

Plymouth High School senior Connor Martin has been nominated to win the Old Spice Red Zone Player of the Year award.

This past fall, Martin anchored the Wildcats' defense from his middle-linebacker position, earning All-KLAA honors as well as first-team All-Observer accolades.

As a result of being nominated, Martin is among a select group of players who are eligible to be honored in a fullpage feature in USA Today in February.

For the eighth straight year, Old Spice<sup>®</sup> is recognizing high school football players who go above and beyond the call of duty, particularly in athletes who are able to elevate their play and step up when the heat is really on. These athletes embody leadership, performance and desire, and serve as examples to their teammates on

and off the field. Martin is also eligible to be named one of 50 national Players of the Year. The top 50 players nationwide will be named Red Zone Players of the Year and will receive a plaque

ways. He's a great leader and our best shooter." The victory improved Garden City's record to

4-1 while Salem slipped to 1-3.

The contest's early hero was Rock junior guard Blake Hayes, who made quite a first impression in his first career varsity start.

Hayes, who suffered a five-stitch gash on his chin after absorbing an inadvertent elbow in gym class earlier in the day, hurt the Cougars by scoring all 13 of the Rocks' first-quarter points before tacking on four more in the second stanza.

Due in part to a defensive adjustment made by Williamson, who assigned Pummill to check Hayes after the half, Hayes cooled down after the intermission, but still finished with a teamhigh and career-high 22 points.

"Blake definitely has the ability to score," said

Please see HOOPS, B2

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Blake Hayes drives through Garden City defenders Bryan Grace (left) and Chris Crawford Tuesday evening for two of his 22 points. The Rocks lost, 80-76, in double-overtime. 10 points two assists and two steals.

Nadratowski and senior forward Brad Lineberry put the win on ice by each swishing a pair of clutch free throws in the final minute.

The victory evened Plymouth's record at 2-2 while the Titans fell to 1-4.

"The most important thing about this game was that we finished what we started," said VanWagoner, whose team led 11-8 after one quarter, 18-16 at the half and 28-24 with eight minutes to play. "Once we got the lead, we never trailed after that. We made the plays we needed to make to win."

Nick Horiatis and Mike Kozar both scored 13 points to lead the Titans.

# Guelph overcomes early deficit to upend Whalers

The Plymouth Whalers led 3-1 after one period of play over Guelph on Saturday night at Compuware Arena, but then the Whalers ran into a second-period Storm, when Guelph responded with three unanswered goals to build a 4-3 lead en route to a 5-4 victory.

Guelph improved to 22-13-2-3; Plymouth is now 17-18-4-0.

Whalers rookie forward Myles McCauley scored on Guelph goaltender Jake Fischer just 1:13 into the game for his third goal of the season.

Guelph captain Matt Kennedy led the Storm attack with a goal (17th) and two assists to earn the game's first star honors.

Peter Holland (18th), Tim Priamo (7th), Luke Pither (16th) and Nathan Martine (1st) also scored for Guelph.

Plymouth received single goals from McCauley (3rd), Beau Schmitz (3rd), Ryan Hayes (12th) and Patrick Lee (10th). Vern Cooper registered three assists and AJ Jenks contributed a pair of helpers.

The Whalers snapped a 1-1

tie late in the first period on an extended two-man advantage on goals from Schmitz at 16:49 (snap-shot high slot) and Hayes at 17:39 (one-timer from the lower rim of the left circle) to lead 3-1 after 20 minutes.

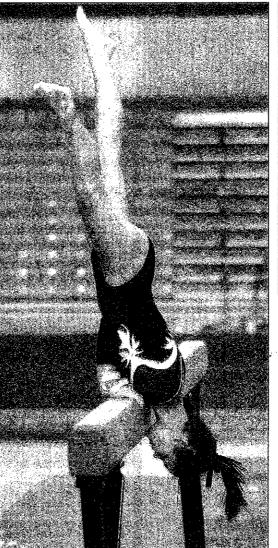
But Guelph came right back early in the second period with a three-goal flurry in the span of 2:13 to take their first lead of the game.

Guelph outshot Plymouth, 16-3, in the second period and led 4-3 after 40 minutes.

Martine gave Guelph a 5-3 lead at 2:20 of the third period with a one-timer from the high slot. Plymouth pressured in the period and got one back on Lee's wrap around at the left post at 14:52 to cut the Guelph lead to 5-4.

The Storm outshot Plymouth, 31-26.

Plymouth is on the road this week, playing in Kingston on Friday, Belleville on Saturday and Ottawa on Sunday before returning home on Friday, Jan. 16, against Barrie at 7:05 p.m. at Compuware Arena.





# Epitome of concentration

Plymouth's Alisha Punjabi (above) and Salem's Katie Koetting (left) focus on the task at hand during Saturday's Salem Invitational gymnastics meet at Plymouth High School. Unfortunately, results of the competition were not available as of Tuesday night's deadline.

#### and other awards. Ex-Rock harriers

#### excel at WSU

Dan Kapadia and Kevin deBear, both graduates of Salem High School, played major roles in the Wayne State University men's cross country team's 12th place finish at the NCAA Division II Championships held in Slippery Rock, Pa., in November.

Kapadia, a junior, placed 59th in 32:48 while deBear, a freshman, finished in 86th place with a clocking of 33:16.

#### **Pistons clinic**

The Detroit Pistons Youth Basketball Clinic will be coming to Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville on Saturday, Jan. 31.

Coach Steve Moreland returns for the 10th consecutive year.

The first session for boys and girls, grades one-three, runs from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The second session for boys and girls, grades four-six, runs from noon to 2:30 p.m.

The cost is \$20 per child. Each participant will receive an authentic "Piston Basketball" T-shirt free.

Plus, parents will be able to purchase Piston tickets to a game at a special discount and have their entire family attend the pregame "shoot around" at courtside. For preregistration and church location, contact Margy Burkhart at (248) 374-5932 or margy. burkhart@wardchurch. org.

### LOCAL SPORTS



(CP)

BZ

Salem coach Bob Brodie. "He's a good shooter and tonight he got some points inside even though he's not a real big guy.

"Overall, our half-court offense was not very effective tonight and theirs was. They did a good job of moving the ball around then kicking it out to number 23 (Pummill) and number 40 (Bryan Grace), who killed us with the threes. We had some good individual efforts tonight, but we did not play well as a team."

Grace added 20 for the winners, who were also bolstered by the blue-collar effort of senior center Kevin Burek, who tallied eight points and seven boards.

"Kevin didn't have the big numbers, but he had a lot to do with us winning tonight," said Williamson.

Garden City senior point guard Chris Crawford not only excelled at distributing the rock through the Rocks, he netted 16 points, six of which came during the final 2:36 of the second OT.

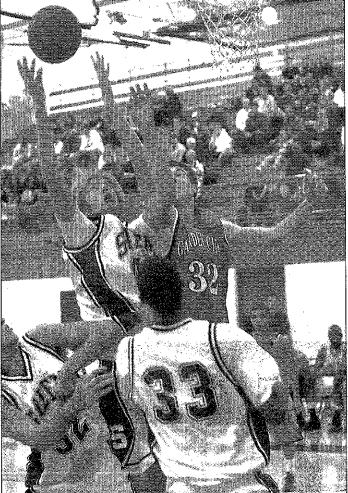
Hayes sealed his memorable first half by executing a stealand-lay-up with one second left to stake the Rocks to a 33-26 advantage.

Salem inflated its biggest lead to 37-28 early in the third quarter on a pair of Heath Parling free throws, but the Cougars clawed back to 47-46 at the end of the quarter.

The remainder of the game was about as much fun as a weekend-long stay at Cedar Point as the lead changed hands seven times over the final 16 minutes.

A three-point dagger from Grace with 2:15 left in regulation put the Cougars up 59-56, but Salem's Joe Posler countered with an oldfashioned three-point play 18 seconds later to knot the score at 59-all.

Fifty-six seconds later, Posler's driving layup gave Salem a 61-59 lead, which vanished on Garden City's



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Jake Peterson and Garden City's Kevin Burek battle for a rebound during Tuesday night's match-up.

ensuing possession when Burek's put-back evened things up again.

Salem called a timeout with 32 seconds left in regulation, but Parling was forced to force an off-balance 17-footer as the buzzer sounded.

The Cougars jumped to a 66-61 edge in the first two minutes of the first overtime thanks to a Pummill three and an inside hoop from Burek, but Salem retaliated with a three from Jimmy Dexter and a steal and layup from Posler to pull to within 68-66 with 30.7 seconds left.

After the Cougars misfired on the front end of a one-andone free throw opportunity with 16 seconds left, senior guard Anthony Mullins forced a second OT with a driving layup through the heart of the GC defense with 0:01 left.

Junior center Jake Peterson gave Salem a 70-68 lead with a put-back one minute into the final overtime, however, the Cougars countered with a 12-3 run over the next 2:52 to seal the win.

Posler netted 15 points and eight boards for Salem while Dexter added 14 points and 10

Mullins (11 points) and rebounds) both played well in

lar for the winners, chipping with nine points and 30-plus minutes of hustle.

down 10 of 17 freebies (58.8).

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# Slow start dooms Chiefs in low-scoring setback to RU

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Entering Tuesday's varsity boys basketball contest against visiting Canton, the game plan designed by Redford Union head coach Brett Steele was pretty simple.

Limit the damage done by Chiefs' sophomore point guard Deitrich Lever, who earlier this season helped trigger a 73-66 victory over Ferndale.

The game plan worked to perfection as the Panthers (3-1) held Lever to just seven points while earning a 42-32 nonconference triumph. Canton (2-1) managed just six points in the first half. "They're very good with drill penetration, especially the sophomore kid Lever," Steele said. "We knew that we could not allow him to get going.

... Lever's really good with the basketball, he made a lot of threes against Ferndale but we thought that was the lesser of two evils: Don't let him penetrate and create for others." Canton head coach Dan Colligan credited RU's defensive savvy in holding down his

squad. "I give a lot of credit to Redford Union for halting our rhythm," Colligan said. "They are so good at making sure you're efficient on offense. "And defensively, this is one of the best teams in the area every year and they knew

exactly what they had to do." Canton also played well on defense, especially center George Muresan, who grabbed six rebounds and blocked RU senior center Leonard Wernette-Leff twice during the Chiefs' excellent third quarter.

#### WORTH REMEMBERING

In that frame, a 9-0 Canton burst opened up the third, with guard Kyle Biega nailing two treys and guard Marlan Green hitting another.

Canton outscored the Panthers 13-6 to trail just 20-19 entering the fourth.

"To be a real good, solid team, you can't relax," said Steele referring to Canton's run, which quickly erased the Panthers' halftime edge. "Especially with the way we play the game. So that was a good lesson learned."

Canton went up 23-20 early in the fourth on back-to-back buckets by Green (7 points) and Sherif Hassanien.

But Wernette-Leff (13 points) broke loose for a basket inside the paint and that seemed to get the RU offense back on track.

Senior guard Anthony Wash (17 points) connected on a couple layups with about five minutes to go to give RU a 26-23 lead and the Panthers did not relinquish it the rest of the

Helping seal the victory for RU (3-1) was tenacious play all over the floor by senior point guard Julian Rivera (5 points) and dead-on foul shooting by Wash, who hit eight of eight attempts in the fourth.

ers have to do," Steele said. "Leonard and Anthony are going to have to, as we say, tote the mail all year long.

"And I thought Julian Rivera was outstanding, he made a couple terrific penetration plays."

Rivera's ability to make the most out of every possible possession in the fourth, when the Chiefs got into early foul trouble, proved "essential to our victory," the coach continued.

Also chipping in for the Panthers were seniors Matt Macek and Quentin Peterson, who each connected on triples.

Canton's Colligan, meanwhile, said his team ran out of quality scoring opportunities against RU's defensive pressure.

"We're a shooting team, and when we're shooting jump shots sometimes they're going to be in or they're going to be out," he explained. "It came down to getting possessions, trying to get as many possessions as possible and get enough shots to take back the lead.

"Basketball is a game of runs, and once you make that run and get over, it's hard to keep it. Our team is working on doing that."

Steele said the win gives his team some momentum entering Friday's Mega White opener at Wyandotte Roosevelt, last season's league champs. "We're looking forward to that challenge."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

"That's what our senior play-

# Ex-Rock Langham leads Ocelots over St. Clair

#### BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Eight is more than enough for Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team, which methodically breezed to Saturday's 79-50 victory over visiting St. Clair County.

Sparking the No. 7-ranked Lady Ocelots (10-2, 3-0 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association) to another conference victory were sophomore forward and Plymouth Salem product Tayler als and qualify for the national tournament.

"Our style of play is perfect for her," Lafata noted. "She's like the Energizer Bunny, she just goes, goes, goes. You know, when we get a rebound and our point guard gets the ball, she (Langham) is our first look.

Having just eight players, meanwhile, isn't an issue with Lafata, who isn't worried about fatigue setting in.

"I have eight players that are in great shape, they love to run chip away at the double-digit

utes or so to help Schoolcraft take a 45-26 halftime lead.

"I think our first half really set the tone," said Lafata, listing spèed, defensive pressure "and our ability to get out and finish and get the ball to where it needs to be" as factors.

The Lady Ocelots also were strong near the basket and zoomed to their defensive posts elsewhere on the floor, leaving the Skippers to errantly throw up too many shots to

In the second half, the

more energy, with freshman

guards Jessica Stevenson (9

points) and Chanahl Putnam

steals) and freshman forward

Charmaine Blessett (8 points, 8 boards) combining to key a

But the closest St. Clair

with about 17 minutes left.

for Schoolcraft were turned

in by freshman forward and

plug guard Angela Burrell (3

"Overall, I'll give the game

points, 5 boards, 4 assists).

a B-plus and go from there,'

Southfield-Lathrup alum

Amber Avery (8 points, 7 rebounds) and freshman spark-

could get was 18 points (49-31)

Other solid performances

Skippers came out with

(14 points, 5 rebounds, 6

deficit.

brief rally.



rebounds. Peterson (four points, nine reserve roles.

Demetrius Burton was stel-

Garden City connected on 21 of 27 free throws (77.7 percent) while the Rocks knocked



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Langham (17 points) and freshman center April Goins, who tallied a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

They were augmented by sophomore point guard Brittany Collins' 14 points (along with five boards, five assists and five steals) and sophomore forward Sherav Brown (10 points, 11 rebounds).

"We lost some people so everybody was tired," said Langham, referring to ineligible players reducing the team's 12-player roster (as listed on handouts at Schoolcraft) to eight. "But we just did what we always do. It was a good game." Langham - fresh off a 42point performance Dec. 21

against Glendale in Arizona is one of the major reasons why Schoolcraft head coach Karen Lafata is very optimistic that the Lady Ocelots can take care of the conference and region-

ty shot with only 1:05 remain-

ing and Dan Bostick tallied an

empty-netter off the ensuing

face-off to give the Chargers a 6-4 boys hockey win Tuesday

night over host Salem at the

Plymouth Cultural Center.

with an assist as Churchill

of the Kensington Lakes

Brent Mishowski tallied a

pair of power-play goals along

improved to the 2-3-2 overall

and 2-1-2 in the South Division

and that's what we're going to do. ... At the Ju-Co level, a lot of teams only have eight or nine players."

Against St. Clair (7-6, 1-2), Schoolcraft's speed, toughness and defensive pressure all over the floor sparked an early surge that the Skippers had no answer for.

Langham stole an in-bounds pass in the St. Clair end and sank a hook shot from inside the paint to make it 19-6 with 11:20 to go in the first half, and Brown followed up with a bucket.

With about nine minutes remaining, Langham went to work again.

She tallied back-to-back layups within seconds and suddenly it was 25-9.

The 6-0 Goins, who Lafata said can "jump out of a gym," took it from there by scoring 10 points over the final eight min- tsmith@hometownlife.com

Salem icers fall to Churchill, 6-4

Drew Sieber also scored twice for the Chargers, who led

2-0 after one period. Ryan Cioch had the other goals, while Steven Kilsz, Alex Smythe and Bostick each contributed two assists. Stefan Kubas also had a helper.

Salem, which drops to 1-4-2 in the Kensington Conference's South Division, rallied with four goals in the second period - one each by Sam Ott, Mike Hochkins, Ed Nadorowicz and Kyle Powell.

Lafata said.

"We had a great first period," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We've been struggling to score goals and we played more wide open and Salem took advantage in the second period. Then we did a good job of clamping down in the third period.'

Motta stopped 8-of-12 shots, but none bigger than Ott's penalty shot attempt.

Adam Powers had 21 saves for the Rocks.

**BOYS BASKETBALL** Friday, Jan. 9 Detroit Urban Lutheran at PCA, 7:30 p.m. Canton Agape at Luth. South, 7:30 p.m. W.L. Central at Canton, 7 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL Friday, Jan. 9 Calvary Christian at PCA, 5:30 p.m Canton Agape at Luth. South, 6 p.m. Canton at Northville, 7 p.m. Plymouth at Novi, 7 p.m. Franklin at Salem, 7 p.m. PREP GIRLS HOCKEY Friday, Jan. 9 PCS at Liggett at McCann Arena, 4:30 p.m Saturday, Jan. 10 W.L. Western at PCS at Arctic Edge 8 n m PREP BOYS HOCKEY Friday, Jan. 9 Riverview Gabriel Richard at Cantor

THE WEEK AHEAD at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m. South Lyon at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m. Livonia Franklin at Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 7 p PREP WRESTLING Saturday, Jan. 10 Canton at Catholic Central Invite, 9 a.m. Salem at Adrian "8" Tournament, 10 a.m. Plymouth Wildcat Team "8" Invite, 10 a.m. PREP GYMNASTICS Thursday, Jan. 8 Plymouth at Livonia Blue, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 Canton at Rockford Invite, 8 a.m. **BOYS SWIMMING** Thursday, Jan. 8 Canton at Franklin, 6:30 p.m. Salem at Northville, 6:30 n m Friday, Jan. 9 umseh Invite. TB/ Plymouth at Tec Saturday, Jan. 10

**Rock Kilgore Invitational** at Salem, noon Plymouth at Tecumseh Invite TB/ **MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL** Monday, Jan. 5 Schoolcraft at Flint Mott CC, 7:30 p.m Wednesday, Jan. 7 Indiana Tech at Madonna, 7:30 p.m Kirkland CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 Cornerstone at Madonna, 3 p.m. Schoolcraft at Wayne Co. CC. 3 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Monday, Jan. 5 Schoolcraft at Flint Mott CC, 5:30 p.m Wednesday, Jan. 7 Kirtland CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m. Madonna at Indiana Tech, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 Madonna at Cornerstone, 1 p.m. Schoolcraft at Wayne Co. CC, 3 p.m

Livonia Churchill goaltender Activities Association. Adrian Motta stopped a penal-

### LOCAL SPORTS

# Canton gymnasts display potential in early-season triumph

Considering it's early January, his team was coming off a two-week holiday break and it had just one meet under its belt, Canton gymnastics coach John Cunningham was more than pleased with the Chiefs' 138.725-point effort Tuesday night.

The veteran mentor was even more pleased with his team's seven-point victory over Salem, which registered 131.600 points in its seasonopening dual meet.

"The girls did some very good things out there tonight — there is so much potential on this team," said Cunningham. "We had six exgymnasts there tonight with their parents, and

FOR A VEHICLE FROM THE

Manufacturer

after the meet they told me, 'Your team looks really good this year.' That was nice to hear, but I think we're going to be a lot better as the year goes on.

'The most important thing to understand was that this was Salem's first meet and it was our second, although we were missing a lot of our team against Vassar, so, technically, it was our first meet as well. Both teams will only get better.

Canton sophomore Robyn Piwowar picked up where she left off last year as she took allaround honors with 36.373 points, edging Salem's Katie Koetting, who racked up 35.60.

Piwowar won the vault with a score of 9.05 before tying Koetting for the top spot on the beam with a 9.175.

Canton's Cathy Huang captured first-place points on the uneven bars with a 9.3 while Koetting took gold in the floor-exercise competition with a 9.525.

Cunningham also noted the strong efforts of "B" team members Katelyn Rutherford, who scored an 8.5 on the vault; Lauren Martin, who notched an 8.35 on the vault and 8.275 on the beam; and Sam Buford and Brittany Granowicz, who earned 8.05's on the beam.

#### CANTON 138.725 SALEM 131.600 Tuesday at Plymouth H.S.

**B**3

(CP)

VAULT: 1. Robyn Piwowar (C), 9.05; 2. Nicole Jacobs (S), 9.0; 3. Kali Pierce (C), 8.8; 4. Cathy Huang (C), 8.575; 5. Alex Hamric (C), 8.55; 6.

(tie) Marina Milad (C) and Mallory Hudak (C), 8.5
(tie) Warina Milad (C) and Mallory Hudak (C), 8.5
(UNEVEN BARS: 1. Cathy Hudag (C), 9.3; 2. Robyn Piwowar (C), 8.8;
3. Katie Koetting (S), 8.7; 4. Nicole Jacobs (S), 8.05; 5. Mallory Hudak (C), 7.9; 6. Marina Milad (C), 7.7.

(C), 7.9; 6. Marina Milad (C), 7.7. BALANCE BEAM: 1. (tie) Robyn Piwowar (C) and Katie Koetting (S), 9.175; 3. Nicole Jacobs (S), 9.0; 4. Alex Hamric (C), 8.575; 5. Kasey Winczkowski (S); 6. Mallory Hudak (C), 8.2. FLOOR EXERCISE: 1. Katie Koetting (S), 9.525; 2. Robyn Piwowar (C), 9.35; 3. Mallory Hudak (C), 9.225; 4. Cathy Huang (C), 8.8; 5. Alex Hamric (C), 8.65; 6. Kali Pierce (C), 8.3. ALL-BOUND 1. Robus Piwowar (C), 26, 275; 2. Katie Koatting

ALL-AROUND: 1. Robyn Piwowar (C), 36.375; 2. Katie Koetting (S), 35.6; 3. Cathy Huang (C), 34.225; 4. Mallory Hudak (C), 33.825; 5. Nicole Jacobs (S), 33.6; 6. Kali Pierce (C), 32.525.

OVERALL RECORDS: Canton, 2-0; Salem, 0-1

#### **LOCAL PERSONALITIES GO HEAD TO HEAD** E-TIELON FREMELY Ron Fruciano Ronnie Williams Tom Flory Jon Bond Keith Lang Bob Faust Mason Gator Jeff Lesson Anderson Jack Demmer Shelton Pontiac WGPR Friendly WVMV CBS Tennyson Perfect 97.1 Radio **Chrysler** Jeep **Buick GMC** Ford Floors Radio Radio Radio Chevrolet 4-0 2-2 2-2 2-2 2-2 3-1 2-2 2-2 1-3 152-76 145-83 138-90 143-85 147-81 151-77 146-82 141-87 143-85 Tennessee Tennessee Tennessee Tennessee Tennessee Tennessee Baltimore Tennessee Tennessee Carolina Carolina Carolina Carolina Carolina Carolina Carolina Carolina Carolina **New York Giants New York Giants New York Giants** New York Giants **New York Giants New York Giants New York Glants New York Giants New York Giants** Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Perfect floors 2008 Savings discover the demmer difference You'll Always Be TANNACIA **PAYMENTS** Miles Ahead AL.../ CHEVROLET action Parts SALES • PARTS • SERVICE • LEASING • 2009 FORD 🕅 Same as Cash **FUSION SE Fwd** CARPET • VINYL • HARDWOOD • LAMINATE AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BERBERS **36 Month Lease** PLUSHES DENSE/DURABLE PLUSHS 199 Choose Proze Many Colors Installist with FREE Basey Pad Sq. Pt. OUR MOST POPULAR BERBE ALL DEALERS PAY THE SAME A/Z Plan \$719



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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2009 Philadelphia at New York Giants** San Diego at Pittsburgh

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

#### JANUARY

#### **Clothing still needed**

The senior highs' clothing drive at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton has been extended through Friday, Jan. 9, Warm clothing, blankets and toiletries may be dropped off at the church on Sheldon, north of Ford Road, in Canton. Items will be delivered to needy people at Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit.

#### Thursday forum

Sponsoring a program presented by Harry T. Cook (Episcopal minister, journalist, author, and frequent lecturer in metropolitan Detroit) 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, northwest corner of Woodward and Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. Admission \$10, students free. Reservations not required. His lecture topic is "Religion in the Public Square: An American Conundrum: What's A Secular Democracy To Do?" (From Sarah Palin's promise to run for President in 2012 "if it is God's will" to the Church of Summun and It's Aphorisms).

#### Benefit dinner

Swiss steak dinner 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, in Guthrie Hall at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, Eat in or carry out. Cost is \$8 adults, \$4 for mac n'cheese for children. Proceeds ao to support homeless ministry. Call (734) 422-0149 for reservation or purchase tickets at the door.

#### Time change

Worship is 9:30 a.m. Sunday, at Faith Luthéran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. Learning

#### hour is at 8:15 a.m. for all ages. For more information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

#### Group support for widowed

Widowed Friends of the AOD offer a grief support program, Grief Recovery, It began Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009 at Our Lady of Loretto Parish, 17116 Olympia, Redford. The six-week series meets 1-2:30 p.m. and offers information about grief, coping with loneliness, making it on your own and other issues related to the loss of a spouse. A \$20 fee covers all materials, payable at the first meeting. To register, call Joan at (248) 478-1084.

#### **Special needs Bible class**

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend our new Open Arms Bible Class from 7-8 p.m., beginning Monday, Jan. -12, at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. The class will be held on the second Monday of every month and will include songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun. Registration is limited. Contact Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to elc-ed@ arounddetroit.biz.

#### Mobile food pantry

Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Church is partnering with Gleaners Community Food Bank to offer a mobile food pantry for those in need Saturday, Jan. 17. Recipients must register between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday, Jan. 13-15, by calling (734) 459-9557 for a pick up time.

#### ENDOW

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia will host two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Course VI, called "Salvifici Doloris" addresses the Christian meaning of suffering: Based on the writing of

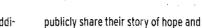
### **RELIGION CALENDAR**

Pope John Paul II, this is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays beginning Jan. 13, in the convent \*meeting room. Based on Pope John Paul II's "Mulierus Dignitatem" (On the Dignity and Vocation of Women), the Course Il group, will meet 7-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays beginning Jan. 22, in the Convent Meeting Room behind the rectory, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Women of all ages and faiths are welcome. There is a \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay, Register by calling (734) 261-1455, ext. 207 or online at www.endowon-

line.com. 🗯 St. Aidan Catholic Church also offers ENDOW. The eight-session course will focus on the ideas about human beings and God that St. Thomas Aquinas explores in his work Summa Theologiae, 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, to March 5, in the parish office conference room at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$60 for materials. Registration required. Visit www.endowonline.com or call (734) 425-5950. Facilitator is Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or mtschmidt@sbcolobal.net.

#### He forgives you

The Gospel of Life Committee of St. Michael the Archangel Church invites the public to attend a special program, "He Forgives You," featuring Mary Lockwood, a former corporate executive and local woman who has had multiple abortions, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, in the cafeteria of St. Michael the Archangel School, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. For information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200, or visit www. livoniastmichael.org. As a practicing Catholic, Lockwood experienced the profound love and mercy of God and she and her husband have begun to



#### forgiveness. Couples prayer series

7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, to Feb. 18, at St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia. Cost is \$55 per couple. Those unable to pay because of financial difficulty may register and join the group. To register, visit www. coupleprayer.org or send e-mail to davidjconrad@staidanlivonia.org. The six-week Couples Prayer Series is for married or engaged couples, and designed to nurture a life-long pattern of sharing daily prayer together. **Bethany Singles** 

Bethany Suburban West meets at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Leon's, 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy at (734) 513-9479.

Bethany North Oakland plans a dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Jan. 17, at St. Daniel's, 7010 Valley Park Drive, Clarkston. Admission \$12, includes beer, wine and refreshments. For information, call Tim at (248) 891 8938.

🔳 Sunday, Jan. 18, at No-Taps Bowling at Oak Lanes, 8450 Middlebelt, south of Joy, Westland. Cost is \$15, includes three games of bowling, pizza and prizes. Spectators and cheerleaders will pay \$5 for pizza. Games will start at 2 p.m., registration by 1:30 p.m. For details contact either Kathy at (734) 513-9479 or Judy at (734) 261-5630. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry, Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths. Worship service

#### The Wayne-Westland Ministerial Association will sponsor a worship service to remember the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 18, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. There will be a combined choir from several churches led by Steve Holbrook. The preacher for the evening will be the Rev. Mike Wilson of the New Beginnings Church in Wayne. The public is invited. For more information call Neil Cowling at the Kirk of Our Savior, at (734) 728-1088.

#### All-you-can-eat pancakes

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

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

Sundays 8 a.m. worship; 9 a.m. Adult Faith Forum, 10 a.m. worship service, Sunday School and Nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414

#### Sunday school

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

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

#### Parkinson Support

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

#### **Overeaters Anonymous**

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

#### **Mid-week Service**

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

#### New worship schedule

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

Reformed Protestantism are preached by the Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton.

For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean.humby@att.net, or visit www.members.aol.com/rsiworship/detroit.html.

#### Sanskrit chanting

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

#### Church schedule

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

#### **Single Place Ministry**

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

#### **Prince of Peace Church**

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

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#### Tai Chi and strength classes Orchard United Methodist Church

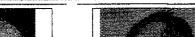
is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes.

The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drop-ins welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org. Tai Chi class

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



**DENNIS L. MARSHALL** January 3, Age 67 of Garden City. father of Erik Marshall and Yvette (Jim) Napolitano. Dear grandfather of Audrey & Liam Napolitano, Funeral services will be held Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Jackson Funeral Services, 352 E. South St., Wheatfield, IN. Visitation will be Friday from 2-8 pm. Please see: www.jacksonfuneral.com



#### www.hometownlife.com



#### PATRICIA A. McDONALD

January 4, 2009. Age 61. Dear sister of Michael and Bill (Kathy). Beloved aunt of Brian and Anne. Services were held Wednesday, Jan. 7 at St. Anastasia Church, Troy. Memorial tributes to Multiple Sclerosis Society, 21311 Civic Center Dr., Southfield, MI 48076 or Medical Motor Service, 608 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14620. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



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

#### **Deadlines:**

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

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

800-579-7355

ask for Jennifer or Charolette

0208579123

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7318 For more information call: Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7115 or Charolette Wilson 586-826-7082 or toll free

#### CHARLES W. MULHOLLAND

Age 86, of Birmingham died at home January 5, 2009. Mr. Mulholland was born February 19, 1922 in Royal Oak to parents Frank Mulholland and Mary Naomi Wright. Raised in Birmingham, Mr. Mulholland attended Baldwin High School. He was President of F.J. Mulholland Co. Department Store on Woodward Avenue until 1964 and eventually retired from Comerica Bank after a long and successful career. Mr. Mulholland was also a longtime member of the Birmingham Rotary Club and Holy Name Catholic Church and an avid train and railroad buff. He touched many lives and will be missed by all. Mr. Mulholland is survived by his loving siblings Frank W. (Kay) Mulholland and Mary Lou (Claude) Kidd and many nieces and nephews. Visitation at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Road (between 14-15 Mile Rds.) Thursday 4-8pm. Prayers 7pm. Funeral at Holy Church, 630 Harmon. Name Birmingham, Friday 10am. Friends may visit at church beginning at 9:30am. Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery, Royal Oak. Memorials appreciated to The Capuchins, 1820 Mt. Elliott Street, Detroit, Michigan 48207. Condolences at:

lynchfuneraldirectors.com

#### **GORDON C. RILEY**

Age 77, January 1, 2009. Beloved husband of the late Dolores. Dear father of Cynthia (Wayne) Cash, James (Kathryn), Kevin, and Constance Gregg. Grandfather of Jacob, Jonathan, Scott, Joshua, Jennifer, and Lucas. Brother of Lee (Clyde) Atkinson. Brother-in-law of Dorothy Hallman. Gordon proudly served his country in the U.S. Army and the Army National Guard. He was active in the Garden City Police Reserve, Wayne Co. Sheriff's Auxiliary and the Garden City Senior Center. Services were held. Memorials suggested to Garden City Hospital Heart-wing. Arrangements by Santeju and Son.

## May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

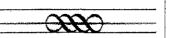


#### DOUGLAS J. MULLETT

Lost a courageous battle with Mantle Cell Lymphoma on January 5, 2009 at the age of 52. He fought the good fight and never surrendered. Beloved hus-band of Judy Cerett-Mullett. Loving father of Trevor, Brock, Chase and Cole. Dear son of Myron and Phyllis (Rupp) Mullett of Alliance, Ohio; and brother of Vicki (Greg) Vasto, Pam (Bruce) Hickinbotham, Cindy (John) Donelan and the late Greg Mullett. Mr. Mullett graduated from Mount Union College with a Bachelor's of Science in Geology, Wright State University with a Masters of Science in Geology, and Kent State University PhD. (abd) in Geology. He was employed by the Department of Natural Ohio Resources, Division of Geological Survey. Mr. Mullett was active in the Boy Scouts of America for the last 30 years in many capacities, including Den Leader and Cub Master for Pack 45 of Longacre Elementary. He was also the recipient of the honorary Wood Badge Award and the John Burroughs Nature Award: He was also the holder of the Fifth Year Pipestone Award through the Ohio Buckeye Council and was a member of the Order of the Arrow. He will be remembered for his kindness, gentle soul and devoted love for his wife and sons. A funeral service will be held Friday 11 am (in state 10:30 am) at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Visitation is Thursday 2-8 pm at THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, 33603 Grand River Ave. (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.), Downtown Farmington. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Mullett Boys Education Fund, c/o Citizens First Bank, 33205 Grand River Ave., Farmington, MI 48336. www.thayer-rock.com

#### PHYLLIS DUNWALL SMITH

Passed away at her home in Farmington, MI on January 3, 2009 after a second battle with stomach cancer. Born on June 20, 1923 in Belle Vernon, PA, she had raised her family in many states along with her husband Thomas Edward Smith who preceded her in death in 1998. She is survived by daughters: Eleanor, Marilyn, and Tammy, a son-in-law, six grandchildren, and nine greatgrandchildren. Per her request, there will be no services. Phyllis' ashes will be scattered on her beloved childhood farm in Pennsylvania. Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154-5010. www.thayer-rock.com



#### Dare to be holy

Parish Mission with Bill Wegner, conducted by Good News International. a Catholic lay ministry, 7 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday, Jan. 18-21, at St. Mel Parish, 7506 N. Inkster Road, Dearborn Heights, Refreshments, Offering will be taken. Special ses-

sion after 8:30 a.m. Mass Monday-Wednesday. For more information, call (313) 274-0684. **Clothing bank** 

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.noon on the fourth Saturday of each month (Jan, 24), at Canton Christian

Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley. For information, call (734) 404-2480,

visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

#### UPCOMING

#### **Bethany singles**

Dance, 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 7, in Redford. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Call Diane for information at (734) 261-5716.

Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Leon's 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City, 48135. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy at (734) 513-9479. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry, Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

#### Music at St. John's

Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

#### ONCOING

Caregiver's support group St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients

#### visit www.noiycrossiivonia.org Bible study

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

#### Time change

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

#### Wednesday activities

Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt, one block south of Six Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebraic Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore, For information, visit www. gcfellowship.org or call (734) 525-6019.

#### Thursday fellowship dinner

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

Eucharistic adoration

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

#### Worship schedule

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

The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive. The Web site is www. hischurch.us.

#### **Reformed Protestant services**

The doctrines and teachings of solid,

#### Thrift store

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

#### New schedule

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

#### Day of service

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

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

#### Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Chur tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Please see CALENDAR. B5

www.hometownlife.com

NLENDAR FROM PAGE B4

#### Worship service

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

#### F.I.R.E. ministries

With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

#### New worship schedule

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

#### Sunday worship

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

#### Worship services

10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox

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

#### Men's breakfast

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

#### **MOPS** meetings

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

#### MOPS groups

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

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

#### HeartCry

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

#### Women of the word

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

4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbcwomen.

#### **Bible study**

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

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

# Pilot program to ease in new pastor

#### **BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O&E STAFF WRITER**

It's never easy to move to a new town let alone a new church. Scott Sessler has done it twice before and he's happy this time to be part of a pilot program to help acquaint himself with the congregation.

Sessler accepted the call to **Emmanuel Lutheran Church** in Livonia in November last year and will be officially installed at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, but retiring Pastor Walt Dickinson isn't leaving just yet.

"There's usually an interim period of two years after a pastor retires and a new pastor comes in," said Sessler. "We're trying something

new, The retired pastor stays around. I think it makes it a little bit easier if there's someone there to help you, to fill you in on the church and you don't have to figure it out vourself. I've gotten to know Pastor Walt over the last several months and I'm looking forward to having a partner."

Dickinson has been pastor at Emmanuel since two Livonia churches – Sword

of the Spirit and Ascension Lutheran — merged in 1991, so he has years of experience not only at Emmanuel, but Sword of the Spirit where he served from 1974 until the church burned in 1990.

Three years ago he came up with a five-year transition plan for approval by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Southeast Michigan Synod.

"I wanted to give some stability in the transition and the bishop accepted it," said Dickinson, 66, of Livonia. "It gives us an opportunity to share a history of where we've been and gone. It's a volunteer position, no salary. It gives us teaching opportunities together, variety in preaching. I plan to be as helpful as he wants me to be.

'We don't want people to feel abandoned. If there's a wedding or funeral service they will have their choice."

#### CHARITABLE PROGRAMS

Sessler is not only looking forward to learning about his congregation, but reaching out to the community as well. The 42-year-old pastor had been active with Habitat Ichomin@hometownlife.com for Humanity, the Salvation

Army, afternoon school programs, food pantries, and homeless shelters during ministries at Ascension Lutheran in Saginaw and Good Shepherd in Manistee.

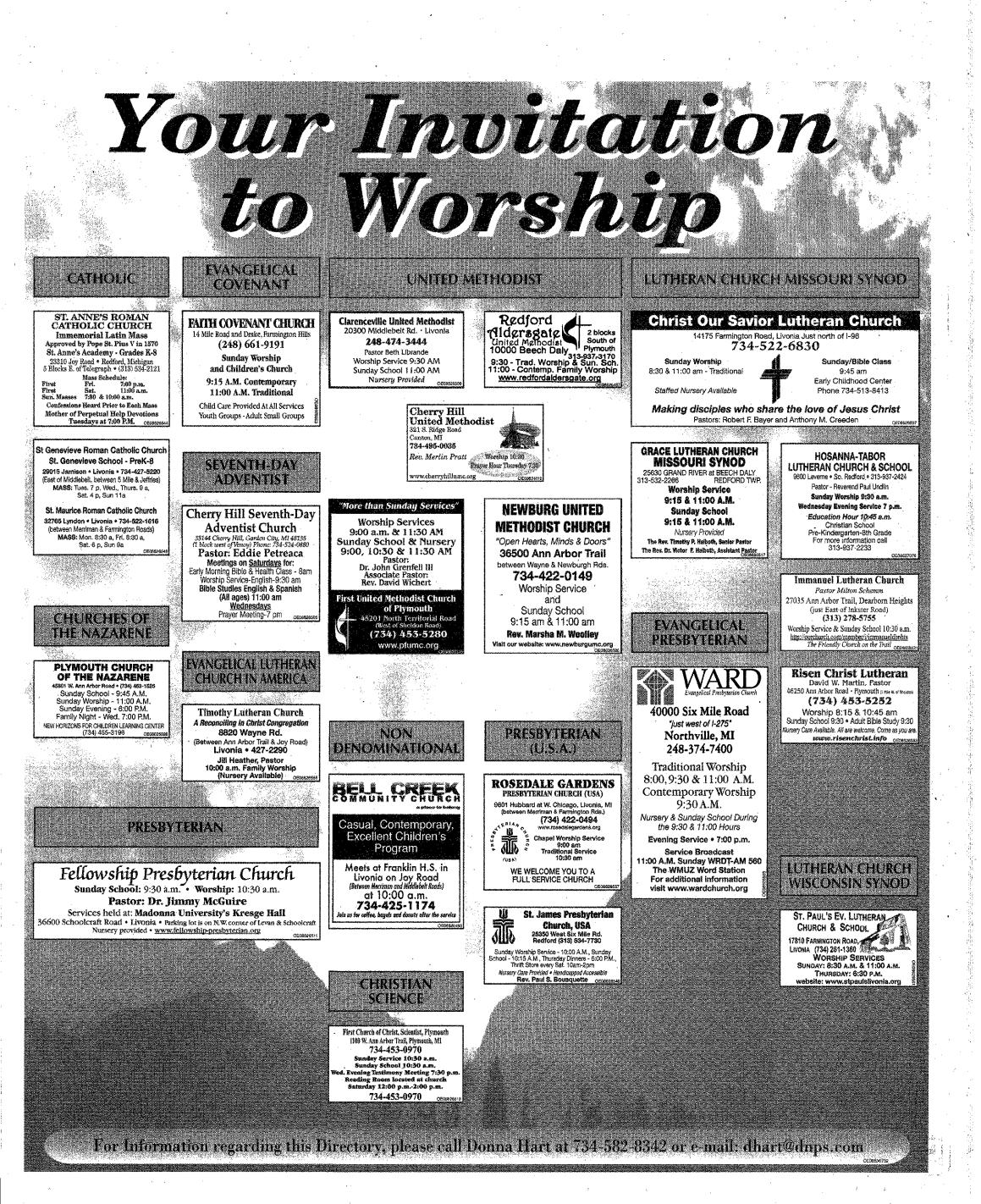
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He developed values early in life while growing up in a farm community in Sandusky where he attended a Lutheran church every Sunday. After earning a degree in Agricultural Economics from Ohio State, Sessler decided to go into the ministry. He graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary with a Master of Divinity. In 2004, he married Karen. They have two daughters, Isabella, 9 months, and Graciella, 2.

"I do a lot of things with Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, serve on the state wide board," said Sessler of Westland.

"It will be a little bit harder with the kids, but we'll eventually become involved. Previously Karen headed up the nursery and ran a book group at the church we were at. She's a kindergarten teacher by trade."

(313) 222-2241



**B6** 

Thursday, January 8, 2009

# Strictly Business

#### One-year anniversary

Mango's Fruit Market, owned by father and son Eddie and Hass Daibess, just celebrated its first anniversary. The 2,400-square-foot store, which is located at 7209 Canton Center Road and anchors the Westbrook Plaza, offers a wide selection of deli products, fruits and international foods. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call the store at (734) 416-5108.

#### Award of excellence

United Home Health Services, a home care company located in Canton, has been awarded Michigan's Quality Improvement Organization's Michigan Award of Excellence for improving care in the home health setting for improvement in transferring, which is a measurement of the percentage of patients who get better at getting in and out of bed. This acknowledges the

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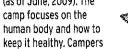
### BUSINESS MILESTONES

staff of UHHS for voluntarily embracing quality improvement initiatives and for their dedication and commitment to the well-being of patients. The staff, led by Linda Mlynarczyk, R.N., B.S.N., and Marlene Hamme, R.N., M.S.N., put together a multidisciplinary team. "We used nationally recognized standards of care to ensure that consistent care and evidence-based medicine and protocols were carried out to realize notable improvements in our patients' transfer ability," said Hamme. "We are proud of the advancements being made at United and of this prestigious award."

United Home Health Services is a notfor-profit, Medicare-certified home care agency that has been serving this community for 25 years. They provide skilled nursing, therapy, home health aide, social work, and registered dietitian services in the comfort of your own home. For more information, call (734) 981-8820 or visit their Web site at

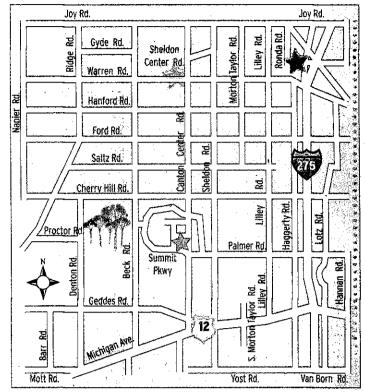
#### www.uhhs.org. Health Exploration day camp

The Saint Joseph Mercy Health Exploration Station At Saint Joseph Mercy Canton Health Center, 1600 S. Canton Center Road, Suite 10, is now enrolling students in its Amazing Me summer day camp, which will take place Aug. 3-7. The camp, which runs daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., is for students completing 2nd-5th grades (as of June, 2009). The camp focuses on the



will have fun and make friends while participating in hands-on and engaging demonstrations, dissections, games, crafts, activities and more. The cost is \$175, and scholarships are available. The Health Exploration Station is also open for individuals and families to tour on the fourth Thursdays of each month, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$1 for children and \$2 for adults. School groups can make reservations for health-related programs Monday -Friday and Scout troops are welcomed on Tuesday evenings. Call (734) 398-7518 or visit www.healthexplorationstation.com for more information. **Company relocates** 

Faro Screen Process, which has been in operation since 1970, has relocated to 41805 Koppernick in Canton. The family owned and managed business moved from Detroit to the 31,000-square-foot plant in Canton, which houses 11 screen printing presses. They can print with traditional solvent based inks or UV curable for maximum resolution. In addition, the shop has a skilled art department that combines artwork and layout with digital printing, vinyl graphics, and finishing work. To make it easier for clients to request estimates, place orders, check proofs, or transfer files online, Faro now has a Web site at www.faroscreen.com.



### BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

# Leading children to healthy lifestyle is pediatrician's goal

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

#### **CANTON PEDIATRICS**

Address: 6231 Canton Center Road, Suite 101, Canton, MI 48187. Your name: Dr. Meera Raghunathan, M.D., FAAP Your hometown: Canton/ Plymouth **Business opened when? August** 2005 Number of employees: 7 Your business speciality: Pediatrics Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays **Business phone/Web site:** (734)





BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

w.hometownlife.com

New Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy will speak to the Canton Business & Professional Women on Monday.

#### LaJoy to speak to business group

New Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy will be the guest speaker at the next Canton Business & Professional Women (BPW) meeting from 6-8:30 p.m. Jan. 12 at Palmero's Restaurant, 44938 Ford Road, Canton (located in the strip mall behind Murray's Auto Supply on the north side of Ford, east of Canton Center Road). Dinner will be served.

455-0800, (734) 455-0818 (fax)

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

Raghunathan: We provide general pediatric care, immunizations, urgent care, pediatric weight management and developmental pediatrics. We set up individualized plans for children seeking to either lose weight or condition for athletic events. Our goal is "Health Partnership," meaning we have tailor made action plans for children with chronic disabilities such as asthma, allergies, diabetes, learning challenges etc. Our children are actively involved in managing their own lifestyles. That responsibility and accountability makes the children healthy, well balanced adults, when they finally "graduate" from 115

In our current economic crisis, we also offer discounted services to patients who are uninsured. Observer: What makes your business unique?

Raghunathan: Our small size. We know our patients and their families individually, and are closely involved in all aspects of

#### Consumer Expo registration

The registration deadline for the 2009 Consumer Expo is Jan. 9. The event, which takes place from 5-7:30 p.m., Feb. 12 at Summit on the Park, helps local businesses network in the local community. To register for a booth, e-mail eventscoordinator@cantonchamber.com or call the Chamber office at (734) 453-4040.

#### **Chamber luncheon**

The Canton Chamber of Commerce will host its next business luncheon at 11 a.m., Jan. 14 at Summit on the Park. Learn how you can become more involved in the Chamber and how you can make the Chamber work for you. District Court Judge Mike Gerou will also BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. Meera Raghunathan (front) with staffers (from left) Shelly Voakes, medical assistant, Denise Boyle, certified nurse practitioner, and Kay Snell, receptionist. Denise Boyle's skills go beyond nursing. She painted the walls of the examination rooms and the waiting room – this one with a Curious George theme.

their well being. We are heavily invested in partnering with parents to produce healthy, happy and confident children. We are now "pediatric grand parents," meaning our original patients are now bringing their children to see us. We want to be their "partners in health." We were listed in the "Top 100 Pediatricians" for 2008. **Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?** 

Raghunathan: Being part of a large group took away from building up trusting relationships. We realized that parents wanted to see the same physician and nurse on each visit to the clinic to provide continuity of service. We are a handpicked group with a view to creating and maintaining an involved and committed childphysician-parent relationship. **Observer: How did you decide to locate** 

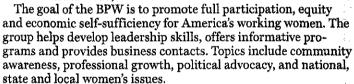
#### in the Canton community?

Raghunathan: I have lived in Canton since 1992. Most of our staff has lived in Canton for a number of years, and our children attend Plymouth Canton Community Schools. We provide mentoring services at local schools, and work with the staff of the local schools and local day cares to provide educational programs.

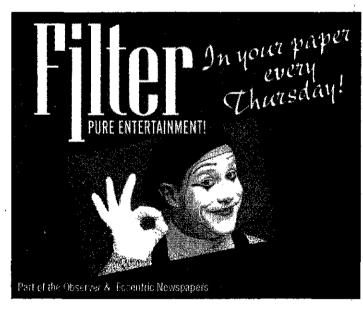
#### Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business owner?

Raghunathan: I could write a book with the number of funny comments kids make during their visits! It's truly a case of "out of the mouths of babes." One event sticks out in my memory. On Halloween day 2006, a bat accidentally flew into our business and was flapping all over the office. We were afraid it might be rabid and called the fire services. A fire truck showed up with the firemen desperately trying to get the bat out. The children had a great time and thought it was part of the Halloween entertainment.

We have individuallythemed examination rooms - with Disney themes such as Jungle Book, Winnie the Pooh, Curious George, etc. We also like to display the artwork of our patients. Some of our patients have even asked us if they can have their birthday parties in our offices.



For more information, contact June Nicholas at (313) 610-2561 or junenicholas@comcast.net. Please RSVP for this meeting.





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### CHAMBER CHAT

be swearing in the Chamber's 2009 Board of Directors. The luncheon is being sponsored by Bovitz, CPA, P.C. and Xuererb Snow PC. Reservations are required, call the Chamber office at (734) 453.4040. The cost of lunch is \$20.

#### After-hours mixer

The Chamber will host an after-hours mixer from 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15 at the Super Bowl of Canton, 45100 Ford Road.

There is no charge to attend. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. Reservations are required, call the Chamber office at (734) 453-4040.

#### Member orientation

The Chamber will host a member orientation meeting at

8:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Chamber office located on Hanford Road, just west of Canton Center. Reservations are required. Call the Chamber office at (734) 453-4040.

#### A night on ice

The Chamber will host "A Night On Ice" during the Plymouth Whalers vs. Sudbury hockey game, 7:05 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township. Families, groups, and co-workers are all invited to join the Canton Chamber of Commerce's Ambassadors. All kids 12 and under will be treated to a tour of the locker room immediately following the game.

Tickets cost \$11 each. Call the Chamber office for details and to register at (734) 453-4040.



# Realtors push for affordable mortgage rates

#### BY JULIE BROWN **O&E STAFF WRITER**

The National Association of Realtors – and local Realtors applaud recent actions by the Federal Reserve and the Treasury making mortgage interest rates more affordable. However, further action is needed to help the thousands of people trying to buy a home or to stem off foreclosure to get a mortgage easily and quickly, according to the association and local pros.

"Our members tell us that families are once again looking to enter the housing market only to find that delays, process and bureaucracy are getting in the way," said NAR President Charles McMillan, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Dallas-Fort Worth. "The federal government and the mortgage lending industry must address continuing problems that are impeding the delivery of mortgage credit to homebuyers and those trying to avoid foreclosure."

Local real estate pros are in wholehearted agreement with that assessment.

Associate broker Nanci J. Rands, of Sotheby's International Realty in Birmingham, said, "Absolutely. If we begin to work through the number of homes which are currently on the market, the inventory, we're going to see a salutary effect on the economy in general."

Rands noted just over 30 percent of dollars spent on purchase of a home above purchase price "is an amount which ends up rippling through the economy in general, a reason the housing market is so critical to the economy in general."

Many Michiganders can afford homes "at that interest rate who might not have been able to afford homes at an interest rate which is higher. These are not subprime mortgages," Rands said. "These would be conventional mortgages."

We have actually been quite busy," Rands said of colleagues. "There are a number of people who have made a commitment to staying in this area." Many have found it the best time to purchase a house.

"There are pretty remarkable val-



snow, we've got great opportunities for recreation." Many businesses Rands encounters are positioning themselves to be part of a Michigan comeback, which "for real estate is going to have lots of opportunities."

Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors outgoing President Gordon McCann agrees. "I think it's very important that affordable mortgage rates become affordable to all people," said McCann, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Schweitzer-Bake in Plymouth. Some had adjustable rate mortgages, McCann said, which caused problems.

"Each year the rate would go up a certain percent." In later years, the buyer faced escalating rates. "A conventional, long-term fixed rate is more advantageous. You have a fixed rate you pay every month.'

"For people buying it gives them peace of mind. They look at the market more positively," McCann said. He agreed with Rands it's an advantageous time to buy, "especially for the first-time homebuyer because there are some additional programs available to them." McCann sees a lot of activity, especially for this time of year. "As the rates go down more people are inquiring as to what they can purchase."

"I think the attitude out there of the consumer is starting to shift to a positive mode," McCann said. They're seeing possible 4 percent mortgages. "It's looking to be a good year."

In a letter to the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and copied to President-elect Barack Obama's transition team, NAR notes that in addition to lowering interest rates, the federal government must work with mortgage lenders and credit reporting agencies to eliminate processes that are making it difficult to close on a mortgage loan so that the housing market and the nation's economy can have a robust recovery.

"Now really is a great time to buy a home. Inventory is high, prices are down and mortgage rates are near 50-year lows. We have to unclog the system and let people achieve and hold on to the dream of homeownership," McMillan said.

NAR is recommending that the

Treasury Department provide addi-

tional TARP funds for the sole pur-

poses of making additional loans and

modifying mortgages to help prevent

38540 Lancaster Dr

29200 Marvin Rd

**HOMES SOLD** 

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foreclosures.

"The housing market is clogged with short-sales that take frustratingly too long to clear. Though lax underwriting standards should never return, many lenders' credit score requirements have become overly stringent. Good people with good credit scores are finding it difficult to qualify for loans despite the historically low mortgage rates," said McMillan.

NAR is asking mortgage lenders and mortgage insurers to make sure they have not over-corrected their underwriting standards and added unnecessarily strict underwriting standards, such as excessively high credit scores to qualify for a mortgage. In addition, credit reporting bureaus should improve compliance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act, including providing prompt responses to consumers who want to correct errors in their file.

Lastly, NAR is calling on all mortgage lenders, their servicers, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and investors in mortgage assets to implement aggressive policies that result in more loan modifications to prevent as many foreclosures as possible, expedited processes for short-sales, and added liquidity to the nonconforming mortgage market.

"If rates stay low at near 5 percent or lower, home sales could rise nationally by 10 to 15 percent in 2009 and stabilize prices in many parts of the country," said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "That, in turn, will help reduce foreclosure pressures and lower the rate of re-defaults on recently modified distressed loans. Improved loan modification tools are also necessary. Everyone needs to work together so this can become a reality.'

NAR continues to advocate for other measures that would help create longterm stability by ensuring that safe and affordable mortgages are available throughout the nation, including making the higher loan limits passed in the economic stimulus bill earlier this year permanent and extending the temporary \$7,500 tax credit for first-time homebuyers to all homebuyers and eliminating the repayment requirement.

The work is not yet finished, and NAR is committed to continuing its

# Taxman can be finicky

Q: I have a question about the principal residence exemption and what are the requirements in order to meet it as I have purchased a second home?

A: Michigan's General Property Tax Act provides the occupant owner of a principal residence with a principal residence exemption which exempts the owner from the 18-mill local school operating tax ordinarily



levied against non-homestead properties. To be eligible for the exemption, a taxpayer must file an

affidavit with the local tax collection unit

on or before May 1, and must own and occupy the residence on the date the affidavit is signed. An assessor may deny the exemption if he or she doesn't believe that the property is being used as a principal residence, at which time the taxpayer bears the burden of establishing entitlement to the exemption by a preponderance of the evidence. In order to qualify for a personal residence exemption, the statute does not require that the occupancy continue at all times; it is enough that the residence is in fact the taxpayer's principal residence. However, the payment of utility bills for the property and a check with the subject property address on it does not prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the property is being occupied as the principal residence. There needs to be more!

ues," said Rands, a past president of the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors, taking in Oakland and Macomb counties. "The decision to remain in our area is one which is buoyed up by the fact we've got good schools. Notwithstanding the

### BRIEFS

#### **Appraising & Staging**

Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or non-experienced people in the real estate field. 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.

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.

#### On board

Jerry Moyer, CPM, CCIM, a property manager at Broder & Sachse Real Estate Services, Inc., in Birmingham, has been named to the Michigan chapter board of the CCIM Institute, a global association for professionals involved in commercial real estate investment.

Moyer holds the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation, conferred by the CCIM Institute after a professional completes a minimum number of projects of a certain size, a series of advanced real estate investment courses, and an exam. These are residential real estate closings recorded Sept. 15-Wayne County Registe plus some from Oaklai are cities, addresses,

43282 Barchester Rd 50209 Black Horse Ln 7717 Chichester Ct 50453 Coolidge St 50467 Coolidge St 41575 Copper Creek Dr 3440 Empire State Dr 48711 Fifth Ave 44563 Forest Trail Dr 41460 Hanford Rd 2820 Hannan Rd 50165 Harding St 775 Harrison St 797 Harrison St 50072 Jackson Ln 50116 Jackson Ln 43679 Lotus Dr 1811 Maple Park Dr E 6663 Marshall St 41679 Metaline Dr 3526 Riverside Dr 131 Robyn Dr 7745 Rutherford Ct 265 Shana St 2207 Vanderbilt Rd 5843 Wedgewood Rd 41703 White Tail Ln Farmir 35844 Smithfield Ct Farmingt 37788 Amber Dr 36724 Dina Ct 30071 Fiddlers Grn 29294 Geraldine Ct

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\$238,000	34251 Six Mile Rd
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\$212,000	29741 Nottingham Cir
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\$192,000	4330 Heatherwood Dr
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\$190,000	19714 Dearborn Ct
\$290,000	47875 Florence Dr 15080 Dock Lp
\$230,000	15980 Park Ln 226 Poppell St
\$170,000	325 Pennell St
/	46252 Pinehurst Dr

efforts with policy makers and the new Congress and administration to get the real estate market back on track — the nation's economy depends on it," McMillan said.

The NAR Web site contributed to this report.

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27015 Victoria Rd

30243 Viewcrest

45748 White Pines Dr

1402 Beech St 45898 Green Valley Rd

1365 Hartsough St 48997 Quail Run Dr S

670 S Evergreen St 12371 White Tail Ct

9606 Inkster Rd

15852 Lola Dr 12019 Marion

South Lyon

198 Eagle Way 264 Gibson St

34747 Block

61161 Palamino Ct

39150 Brookfield Dr

32733 Hiveley St 29072 Manchester St

6820 N Farmington Rd

39075 Willow Creek Pkwy

39103 Willow Creek Pkwy

450 N John Hix St 302 Summerfield Di

7475 Woodview St

902 Mitchell Dr

18714 Poinciana

Plymouti

Redford

Westland

21029 W Glen Haven Cir

Q: I live in a condominium where the master deed and subdivision plan were recorded but the bylaws were not. Now the association is trying to enforce one of the provisions against me. Do they have a right to do so?

A: Probably not because the Bylaws are inoperable if they were not filed along with the master deed as required by MCL 559.153. Obviously, the bylaws must be recorded in a condominium in order to be effective. Therefore more than likely they cannot be enforced by anyone including the condominium association. Better get a good condominium lawyer at your earliest convenience.

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.

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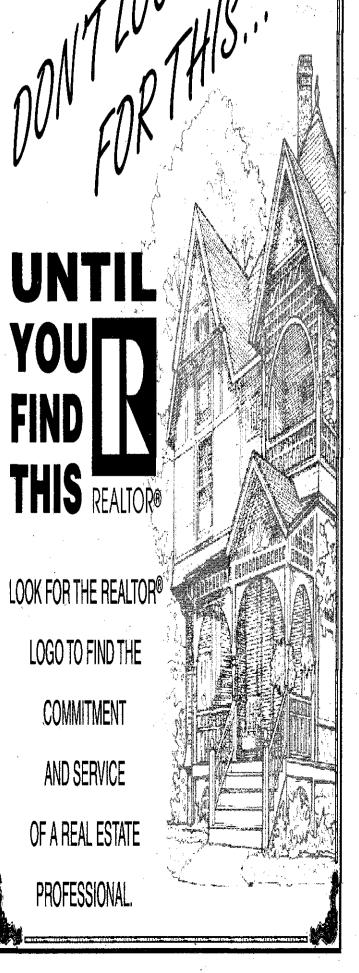
www.hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, January 8, 2009 (\*) C3





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Observer & Eccentric HOMETOWN /ife.com



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ASK FOR MR. SCOTT (248) 355-7515	(734) 453-2500	(248) 355-7515 MINI COOPER 2007 Just	JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900	Low miles. \$5000 TYME AUTO 734-455-5566	V6, 19K, \$15,998 AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515	ranty, \$13,946 RALPH THAYER AUTO 734-425-5400	(734) 453-2500	rors, leather, \$12,053 RALPH THAYER AUTO 734-425-5400
AVIS COM	CADILLAC ESCALADE 2004 ESV, low miles, leather, moon- roof, 3rd row, only \$21,950	13,959 miles, moonroof, 6- speed Supercharger \$16,997 Bill Brown Ford	SRX 2004 Leather, loaded, moonroof, full power, sharp!! \$16,950	CHARGER 2008 \$15,498	FUSION SEL 2009 \$15,998	MAZDA 5 SPORT 2008 \$15,998	G-6 2007 4 door, blue, sharp, only 32K, \$14,495 Bob Jeannotte Pontiac	VW PASSAT 2005 \$12,998
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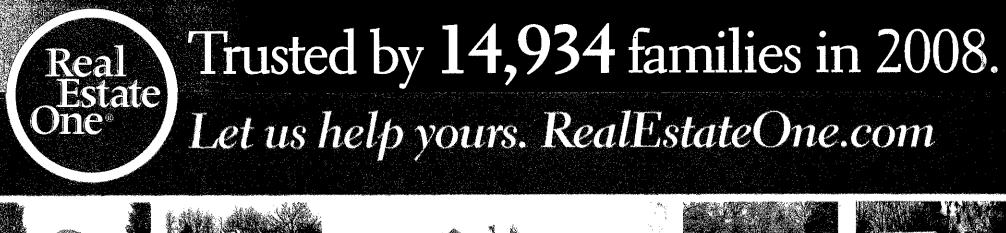
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734-591-9200

Beautiful home & sub backing to tree line. Neutral decor, 10 ft ceilings on 1st fir, spiral str/case w/2 stry foyer, Ig kit open to Fam rm. Mstr ste w/cathed ceil 2 wik/in clos. Fin bsmt w/fl bath & poss 5th BR. (28186254) \$359,900



248-851-4100 Canton WELCOME HOMEI 4 BR,2.1 bath brick contemporary features 2 story foyer, French doors to library, large granite island kitchen w/breakfast rm, & great rm. Fantastic deck & vard (27188915) \$270,000



Canton 734-455-7000 SPACIOUS UPDATED COLONIAL ON CUL-DE-Pergo style fir in hall/kitchen, berber carpt & bay window in family rm, thermo windows '05, furn 02. FP w/raised hearth, crn moldings, new drive & steel door.



#### 248-348-6430 Well Appointed Condo w/Numerous Upgrades from the HDWD FLRs, stone FP & lighting from the HDWD FLRs, stone FP & lighting fixtures to the unllock paver patio. Maple KIT w/BRKFST nock. LG MSTR w/spa tub & closet



734-455-7000 Canton PRICED TO SELL AND READY TO MOVE IN! /2.5BA home w/impressive designer hen. Freshly painted. New carpet thruout. Hardwood floors in kitchen and family room. Newer roof & windows. Like new!

(28200919) \$169,900



248-684-1065 Commerce Immaculate builders home on 1.67 acres. Wood windows/trim, GR w/ cath ceiling & FP, Gourmet island kit, 3 bd 2.1 ba. HRWD in den. Great view from covered porch.



248-684-1065 Commerce Charming ranch on half acre parcel. Great location, new carpet, 6 panel drs., FR w/ FP, neutral decor, FF laundry, MBR w/ closet organizers, bsmt, deck.



Dearborn 734-591-9200 Beautifully maintained home! Updated roof, furnace, a/c, windows, vinyl slding, hwh, carpet, window treatments and kitchen. Great colors & a nice comfortable feel to this house!



248-851-4100 Dearborn Heights BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION IN DEARBORN HTS Prices slashed on this fabulous 3 BP 2.5 bath condo. Open floor plan, attached 2 car garage. Granite & hardwoods. For sale or lease



248-851-1900 Dearborn Heights UPDATED BRICK RANCH Kitchen update in completion stage. Newer windows & furnace. Lower level with family room, wet bar & half bath. Backyard patio. Very clean, Just move in!

\$149,900

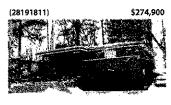
(28150288)



#### Highland 248-684-1065 Total remod on all-sports Duck Lakel HDWD firs, 6 panel drs, arch top windows, granite ctrs, maple cabs, 1st fir laundry, deck, patio, 3-car garage.



248-684-1065 Highland Best buy in Highland. On cul-de-sac and Golf course front. 4 BR, 3.5 BA. New furnace, new windows, new paint. 3-car garage, deck, finished walk-out.



248-684-1065 Highland Privs on Dunham Lake. LR w/ bay wndw & fp. Updated kit w/ corian cntrs, cherry cabs, trey ceii, ceramic fr & backsplash. Lg DR w/ D/W to deck. FR in fin LL.



#### 248-851-4100 Livonia 8 MI & NEWBURGH, BUILDERS SPEC CONDO Open Fri-Sun 1-5. Price slashedl Detach condo. Main floor master suite. 2300+ Never lived in. Full daylight basement. Lots of upgrades. Other units available. \$339.900 (28181557)



EXCELLENT, CLEAN & SHARP 4 BDRM 2.5 BATH brick & alum Colonial w/den/office. Updtd Eatir Kit w/oak cabs, corlan christer opdie Ladin appls; Lg formal Dr, FR, nat FP french doors to wood deck & patio.

(28190120) \$169.900



248-437-3800 Lyon Architectural Elegance This graceful colonial has too many extras to mention! Extensive use of hrdwd, 3 fireplaces! Dream garden w/pond backing to horse farm. Lots of privacy. Franklin

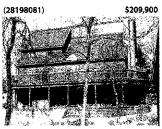
(28184660)

Novi

(28183292)\$224,000



Hard To Find Ranch On 1.16 Acres Move in condition. Offering spacious open floor plan, a fully finished basement, an oversized 3 car garage, huge deck w/pool, and much more.



Milford 248-684-1065 Gorgeous Custom Cedar/Stone 3267 Sq Ft Home Paradise Tucked Amongst Pine Trees on 3+ Acres w/Up North Feel in Quaint Milford. 3 Bdrms/3 Baths, Pole Barn.





#### Milford Home with 3.9 acres. First floor laundry. Unfinished basement, Two carattached garage ith side entry. Dining, living and family roo

Library/study (28059738) \$334,900

248-684-1065

Country setting, beautiful, move-in ready ranch

home on 2.36 acres across from Highland Rec. Area. Huge FR w/ fin. W/O LL. Barn, hay loft, (28110328) \$324,900



Friendly Family Sub - Great Location Remodeled

248-348-6430

\$199.900

248-348-6430

This Ranch is a Gem with many updates! Large LR w/fipc, FR w/large windows that overlook a beautiful backyard & heated pool, updated both & with a without many second sec bath & kitchen, quick occupancy.



Beautiful 2 Story Condo 1,936 sq ft of comfortable condo living! Charming KIT, elegant 2 sty DR, den w/bay window, Ig mstr, daylight basement, 2 car att'd side entry garage & deck.



248-348-6430 Airy 2 Bedroom Condo Enjoy this neutrally corated condo. Just mov



Plymouth 734-455-7000 PLYMOUTH "FIXER UPPER"! Great potential in this 3 bedroom colonial near downtown Plymouth. Needs work but has some updates. Large treed yard. Much more!

PLYMOUTH CONDO WITH A GREAT FLOOR

PLAN! Island kitchen, 1-1/2 baths, basement, deck & carport. Private entrance and walking

(28170441)

Plymouth

(28099981)

South Lyon

Complete

Priced to selil

(28189019)

distance to downtown



734-455-7000

248-437-3800

248-437-3800

\$148,500

\$239,900

\$85,000

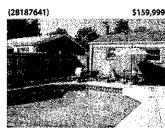




Westland 734-591-9200 Lovely brick/aluminum home in quiet area. Home is spotless. Seller offering a home warranty. 1870 sq ft 4 bedroom colonial has two baths, new kitchen with stainless steel appliances that stay.



Westland 734-284-5400 PRIDE IN OWNERSHIP Gorgeous 4 bedrm home This home offers updated kitchen, bath and windows. This home also offers a new roof. Separate laundry rm. A Must See! Call today!



Westland 248-348-6430 Well Maintain Home With Livonia Schools Features: Inground pool w/privacy fence to make you're perfect retreat from the summer heat! Updated KIT & BA, att deck, newer win, furnace & the pool table stays. (28122220)\$120.000



Set In Desirable Northwest Westland With Livonia Schools! Great opportuniy! Features: New furnace, only one block from Livonia, private backyard, 2.5 car garage and a full (28198359) \$105,000





### 734-455-7000

GREAT CANTON RANCHI Newly listed 3BR/ 2.5BA ranch offers many updates,incl: redone kitchen, family rm w/Pg.florida rm, huge fin bsmt w/bath. Quiet setting in sub., and much moreli (28188596) \$161,900

Cantor



734-455-7000 Canton SPECTACULAR CANTON CONDO in a golf course community w/2BRS & 2 full baths. Neutral all thru w/custom kitchen cabinets

and attached garage w/opener. All SS appls + washer& dryer. (28193271) \$129,900



(28110431)

BETTER THAN NEW! 2 bedrooms/2 full eaths; cathedral ceiling; lots of windows; all appliances; neutral decor; atttached garage; close to pool.

\$110,000



#### 248-348-6430 Canton Wow! What A Value! Well cared for townhouse

Cathedral ceilings, skylight, fireplace, finished basement, private courtyard. Pool, clubhouse. Appliances stay. Home warranty.



248-684-1065 Clarkston Wonderful site condo w/ 2 BR and 2 full BA up and BR/full BA in Fin W/O bsmt. GR w/ FP Association fee includes yard, street maint, garbarge pick-up.

\$249,000

(28172465)

(28127373)



248-348-6430 Detroit Custom Colonial In Ouite, Upscale Rosedale Park subdivision. Close to city bus transportation and 1-75. Schools within waiking distance, 3 blocks North of Mercy College. Excellent condition (28180887) \$70,000



#### **Garden City** 734-455-7000 BEAUTIFUL BRICK RANCH W/CUSTOM FEATURES is this 3 or 4 bedroom Garden City brickranch with finished basement, 2 full baths, enclosed sun room, huge kitchen, central air and 2-1/2 car garage.



#### Green Oak 248-437-3800

Just Listed Woods, Water, Huge Workshop, W/O Bsmt make this home a wonderful find. Custom gourmet kitchen w/cherry cabinets, granite counters, fireplace & hardwood floors.



#### Green Oak 248-437-3800 The Perfect Country Ranch on 1.27 Acres Built

new in 2004 & still like new inside. Offering spacious & open fir plan, Irg spacious mstr suite, home office, Irg country kit. w/center island, full bsmt.



#### 12 10 Hartland 248-684-1065

\$179,900

2-3 BR condo w/ 2 full BA. Many updates. Fin 2-car gar. GR w/ vaulted ceiling, gas FP, private deck, 1st fir MBR, open kit, 1st fir aundry, fin LÉ

#### Livonia 248-348-6430 Outstanding location in Rosedale Gardens Freshly painted in neutrals, 2 fireplaces, large family room with vaulted ceiling. Hardwood floors under the carpet.



Solid Brk rnch, sptless &rdy to move in.Refin hardwist thru/out w/fam rm addit. Corner lot ylds yd spce & hicharact of side entry gar. New wind, prd bsmtwls, updted elec.



#### Livonia 248-851-1900 UPDATED RANCH ON A COURT IN LIVONIA 3 hedrooms 1.5 baths, full finished basemen Hot tub, fenced yard, 2 car garage, sidewalks nove right in!

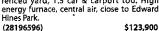


Livonia 734-591-9200

### Orig Owners, Newer Roof, Updated flooring New Windows, Updted Kit, Newer Furn/ AC, Fresh pnted inter, Updted Elec, Grt curb appeal, Part fin bsmt w/recrm & bar, Lg deck & well manicur yard, Sep din area & More (28175064) \$129,999



#### Livonia 248-348-6430 Neat and Clean Ranch Nice brick home with HDWD Firs. 3 bedrooms, BSMT, tiled floor, fenced yard, 1.5 car & carport too. High energy furnace, central air, close to Edward



Milford 248-684-1065

Milford

Well maintained home on 1.5 wooded acres. Huge LR w/ hdwd flrs. DR w/ D/W to covered porch. Oak kit. Spacious FR w/ D/W to deck. 1st fir laun. 2 car gar.



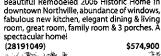
#### Milford **OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!! Retail, office, or** commercial unit for lease in downtown Milford Sunny, v location windowed space with parking. Great



Custom Colonial Beauty Curved staircase & Brazilian HDWD firs accent home. Lovely KIT, LR brazilian HDWD firs accent nome, Lovely NT, LK w/Cathedral clg, LG DR, Lib. Princess Ste, J&J BA, fin'd W/O, ing pool, deck & paver patio.



248-348-6430





#### 734-455-7000 5 BEAUTIFUL ACRES! Home with lots of potential on natural beauty rd. Huge vaulted ceiling grand rm, 3 large bedrooms, att. g plus out bldg. Enjoy nature and privacy. and rm. 3 large bedrooms, att. garag



Just Listed! Ranch condo-clean, clean, clean.

Come enjoy this clean2 bedroom, 2 bath condo

with garage and full basement.

updates, newer roof, furnace, A/C. Anderson windows, doors, hot water heater, water softener. Recent addition makes spacious kitchen a chef's delight. \$110,000 (28184567)



### South Lyon

This One Won't Last Long! Great price on this Phase V unit with large master suite, sun room and gas fireplace in nicely finished lowwer level. All Appl, stay along w/window treatments

248-437-3800



CUSTOM BRICK COLONIAL 3 possible 4 bdrm 2.5 bath 1800 sq. ft. home. Nat. fpice in FR w/doorwall to deck & backvard w/2 koi ponds. \$20K Finished basement w/custom lighting & th. Pack your bags & come home. \$214,900 (28197688)



248-348-6430 White Lake Lake View From Rare 2200 SQ. FT. Ranch New listing! Wonderful open floor plan. Master suite opposite side of home from other bedrooms. Walkout BSMT. Set on beautiful low maintenance lot. Built 2004.



248-437-3800 White Lake Lake Front Home! Over 150' of frontage on Round Lake! Home is very unique. Built in 1930. 3 BR, plus a full basement. 3 car garage features a basement and an upstairs.



248-684-1065 White Lake Charming & well-maintained home. Open flr



248-684-1065 Ypsilanti Great starter home in historic Ypsilantii Cute bungalow w/ many updates: roof, furnace, windows, HWH, paint. Kit appl. stay. 0.4 acre treed lot



\$240,000

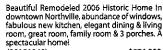




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Northville













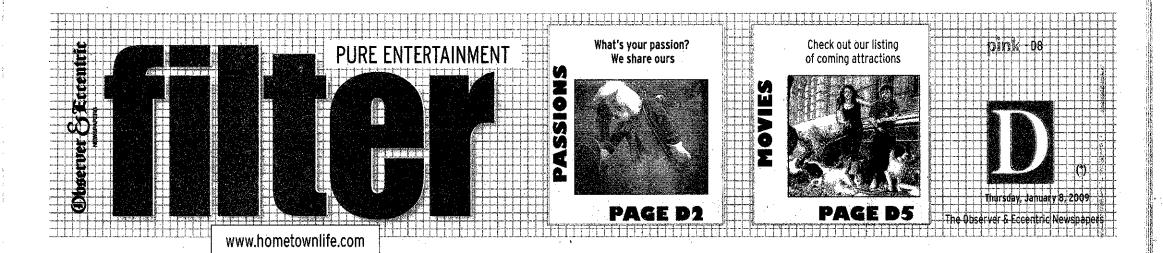












And the second s

# Show features showstoppers, gender-bending, and lots of heart

#### **BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA O&E STAFF WRITER**

Stagecrafters hopes to warm hearts in the new year by presenting, for the first time, the wildly funny La Cage aux Folles.

The show, opening Jan. 16 in Royal Oak, follows a gay couple, George and Albin, who run a drag nightclub called La Cage aux Folles in St. Tropez. Albin, portrayed by Ferndale's Marc Meyers, headlines the club nightly under his alter-ego Zaza.

When George's son Jean-Michel returns home to announce his engagement to the daughter of a very conservative French politician, a hilarious charade ensues. Jean-Michel has arranged for both families to meet, relegating Albin to the status of "uncle." But when his mother cancels, Albin surprises the whole group, dressed to fill the role.

"I love this show. I love the music and the production is wonderful," said Meyers, during a rehearsal on Dec. 30. In an (

Pure Picks **BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA O&E STAFF WRITER** 

Filtering your entertainment best bets for the weekend, beginning Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009:



Detroit. Come early to hear Civic Jazz Live in the

Allessee Hall at 6 p.m. Tickets \$19-\$60, call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.

detroitsymphony.com.

Milman

It's a jazz double bill at the Max M. Fisher Music Center tonight as Saxophonist Phil Woods storms in with his driving

rhythms, followed by Jazz Vocalist Sophie Milman. It's all starting at 8 p.m., Jan. 8, at 3711 Woodward Ave.,



Woods



City and Colour, aka Dallas Green, brings his folk-tinged rock to The Fillmore, Jan. 9. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the all-ages show begins at 8 p.m., at 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets are \$19.39, visit www.livenation.com.

**City and Colour's Dallas Green** performs this weekend.

Under the direction of Bolshoi principal dancer Sergei Radchenko, The Russian Classical Ballet Theatre presents Don Quixote, 8 p.m. Jan. 10, at Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit. Tickets \$27-\$47, call (313) 887-8500 or visit www.musichall.org.



to prepare, he'd just been shoe-

#### Please see LA CAGE, D4

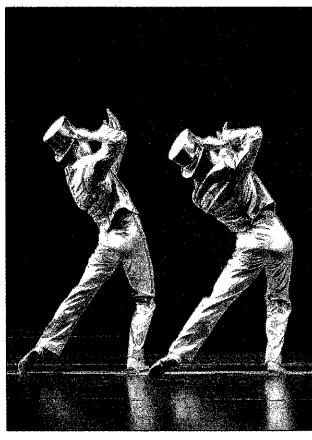
#### LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

What: Stagecrafters presents this irreverent romantic comedy based on a book by Harvey Fierstein, with music and lyrics by Jerry Herman. Showtimes: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16-18, 22-25, 29, Feb. 1, 6-8. Where: The Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Tickets: \$16 on Thursdays, and for students and seniors on Sundays; \$18 on Fridays-Sunday, call (248) 541-6430 or buy at the door one hour prior to curtain.



Drag yourself out into the snow for Stagecrafters's rendition of "La Cage aux Folles," opening Jan. 16 in Royal Oak.

# Broadway hit calls for Detroiters to jump in the line



Auditions are brutal in the classic stage hit, "A Chorus Line," coming to the Fisher Theatre.

#### BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Dancers and those who love the art won't want to miss a touring revival of the longest American musical A Chorus Line, coming this month to Detroit's Fisher Theatre.

"This is about the love of dance, a love of the experience," said director Bob Avian, speaking from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., on Dec. 31. "It's filled with heart."

Avian served as a co-choreographer in the original production of A Chorus Line, which was conceived, directed and choreographed by his longtime friend Michael Bennett. The show debuted in 1975.

The business partners met as dancers, both starring in West Side Story, when Avian was 21 years old. "He asked me to be his assistant," Avian recalled. They worked together for some 25 years.

When A Chorus Line premiered, audiences had seen nothing quite like it. The show offered a backstage glimpse into the lives of 17 dancers trying out for a spot in the chorus.

"It's a dance audition," Avian said. "So the reality of it is what it looks like. When we did it in 1975, it was the peak

### **A CHORUS LINE**

What: A new production of the longest running American musical in Broadway history takes its show on the road. When: Showtimes 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29; 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, 25, for the production, running Jan. 17 to Feb. 1. Where: Fisher Theatre, 3011.W. Grand Blvd. in Detroit. Tickets: \$30-\$84, includes parking, at www. ticketmaster.com or www.broadwayindetroit.com, or call (800) 745-3000. More information: Visit www.AChorusLine.

com.

of the sexual revolution."

The stories were all composites, all based and rooted in reality.

We restructured it and put it in the form of an audition," he said. "We had no idea if it was gonna work or not. We were looking at it and thought maybe it was going to be too inside.'

But the first night of previews, the show sold 299 seats and it was then that Avian was convinced it might be

Please see LINE, D2

Jane Hammond's "Martin House Me' is featured in her exhibit, "Paper Work." It is made from acrylic, gouache, graphite, crayon, solvent transfers, color Xerox, linoleum block prints, lithographs, and leaf prints on collaged Japanese papers.

the Detroit Institute of Arts. The exhibition features the artist's works on paper completed over the last 15 years. It incorporates painting, drawing, borrowed images, and they come in sizes large and small. Museum admission is \$4-\$8, members enter free, call (313) 833-4005 or visit www.dia.org for more information.

It's

the last

chance to

see Jane

Hammond:

Paper Work, at



Marisa Tomei and Mickey Rourke star in Fox Searchlights' "The Wrestler."

Marisa Tomei and Mickey Rourke star in The Wrestler, now playing exclusively at The Birmingham 8 cinema on Old Woodward, south of Maple in Birmingham. Director Darren Aronofsky takes us back to the late '80s, when Randy "The Ram" Robinson was a professional wrestler. Twenty years later, he ekes out a living performing for handfuls of diehard fans. Estranged from his daughter and unable to sustain any real relationships, Randy lives for the thrill of the show until a heart attack forces him into retirement. He's forced to start again, and begins a blossoming romance with an exotic dancer. This film is rated R.

scasola@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2567

### FILTER

www.hometownlife.com

# What's your passion? We're sharing ours

hat do you do outside of your busy job as a parent or bread winner?

Sometimes when I'm seeking entertainment, all I need to do is look at the writers and editors of the Observer S Eccentric and



Mirror newspapers. Oh sure, that may seem like a cheesy promotion, but it's true: Some of the most interesting people I've met (and I've traveled a

Lana Minì

lot) work here at your community newspaper. For example:

Photographer Bill Bresler belongs to a group of photographers that practices "Lo-Fi" photography using old film cameras, pinhole cameras, home-made cameras and toy cameras. I love the club name: Ann Arbor Area Crappy Camera Club. The photography is quite good and they have had shows in several art galleries. Visit www.crappycameraclub. org

See Bill's own photos at www.pbase.com/bbresler

■ Wensdy Von Buskirk. editor of Filter and Pink, plays bass in the all-mom rock band The Mydols. Band founder Judy Davids never picked up a guitar until she was inspired by Jack White of the White Stripes, who spoke at her son's elementary school in 2002. Visit www.mydols.com

I'm into physical fitness and feel music brings people together. So, I combined and created a company called Detroit Bellydance to produce instructional dance DVDs and teach classes in our community. When I'm not doing that I volunteer at www.sashafarm. org, Michigan's only sanctuary that rescues abused farm animals.

**Karen Smith**, editor of The Mirror, teaches news writing and media editing at Oakland University.

Canton Editor Kurt



A creepy bunny peers into a pram. Imagine the terror of the infant inside, jokes professional photographer Bill Bresler who is in a club that takes photos with handmade and toy cameras. See more at www. crappycameraclub.org

Kuban is co-owner and editor of Michigan Streamside Journal; a magazine that focuses on the outdoors. He likes to jump in his canoe and coast "as far away from civilization as he can get." Visit www. michiganstreamsidejournal. com

#### Greg Kowalski,

Birmingham editor who also writes Filter's hilarious Beyond Bad column about scary films is author of several wellresearched historical books about Hamtramck including Hamtramck: The World War II Years, (Images of America (Arcadia Publishing). Get it on Amazon or at Border's, Costco, Barnes & Noble, etc.

Joe Bauman, Eccentric managing editor, hosts wine tasting events for corporate and residential parties. He likes to teach the public to understand and appreciate wine. Sometimes he'll even bring dinner along with the bottles.

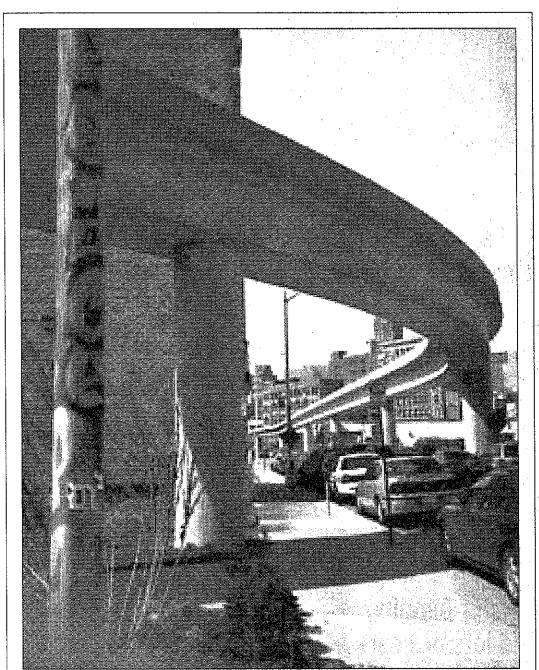
**Stephanie Tardy**, who

works on the copy desk, is one of the leaders of Handmade Detroit, a group of creative young crafters. They make retro, unusual, hip crafts. The website is a blast and filled with inspiring ideas wwww. handmadedetroit.com

Features Editor Sharon Dargay is low-key about herself but we want to brag that she's a graduate of Second City's conservatory. Most people in our newsroom didn't even know that she's in two improv troupes - and one of them often does shows at Future Gallery in Center Line. Your 2009 interests?

How about making a New Year's resolution to dive into something new this year. It's not too late. Explore a new interest - actually get involved. Tune away from the TV.

What do you want to explore this year? Share it with me. Email: Imini@ hometownlife.com subject line: Dreams.



A photograph by Walled Lake Central High School's Morgan Snyder.

# Human rights group hosts photo exhibit in Canton

The photographic works of several metro Detroit high school students are on display in Focus: HOPE's exhibit, "Focus on the Mission 2008" through March 1 at Gallery @ VT in Canton.

Focus: HOPE is a nationally recognized civil and human rights organization based in Detroit.

The group's goal is to fights racism, poverty and injustice with practical action. The photographers used Focus: HOPE mission's statement as a broad theme to think about the role of diversity in their lives and communities.

This exhibit is the result of the group's diversity and photography workshops attended by 63 area high school students of different geographic, cultural, socioeconomic and

photographers or arts educators. The goal was to help students develop an awareness and respect for cultural differences to help build a stronger metropolitan Detroit, while simultaneously introducing them to the art of photography.

The images include locations such as the Heidelberg Street Project, Elmwood Cemetery, St. Pat's Senior Center, The Bhaktivedanta Cultural Center at the Fisher Mansion, downtown Detroit via the People Mover, St. Anne's Church, Mexican Town, the Islamic Center of America, Belle Isle and the Henry Ford Estate.

The exhibit at the Gallery @ VT is free and open to the public. The gallery is located in the Village Theatre, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, hours vary. Call (734) 394-5300, Ext. 8, for additional hours or visit: canton-mi.



# THE BEST MUSICAL. EVER.

religious backgrounds. Students worked in diverse teams and were lagetheater. guided by mentors, all local professional

– Lana Mini

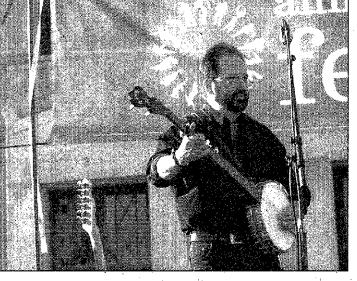
# Mark your calendar for Celtic fun

For 27 years, musician Terry Murphy has been playing his Celtic style of music throughout metro Detroit.

Michigan is filled with seasoned musicians of incomparable skill who can be found performing in little pubs. Their names shows aren't always publicized and names aren't always in lights.

An example is that Murphy will perform with his band The Bowzies on Saturday, Jan. 24 at Dick O'Dow's in Birmingham.

He plays a variety of instruments (and teaches) including six-string guitar, five-string banjo, mandolin, bouzouki, Bodhran (Irish drum) and the tin whistle. He also plays in a band called Bill Grogan's Goat (a Celtic rock band that plays a tough version of Danny Boy). The Bowzies are a Celtic folk band. And when Murphy isn't



Terry Murphy bring his Celtic sound with his band The Bowzies to Dick O' Dow's in Birmingham.

with the Bowzies he's with Leo Papa, a singing, guitar player. Check him out at Dick

O' Dow's, 160 West Maple, Birmingham, (248) 642-1135. - Lana Mini

"It's all about the talent," said Avian. "That's what the show is about."

A Chorus Line follows 17 dancers at the audition of a lifetime. "It's all based on truth," said Avian. "All the stories are true and they're all taken from real dancers' words."

The show is meant for anyone who's had a dream and followed through to make it come true. Avian noted the show is suitable for children age 10 and older. It features music by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Edward Kleban. Baayork Lee has restaged the original choreography. Robin Wagner designed the scenery and Theoni V. Aldredge created costumes.

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# **BEGINS TUESDAY**

# "A Chorus Line is back, and it's thrilling!" —John Lahr, The New Yorker

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GROADWAY B DE FROIT Scoresoned to your Metro fletroit Lionals Deal

he said. Now, a new genera-LINE tion of dancers will take to

#### a hit.

"It's funny," he said. "The ones you do because they have a place in your heart, they're the ones that work."

What worked then still rings true in 2009. Of course audiences

today walk in more familiar with the idea of an audition. "Television has had so much to do with that," said Avian. "(Then) we had Miss America, now we see all these reality shows."

But reality television tends to feature a level of cruelty Avian said would never happen at an actual audition. 'We try to protect their egos,"



the stage for a show that embodies both staying power and continued relevance. "It's still I Hope I Get It," he said, referencing a signature song and adding that these days the show is expected to resonate with people looking to find work.

Avian came out of retirement to direct this production, which was revived with a two-year run on Broadway that began at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre in 2006. He compared the new cast members to athletes, saying "they keep getting better."

The show calls for a rather unadorned, simple set, but touring with it still means dealing with a complex system of lighting and mirrors.

# **Discover Port wine styles**

ypically, Port is a sweet, red, fortified wine made in the Douro Valley of northern Portugal. European laws require that it be labeled Port. For the U.S., Federal law mandates that



aw mandates that it be labeled Porto or Vinho do Porto. There are two basic Porto styles: bottle aged and barrel aged. Vintage Porto, aged in the bottle, usu-

ally requires decanting before

serving. Tawny

Porto is barrel

Ray & Eleanor Heald

aged and ready to drink when opened. Reserve Porto is barrel aged for four years, then bottled. It tastes like a young Vintage Porto and is ready to drink when opened.

Reserve Porto is a delicious dessert wine, especially enjoyable after dinner on its own or with a blue cheese like Stilton.

We recommend Graham's Six Grapes Reserve Porto, \$23, for its notes of ripe plums and cherries, great concentration and long finish. Dow's Trademark Finest Reserve Porto, \$20, shows strawberry fruit with subtle spice and a slightly dry finish. Smith Woodhouse Lodge Reserve Porto, \$20, boasts youthful

### **WINE PICKS**

Tapena, at \$10 per bottle, is an innovative brand offering. expressive fruit-forward, dry wines from SPANISH indigenous grapes -- best with tapas, small plates meant for sharing. 2007 Tapena Verdejo -- grilled salmon, lemon chicken and light cheeses, including chevre. 2007 Tapena Rose -- calamari frito, manchego cheese and panseared scallops. 2006 Tapena Garnacha -- Jamb or beef satay. 2006 Tapena Tempranillo -grilled lamb skewers or garlic prawns.

blackberry fruit with a smooth, elegant finish that ends with a hint of mint. Burmester Jockey Club Reserva, \$32, is very drinkable with highlights of plums, dried cherries and cranberries.

#### TAWNY AND CHOCOLATE

Chocolate does not pair with red wine. The exception is Tawny Porto, which has lost its intense purple color while barrel aging a minimum of eight years and takes on a golden-amber hue and a silky, nutty character. Aged Tawny Porto has maturity levels, noted on the bottle, as 10, 20, 30

#### and even 40 years old.

All aged Tawny Portos are blends of older wines chosen for their complexity and younger wines selected for fruitiness. Indicated age is the average of the blended wines used to achieve a desired balance of flavors. Colheita Tawny Porto is produced from a single harvest.

The following Tawny Portos include suggested retail prices for a 750mL bottle. Purchase 375mL bottles and try more than one. It's also fun to try two from the same producer with different ages to notice style evolution with more barrel age.

Try: Dow's 10 Year Tawny, \$33; Graham's 10 Year Tawny, \$35; Smith Woodhouse 10 Year Tawny, \$31; Dow's 20 Year Tawny, \$56; Graham's 20 Year Tawny, \$57; and Smith Woodhouse 1994 Colheita, \$46.

Since Porto is fortified (18-20 percent alcohol), it will keep four to six weeks after being opened and older Aged Tawny may keep up to four months in the refrigerator. Bring it to cellar temperature before serving.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@ aol.com.





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# SATISFY EVERYONE AT THE TABLE!

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(Starting at 4pm. Four person minimum.)

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Finally, a reason to look forward to Mondays. Enjoy one complimentary entrée when a second entrée of equal or greatervalue is purchased. Andiamo Lovers rejoice<sup>1</sup>

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A wine offer to cheer about. Every Wednesday receive half-off bottled wines priced under \$100. Pair with your favorite entrée, and create a bountiful feast.

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# LA CAGE

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shopping, trying to find just the right shoes to match the array of colorful ensembles his character wears throughout the two-hour show.

Costuming is key — from the showgirl-style of the drag chorus, called the Cagelles, to the elaborate coats worn by Zaza to a more traditional look for the conservative in-laws-to-be.

Michael Ameloot of Detroit took on the task of costuming for this show. He began researching the piece during the summer and sewing began as early as August even before auditions were held. He was able to borrow some elaborate opera robes from Stages St. Louis professional theater company, which lend a lavish look to the performers. Ameloot guessed there will be about 60 costumes in the show, including a Ziegfeldinfluenced finale full of feathers. He said the show lends itself to a certain level of glitz and opulence that audiences don't normally see

#### FUNNY IN PINK

on stage.

Costuming reveals much about characters and in this rendition, Ameloot chose to draw subtle parallels between Jean-Michel and his father-in-law to-be Edouard Dindon, played by Gary Mach of Beverly Hills. "It ties him to his father-in-law as opposed to his parents."

Mach's attire isn't all triedand-true. His character will find his way into a pink polka-dotted "Shirley Temple dress," too.

"I was familiar with the movie," said Mach, "not really the play." He said the message is much more personal in this format, and the music - hardly present in the 1996 film The Birdcage - makes for a "beautiful score."

Mach said: "I find myself humming it, and I really only sing one song. It's a great story.'

Meyers said he spent time honing his vocal skills on songs like Mascara, with six complicated verses. "It keeps going and going," he said.

Bloomfield's Betsy Todd directs the show, working closely with choreographer Valerie Mould of Royal Oak and musical director Priscilla Benson of Beverly Hills. Todd promised a happy ending. "Its definitely more of a comedy," she said.

#### **ROYAL OAK GEM**

Todd is proud to be a member of Stagecrafters, working with the troupe since the 1980s. She is also proud of The Baldwin Theatre. There is no other theater like this. It is a 'Little Fisher."

La Cage aux Folles features a cast of 27. Todd said the dance scenes are sure to delight audiences.

Meyers, who has performed with Stagecrafters since 1997, said the audience is "going to love the Can-Can. It's a wonderful number.'

Overall, the show shares a message of love and family. And that remains a timely topic, according to Mevers. "The world is changing," he said. "I hope the audience sees the humor of the story and, especially with the passage of Prop. 8 (banning same-sex marriages) in California, I hope they see that love is not limited to a male and a female. There is all sorts of love in the world."

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Send items for consideration in Get Out! at least two weeks in advance to Lana Hini, Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers, 805 E. Haple, Birmingham, MI 48009, or e-mail Imini@hometownlife.com.

#### ART

Arnold Klein Gallery: 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709.

Art Leaders Gallery: 33030 Northwestern Hwy., West Bioomfield, (248) 539-0262, www.artleaders.com. Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: 1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866.

Rinningham Conference Center: 31301 Evergreen, Birmingham Birmingham Unitarian Church: 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 647-2380.

Bohemian National Home Gallery: 2009 Tillman, Detroit, (313) 525-5253, www.jeromium.com/bohouse.htm.

Cary Gallery: 226 Walnut, Rochester. (248) 651-3656. Cass Gallery: Works by Robert Edwards, Kip Kowalski and Richard P. Mylenek, through Jan. 10, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. (313) 831-1400.

CPOP: 4160 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9901, www.cpop. com.

Detroit Artist Market: 4719 Woodward, Detroit. D&M Art Studio: Bob Ross-style painting classes, 1-5 p.m. one Sunday per month; free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound students, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453 3710, www.dmartstudio.com,

Farmington City Gallery: Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, (248) 473-1856

Farmington Community Library: 23500 Liberty, (248) 553.6261, www.suzannebauman.com.

First United Methodist Church: 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham. Gallery@VT: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater, www.wsg-art.com.

Galeria at Orchard Lake: Building 8, Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, (248) 683-0345. Habatat Galleries: 4400 Fernlee, Royal Oak, (248) 554-0590,

www.habatat.com. Janice Charach Gallery: Jewish Community Center of

Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (238) 432-5448

Lawrence Street Gallery: 22620 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com.

Livonia Arts Commission: Fine Arts Gallery, second floor; Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, (734) 466-2490; Livonia Arts Commissioners, Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, (734) 466-2540.

Lotus Arts Gallery: Artists Charles H. Pabst, Thomas Arvid and Sergio Furnari (a life-sized version of the Lunchtime on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusartsgallerv.com. Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Beiner and many others, 530 Hilton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www. nextstepstudio.com.

Northville Art House: 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org

### **GET OUT**

Oakland University Art Gallery: at 208 Wilson Hali, Oakland University, Rochester, (248) 370-3005. Paint Creek Center for the Arts: 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-

4110, www.pccart.org. Paul Kotula Projects: 23255 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-

3020, www.paulkotula.com. Pewabic Pottery: 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, (313) 822-

0954, www.pewabic.org. Plymouth Community Arts Council: 774 N. Sheldon Road,

Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com. The Print Gallery: 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, (248)

356-5454, www.everythingart.com. Progressive Art & Frame Design: 1511 North Main, Clawson, (248)

435-0944, www.progressiveart.net. The Scarab Club: "Year of the Weasel," featuring works by Carl

Butler, Jeanne Bieri, Todd Erickson, Jerome Ferretti, Mary Fortuna, Matthew Hanna and Arturo Rodriguez, through Feb. 15, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit, (313) 831-1250 or www. scarabclub.org

Susanne Hilberry Gallery: Works by Zak Prekop, Elena Pankova, Ryan McLaughlin, Michael Wetzel, Matt Connors and Paul Bloodgood, through Feb. 7, at 700 Livernois, Ferndale (248) 541-4700, www.susannehilberrygallery.com.

Tangent Gallery: 715 E. Milwaukee St., Detroit. (313) 877-4377, www.tangentgallery.com The Community House: 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-

5832, www.communityhouse.com Visual Arts Association of Livenia: Livenia City Hall, 33000 Civic

Center Dr., (248) 348-4550. BOOKS/LITERATURE

Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council and Center: 2121 Midvale, Birmingham, (248) 203-5270. Borders Ann Arbor: 612 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 668-7652. Borders Dearborn: 5601 Mercury Dr., Dearborn, (313) 271-4441. Borders Farmington Hills: 30995 Orchard Lake Road, (248) 737.0110.

Borders Novi: 43075 Crescent Blvd., (248) 347-0780 Barnes & Noble Royal Oak: 500 S. Main, Royal Oak. Campus Martius: Saturday Book Club, Campus Martius, next to the Compuware Building, Detroit, http://www2.wsupress. wavne.edu/news.php/

#### CHAMBER

Birmingham Temple: Pianist Christopher Atzinger, April 4; Charlie Gabriel Quartet with Vocalist Joan Bow, May 2; 28611 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 788-9338, www. vivaceseries.org

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings: "Fun and Games," 3 p.m. Feb. 22; Birmingham Unitarian Church and 4 p.m. March 1; Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Detroit: "String Sundae," 3 p.m. March Birmingham Unitarian Church and 3 p.m. April 5, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church: "Schubert and Spice." 3 p.m. April 26. First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham; Final Concert, 8 p.m. June 20, Seligman Center, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org.

Hagopian World of Rugs: Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings presents "Nightnotes," 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 9, Jan. 30, March 13 and May 8, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org

Seligman Performing Arts Center: Denyce Graves, mezzo-

#### soprano, Jan. 24; ATOS Trio, Feb. 7; Garrick Ohlsson, piano, March 21; Guarneri String Quartet, April 11; Pacifica Quartet with Erik Ronmark, saxophone, April 18; Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio with the Miami String Quartet, May 16; Yefim Bronfman, piano, May 30. All concerts 8 p.m. Saturdays, Tickets, \$25-\$75, 22305 West 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ComeHearCMSD.org.

#### CHORAL

BeckRidge Chorale: 45700 Six Mile, Northville, www.beckridoechorale.org or call (734) 416-9885. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts: 350 Madison, Detroit. (313) 887-8500, www.musichall.org. Farmington Community Chorus: Seligman Performing Arts Center of Detroit Country Day High School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, at Lahser, in Beverly Hills, (248) 669-4146.

Farmington Hills Youth Choir: Wexford Hall, Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. (248) 473-1859. First Presbyterian Church: Psenturies of Psalms. 7:30 n.m. Jan. 9: How Can You Keep From Singing?, 4 p.m. Feb. 8; Pipedusters w/organist Tom Trenney, 7:30 p.m. April 17; Music for a Cathedral, 7:30 p.m. May 22, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham, (248) 644-2040 x 136, ttrenney@comcast.net. Plymouth Oratorio Society: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth, (734) 455-8353. Monday the 12th. (And every Monday until April 27). Rehearsals for their 23rd season that includes Performing Beethoven's "Ninth Sym." with the PSO March 14. Pieces by Mozart, Pachelbel, Holst and Parry, performed on May 3. Scores can be purchased at the rehearsal. For more info., call (734) 455-8353. Rackham Choir: "An Affair To Remember." Feb. 14. Club Venetian, Madison Heights; "Dear Mrs. Parks" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, March 6-8, Orchestra Hall, Detroit; "The Armed Man: A Concert for Peace" with original film, April 5, Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Dearborn, www.rackhamchoir.org.

#### CLASSICAL

Orchestra Canton: "Mozart's Birthday Bash," 8 p.m. Jan. 24, Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5460.

Chamber Music at the Scarab Club: Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee Ave., Detroit, (248) 474-8930, www. scarabclub.org/chambermusic.

Chamber Music Society of Detroit: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 855-6070, www.ComeHearCMSD.org.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Max M. Fisher Music Center, box office at 3711 Woodward, www.detroitsymphony.com, (313) 576-5400

Fox Theatre: Andrew Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra; 7:30 p.m. May 19; tickets \$82-\$162.

Max M. Fisher Music Center: Americans Here and Abroad, Jan. 9-11; From Russia With Love, Jan. 15-18; Marvin Hamlisch, Jan. 22-24: Oundijan & Beethoven, Jan. 30-31: Mendelssohn & Mahler, Feb. 6-8: Pops Season features: All You Need is Love, Feb. 12-15; Pops Goes Las Vegas, March 19-22; The Music of Billy Joel & More by Michael Cavanaugh, April 16-19; A John Williams Adventure, March 14-17, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitsymphony. com.





#### COMING ATTRACTIONS

#### Opening Friday, Jan. 9:

Bride Wars: Liv (Kate Hudson) and Emma (Anne Hathaway), best friends since childhood, are always there for each other, through good times and bad. Even their respective bridal engagements happen within hours. Together they plan their weddings, each to take place at New York's ultimate bridal destination, the Plaza Hotel. But a clerical error and subsequent clash in wedding dates pits the two brides against each other in a competition that quickly escalates into all-out war. Also starring Kristen Johnson, Bryan Greenberg, and Candice Bergen. Directed by Gary Winick for 20th Century Fox. This film is rated PG.

Not Easily Broken: This uplifting drama about love and family is adapted from the book of the same name by renowned pastor and author Bishop T. D. Jakes. It stars Morris Chestnut & Taraji P. Henson. This film is rated PG-13.

The Reader (Expands): In post-WWII Germany, teenager Michael Berg becomes ill and is helped home by Hanna, a stranger twice his age. Michael recovers from scarlet feverand seeks out Hanna to thank her. The two are quickly drawn into a passionate but secretive affair. Michael discovers that Hanna loves being read to and their physical relationship deepens. Hanna is enthralled as Michael reads to her from The Odyssey, Huck Finn, and The Lady with the Little Dog. Despite their intense bond, Hanna mysteriously disappears one day and Michael is left confused and heartbroken. Eight years later, while Michael is a law student observing the Nazi war crime trials, he is stunned to find Hanna back in his life — this time as a defendant in the courtroom.

As Hanna's past is revealed, Michael uncovers a deep secret that will impact both of their lives. The film stars Ralph Fiennes, David Kross and Kate Winslet, and is directed by Stephen Daldry. This film is rated R.

Revolutionary Road: Adapted from the revealing novel by Richard Yates, this is an incisive portrait of an American marriage seen through the eyes of Frank (Leonardo DiCaprio) and April (Kate Winslet) Wheeler. Yates' story of 1950's America poses a question that has been reverberating through modern relationships ever since: Can two people break away from the ordinary without breaking apart? Frank and April have always seen themselves as special, different, ready and willing to live their lives based on higher ideals. So, as soon as they move into their new house on Revolutionary Road, they proudly



After finding a place to hide their dog, Friday, Andi (Emma Roberts) and her brother Bruce (Jake T. Austin) wind up giving shelter to most of the strays in town in the DreamWorks Pictures comedy "Hotel for Dogs."

declare their independence from the suburban inertia that surrounds them and determine never to be trapped by the social confines of their era. Yet for all their charm, beauty and irreverence, the Wheelers find themselves becoming exactly what they didn't expect: A good man with a meaningless job whose nerve has gone missing; a less-than-happy homemaker starving for fulfillment and passion; an American family with lost dreams, like any other. Driven to change their fates, April hatches an audacious plan to start all over again, to leave the comforts of Connecticut behind for the great unknown of Paris. But when the plan is put in motion, each spouse is pushed to extremes — one to escape whatever the cost, the other to save all that they have, no matter the compromises. Directed by Sam Mendes from a screenplay by Justin Haythe, this movie is rated R.

The Unborn: Casey Beldon (Odette Yustman) hated her mother for leaving her as a child. But when inexplicable things start to happen, Casey begins to understand why she left. Plagued by merciless dreams and a tortured ghost that haunts her waking hours, she must turn to the only spiritual adviser, Sendak (Gary Oldman), who can make it stop. With Sendak's help, Casey uncovers the source of a family curse dating back to Nazi Germany, a creature with the ability to inhabit anyone or anything that is getting stronger with each possession. With the curse unleashed, her only chance at survival is to shut a doorway from beyond our world that has been pried open by someone who was never born. Writer/director David Goyer gives a terrifying glimpse into the life of the undead in this supernatural thriller that follows a young woman pulled into a world of nightmares when a demonic spirit haunts her and threatens everyone she loves. This film is rated PG-13.

The Wrestler (Exclusively At The Birmingham 8): Back in the late '80s, Randy "The Ram" Robinson (Mickey Rourke) was a headlining professional wrestler. Now, 20 years later, he ekes out a living performing for handfuls of diehard wrestling fans in high school gyms and community centers around New Jersey. Estranged from his daughter (Evan Rachel Wood) and unable to sustain any real relationships, Randy lives for the thrill of the show and the adoration of his fans. However, a heart attack forces him into retirement. As his sense of identity starts to slip away, he begins to evaluate the state of his life - trying to reconnect with his daughter, and striking up a blossoming romance with an exotic dancer (Marisa Tomei) who is ready to start a new life. Yet all this cannot compare to the allure of the ring and passion for his art, which threatens to pull Randy "The Ram" back into his world of wrestling. Director Darren Aronofsky presents a powerful portrait of a battered dreamer, who despite himself and the odds stacked against him, lives to be a hero once again in the only place he considers home, inside the ring. This film is rated R.

**Opening Friday, Jan. 16:** *Chandi Chowk To China* (at the AMC Livonia 20): The first ever Bollywood Kungfu comedy takes you on a madcap Journey from the bylanes of Chandni Chowk in Delhi, to Shanghai, the Great Wall and rural China, marrying in its wake hilarious gags, breathtaking action, spectacular locations, and heart stirring emotions. Directed by Nikhil Advani, stars Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukobe, Mithun Chkraborty, Ranvir Shorey and Gordon Liu.

**Defiance:** Based on an extraordinary true story, this is an epic tale of family, honor, vengeance and salvation in World War II. The year is 1941 and the Jews of Eastern Europe are being massacred by the thousands. Managing to escape certain death, three brothers take refuge in the dense surrounding woods they have known since childhood. There they begin their desperate battle against the Nazis. Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber and Jamie Bell star as brothers who turn a primitive struggle to survive into something far more consequential — a way to avenge the deaths of their loved ones by saving thousands of others. This is rated R.

Hotel For Dogs: Emma Roberts, Jake T. Austin, Lisa Kudrow, Kevin Dillon and Don Cheadle star in this smart, funny comedy adventure that shows how far love and imagination can take you. When their new guardians forbid 16-year old Andi (Roberts) and her younger brother, Bruce (Austin) to have a pet, Andi has to use her quick wit to help find a new home for their dog, Friday. The resourceful kids stumble upon an abandoned hotel and using Bruce's talents as a mechanical genius, transform it into a magical dog-paradise for Friday and eventually for all Friday's friends. When barking dogs make the neighbors suspicious, Andi and Bruce use every invention they have to avoid anyone discovering "who let the dogs in." Based on the book by Lois Duncan and directed by Thor Freudenthal, this film is rated PG.

My Bloody Valentine 3D: Ten years ago, a tragedy changed the town of Harmony forever. Tom Hanniger, an inexperienced coal miner, caused an accident in the tunnels that trapped and killed five men and sent the only survivor, Harry Warden, into a permanent coma. But Harry Warden wanted revenge. Exactly one vear later, on Valentine's Day, he woke up... and brutally murdered 22 people with a pickaxe before being killed. Ten years later, Tom Hanniger returns to Harmony on Valentine's Day, still haunted by the deaths he caused. Struggling to make amends with his past, he grapples with unresolved feelings for his ex-girlfriend, Sarah, who is now married to his best friend, Axel, the town sheriff. But tonight, after years of peace, something from Harmony's dark past has returned. Wearing a miner's mask and armed with a pickaxe, an unstoppable killer is on the loose. And as his footsteps come ever closer, Tom, Sarah and Axel realize in terror that it just might be Harry Warden who's come back to claim them... Presented 'in stunningly real, cutting edge 3-D projection, the film stars Jensen Ackles, Jaime King and Kerr Smith. A remake of the 1981 horror classic, it is directed by Patrick Lussier and produced by Jack Murray. This film is rated R.

**Notorious:** The life and death story of Notorious B.I.G. (a.k.a. Christopher Wallace), who came straight out of Brooklyn to take the world of rap music by storm. This film is rated R.

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, January 8, 2009

# Clean and green

Nature is the new best seller when it comes to soaps, lotions and potions

#### **BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER** STAFF WRITER

D6

(\*)

f you're seeking to use lotions, potions and **L** soaps this year that are safer for the environment ---and you -- there's an increasing number of products to choose from.

Just keep in mind that when a product says organic or natural, it doesn't always mean the same thing.

-"There's definitely a spectrum of natural and organic products," said Bridget Peters, assistant manager and cosmetic buyer at Troy's independently owned Good Food Co.

Andrea Brassert of Troy, who founded her online luxury soap company, Lavandrea, in 2007, would agree.

#### "Organics is a loosely defined term," she said, and there are few governmental regulations.

A company committed to being organic often has products, packaging and practices that reflect its product.

They include Lush, a fastgrowing fresh handmade soap and cosmetics company founded in England.

"Lush has been passionate about the environment since it was founded 13 years ago," said Jennifer Graybeal, representative for Lush. She termed it "greenwashing" when a company labels itself organic without being so.

Lush has locations in The Somerset Collection, Troy, as well as Macy's in Novi and Sterling Heights.

**CLOSE TO NATURE** 

Simply stated, high-quality

organic skin care products are

They differ from most com-

products in that they're made

made with organic, or natural, ingredients, they say.

mercial soaps and beauty

without harsh chemicals,

dyes, fragrances and deter-

gents. Those can irritate the

skin and are not healthy for

place to start" when buy-

ing organic products is to

come from," that's a good

buy those with recognizable

Peters suggests that "a good

If you can tell where things

"Read the labels," Brassert

said. "Any reputable company

Brassert had allergic reac-

tions to dyes and fragrances

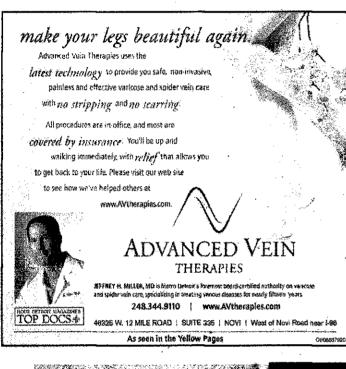
in commercial soap. She uses

the environment.

ingredients.

thing, she said.

will list them."





At left, Lush's Charity Pot of hand and body cream, goes into a charitable fund to support animal rights, environmental protection and humanitarian concerns. At right, The Body Shop's Africa Spa Rich Body Balm is an allover moisturizer made with Community Trade ingredients.

expensive priced at \$12.

At Lush, Graybeal said

the handmade, vegetarian

ingredient soaps are "a great

value." The price depends on

the kind bought and how big

a piece is sliced from a main

soap with a 70-percent soap

content, Lush has a 30- to 35-

percent soap content, she said

- healthier for skin and the

They contain "the finest

essential oils we can get," as

and other natural products. Bath bombs are the most

popular item at Lush. The

Countryside bath bomb is

**HELPING OTHERS** 

vegan, petal-packed English

Buying organic can also

mean that the business con-

tributes to "ethical" business

Founded in England, The

Body Shop, a worldwide natu-

ral beauty products shop, was

well as fresh fruits, vegetables

In contrast to mass market

That makes her soaps a bar-

gain, she said, with the most

drea.com.)

bar.

environment.

\$5.95.

practices.

homegrown herbs and pure, essential oils distilled from organic, freshly harvested herbs. She grows the lavender for her products in the back vard of her home.

#### A GOOD VALUE

The purer the product, the higher the price can be. Reasons include that it may be made in small batches to ensure quality and freshness. Peters tries to bridge the gap at Good Food Co. "We have soaps by Pure Life Soap Co. They are reasonably priced," she said of the organic soaps, which are petroleum-, paraben- and

alcohol-free. Brassert said with organics flooding the marketplace, resulting organics can be "insipid," losing their original appeal of revitalizing and restoring the body as a whole.

She said her premier collection of goat's milk soap, body butter, body dust and bath bombs will allow people to really enjoy "the benefits of aromatherapy and the therapeutic benefits of essential oils." (available at www.lavanThe English **Countryside Lush bath** bomb is vegan and petal-packed, with geranium, precious orris( made from iris roots) and sandalwood.



www.hometownlife.com

Andrea Brassert wants people to enjoy the benefits of aromatherapy and the therapeutic benefits of essential oils through her high quality line of handmade, organic bath products, Lavandrea.

the beauty industry. It works globally with community trade suppliers and helps thousands earn a sustainable income.

Its vegetable-based products include Body Butter, Peppermint Foot Lotion and Hemp; area stores are in major malls in Troy, Sterling Heights, Novi and Auburn Hills.

The Lush founder, previously associated with The Body Shop, has similar beliefs. Proceeds of Lush's Charity Pot of skin-softening hand and body cream go into a fund to support animal rights, environmental protection and humanitarian concerns.

Typically, organics also don't test products on animals and use recycled products and minimal packaging.

#### **ORIGINAL APPEAL**

The appeal of organics is catching on. Graybeal says Lush is rapidly growing.

More than 30 stores opened in the U.S. in the past few months.

Brassert said in the last two years, people have become "more receptive" when she talks about organics.

"People understand more about organic products. I think people are definitely seeking it. If we don't start thinking and living in those terms, the planet will be in trouble and so will we."

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