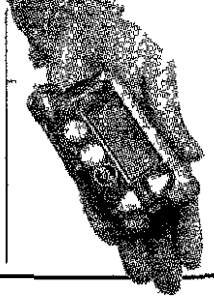


Christmas traditions

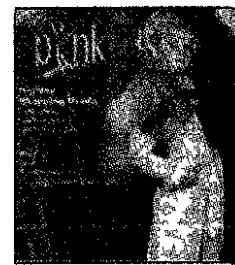
Celebrations focus on family, church, food

OBSERVER LIFE - SECTION C



Insulin pumps changing diabetic children's lives

HEALTH, PAGE C10



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SUNDAY
December 18, 2005

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Trustees OK pay hike

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Township trustees, who earlier this year told taxpayers there wasn't enough money in the budget to fully fund police and fire services without a tax increase, agreed Tuesday night to give themselves pay raises ranging from 3.6 to 8.16 percent over the next two years.

By a 4-2 margin (with trustee Steven Mann absent), the board

voted down a motion to reject the recommendations of the township's compensation commission. Trustees Kay Arnold and Charles Curmi voted against the raises, trustee Bob Doroshewitz, clerk Marilyn Massengill, treasurer Ron Edwards and supervisor Richard Reaume were in favor of accepting the raises.

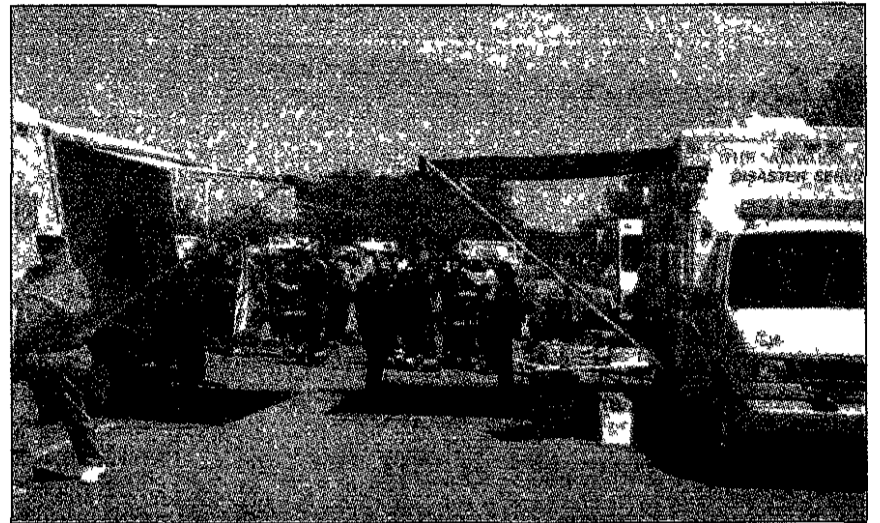
Curmi, who made the motion to reject the raises, obviously disagreed with the move. In an area heavily dependent on a slumping auto mar-

ket where companies are making cuts, Curmi said accepting the raises sends a poor message.

"Many people in this area are not getting raises and are losing their jobs," Curmi said. "We need to send a leadership example."

Using a spate of neighboring communities as comparables, the five-man compensation commission recommended a 5.16 percent increase.

PLEASE SEE PAY HIKE, A9



The Plymouth Salvation Army took part in disaster training at Oakland Community College.

Putting new faces on U.S. military

Recruiter takes on task of selling Air Force mission, career

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Tech Sgt. Adam Hessler spent the first 15 years of his U.S. Air Force career walking flight lines, guarding aircraft and standing guard over his country as a member of the Air Force's security forces.

Now, Hessler is looking at it from the other side, responsible for finding new recruits to do the work after taking over new duties as the primary recruiter for the western Wayne County areas.

Hessler, 33, mans the Air Force office at the recruiting center on Ford Road in Westland. It's a different experience for a lifer who has spent 15 years traveling to various bases.

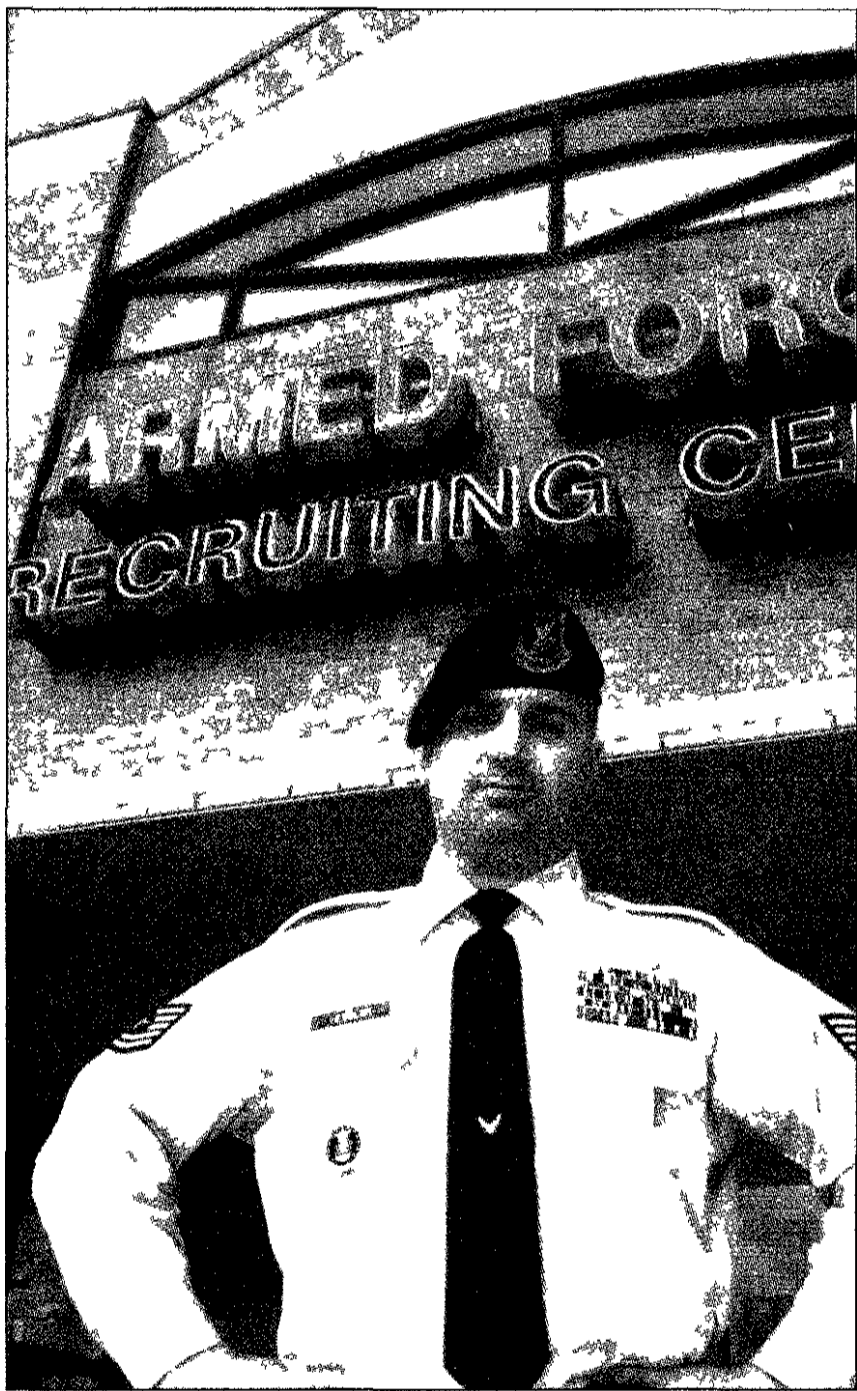
"I'm used to being at a base, so it's interesting not to be in that environment," Hessler said of his new assignment. "This community has accepted me and my family. So far, it's been a great experience all around."

Although being a recruiter isn't something he'd thought much about, being a military man has been on Hessler's mind for a long time. A Lake Orion native, Hessler figured he'd follow his brother's military march (his brother joined the Army) after graduating from Lake Orion High School in 1990.

He'd never been out of Michigan and college, he said, wasn't an option at the time. Having grown up, like many kids, valuing police officers as role models, the military security forces seemed like a natural step.

"A relative gave me a 'cop' jacket when I was a kid, and I wore it all the time," recalled Hessler, who now lives in Canton. "It was one of those role models when I was growing up. I just started looking at all my options, and it was a way to do some things I wanted to do."

He's had three different tours at bases in North Dakota, spent some time at the Pentagon and was sent overseas to Korea. After 14-plus



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Air Force Tech Sgt. Adam Hessler recently arrived for a three-year tour as the primary recruiter for western Wayne County.

years in security forces, a trip to the Noncommissioned Officers Academy at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., changed the direction of his career.

"They talked a lot about giving back to the Air Force," Hessler said. "I really love my job, and the Air Force, and I wanted to give back to it."

During a second tour at Minot AFB, N.D., Hessler decided to apply to retrain as a recruiter. After being accepted, he moved his family - wife Michelle, 12-year-old daughter Brianna and 7-year-old son

Cameron - to Canton.

Once he gets his feet wet, his superiors believe Hessler will be a good fit. His biggest challenge, according to his boss, could be answering questions about the Iraq war. The Air Force doesn't have a huge presence other than flight crews, though, so it shouldn't be much of an impediment.

"Answering the Iraq question will be his biggest challenge," said Tech Sgt. Donna Williams, recruiting flight chief for the metro Detroit

PLEASE SEE RECRUITER, A10

Training aims to draw Corps volunteers

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Disasters come in many forms, from hurricanes in New Orleans, explosions at an industrial plant or an apartment fire that displaces residents.

When they occur, the Salvation Army leaps into action to help not only the victims, but first responders.

"We respond to any type of disaster - flood, tornado, hurricane," said Ross Myers, who supervises the 13 mobile canteen units for eastern Michigan - from the Mackinac Bridge to the Ohio/Indiana border - from his office at the Plymouth Salvation Army. "We're there to support the people in need, as well as fire and police and anyone on the scene that can't get away for food and drink."

Myers and his volunteers are on call 24 hours a day. There are nearly 30 volunteers on the Royal Oak

Corps, and more than a dozen at the Corps in Dearborn Heights.

The Plymouth Corps has only eight, and Myers is hoping to gain more after an all-day training session Jan. 14, paid for with a homeland security grant.

"We'll get them acquainted with the canteen and how it operates, and teach them how to respond to an emergency," said Myers. "If we can get them trained, they can step in and know exactly what to do."

Myers is looking for people who can be called at a moment's notice, like Jeff Jones of Plymouth Township, who has been a Salvation Army volunteer the past three years.

"I had worked as a volunteer for Salvation Army working with distribution, and also the Adopt-A-Family program during the holidays," said Jones. "As I was getting ready to retire, Ross said he had an opportunity

PLEASE SEE TRAINING, A10

PICO picks township site

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Officials in the state of Michigan have been trying to find ways to keep business in Michigan, and Wednesday they kept a biggie.

Comau PICO, a global full-service automated tooling supplier, was scheduled to announce Friday it was building a 1.2-million square-foot facility in Plymouth Township to house a research and development operation, Plymouth Township officials confirmed late Friday afternoon.

According to township Supervisor Richard Reaume, the company will make a \$700-\$800 million investment in the township facility. He said it was to be built on the site of the former Detroit House of Corrections property now owned by DeMattia

at Five Mile and Ridge. The development is scheduled to bring some 2,300 jobs, Reaume said.

"This will strengthen the township's commercial industrial tax base with an international company that obviously has a bright, positive future," Reaume said. "The big benefit is you have a Michigan-based company that elected to stay in Michigan. There were other states trying to attract them."

Representatives from both DeMattia and PICO were contacted, but neither returned calls seeking comment.

According to information on the company's Web site, Comau PICO targets "diversified markets," including automated geometry setting and welding, dies, laser cutting and welding, maintenance services, powertrain machining

and assembly and robotics. PICO (Progressive Tools & Industries Company) was founded in 1939. The firm relocated from its original Detroit location to its current spot in Southfield in 1989. In 1999, PICO became part of the Comau Group to form what the Web site calls the "premier automated tooling supplier" worldwide.

Reaume said the fact the company chose to stay in Michigan, and build in Plymouth Township, was a victory for the state.

"It's a good win for Michigan to have an international company stay in Michigan," Reaume said. "There were other states and countries (Canada) trying to attract them."

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Coming Thursday in Filter

Where will you party on New Year's Eve? The next Filter will offer some ideas



Warm-up workshops

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is offering drop-in workshops during the school winter break. Each workshop, skilled instructors will present a visual arts activity designed for students of all ages.

A different activity will be presented each day, cost is \$13 for members, \$15 for non-members. Among the activities:

■ **Wednesday, Jan 4, 1-2:30 p.m.** — Participants will learn how to cut paper snowflake patterns and how to use their snowflakes to stencil and collage a larger piece of art work. All materials are included.

■ **Thursday, Jan 5, 1-2:30 p.m.** — Explore the world of Ukayo-e prints, learn about the history behind this Japanese style of printmaking and produce your own Ukayo-e inspired print using a foam printing sheet and paints. All materials are included.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is located at 774 N Sheldon in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 416-4278.

Blood drive

The American Red Cross of

Southeast Michigan will conduct a blood drive at the Plymouth District Library 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec 28.

A sign-up sheet is in the Library lobby - although walk-ins are welcome. The Red Cross reminds donors that they can safely give blood every 56 days.

For more information, call 734-453-0750, Ext 242, or go to www.semredcross.org

Township calendar

The 2006 Plymouth Township calendar is near completion and expected to be delivered to residents this week, township officials announced.

The annual calendar is "an excellent resource for important information regarding township services and activities," officials said.

Residents who do not receive a calendar in the mail by the first week of January should call the supervisor's office at (734) 354-3203.

Sculpture show

Native West in downtown Plymouth hosts a Native



Welcome, Santa

Students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park choirs were on hand when the Plymouth community welcomed Santa Claus back to town recently. Singers led the gathering crowd in carols as they waited for Santa's arrival in Kellogg Park. The choir goes caroling through downtown Plymouth 6-8 p.m. Fridays through the holiday.

American sculpture show in conjunction with the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular Jan 16-22.

Native West will have more than 300 carvings for sale, most of them referred to by Native Americans as "fetishes." According to Native West owner Annette Horn, Indian fetishes are hand-carved objects which represent the spirits of animals or the forces of nature, which are believed to have healing powers. Traditional materials for fetishes include turquoise, jet, picasso marble, shell, pipe-stone, alabaster and serpentine. The store will also feature larger native carvings made of alabaster and bronze.

The gallery is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (734) 455-8838.

Kiwanis speaker

James Epolito, CEO of the

Michigan Economic Development Corp., will be the guest speaker when the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth meets noon-1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan 12 at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Epolito will talk about the economic outlook for jobs. Cost is \$13 at the door. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at the corner of Main and Church in downtown Plymouth.

For more information, call (734) 934-7653.

First Friday

Fear No Art is the featured attraction for the Plymouth Community Arts Council's "First Friday" series at 7:30 p.m. Jan 6.

Geared toward the young adult crowd, local high school students will exhibit their artwork, perform poetry readings, and acoustic and a capella music. PCAC's Henry Bahrou with "Sounds of Isha" will take

the stage along with the bands "Burning Cacti" and "Phillips, Caruso & Crew." The Spoken Word PCEP Poets will round out the event.

For more information, call the PCAC, (734) 416-4278.

Station giveaways

WSDP 88.1-FM, the student-run radio station at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, will host two weeks of giveaways aimed at adding holiday cheer for many listeners, including CDs selected from 88.1-FM's playlist for the past year, tickets to Emagine Theater and Jones Soda.

Through Dec 22, each daily winner will be put in a drawing for a chance to win the grand prize: Santa's Sack of CDs, featuring more than 50 CDs from 88.1-FM's playlist in 2005. The grand prize winner will be drawn Thursday, Dec 22, during Backstage Pass, which airs at 5:40 p.m. Backstage Pass is hosted by Emily Hulscher and features the latest music news, concert and CD updates and music reviews.

Youth artist deadline

The application deadline for this year's Plymouth Symphony Youth Artist Competition is Friday, Jan 30, with the competition itself scheduled for Sunday, Feb 12 at Evola Music, 7170 N Haggerty in Canton.

Through the generosity of the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, local service organizations and other sponsors, the Plymouth Symphony recognizes young orchestral talent from the greater Plymouth-Canton and surrounding communities through this competition and offered music scholarships to area youth since 1978.

The competition is composed of three divisions:

Senior Instrumental (grades 10-12), Senior Piano (grades 10-12), and Junior Division (combined instrumental & piano grades 7-9). Applicants must be piano, band or orchestra students in the school districts of Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton, Van Buren (Belleville), Clarenceville, or Wayne-Westland. Celebration Youth Orchestra members and students at Evola Music are also eligible.

The first-prize winner in each senior division shall receive \$500 and the first-prize winner in the junior division shall receive \$250. If applicable, honorable mentions will also be acknowledged.

Applications, available through the Plymouth Symphony, are due Jan 30. Past participants are encouraged to re-apply, however, musicians are eligible to win only one first-prize award in each division. Winners may have the opportunity to perform with the PSO or Orchestra Canton. Applicants must be available to perform at the competition.

For an application and/or further information, contact Ellen Elliott by e-mail at info@plymouthsymphony.org or by calling (734) 451-2112. Applications are also available on the Plymouth Symphony Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org.

Toy drive

Mel's Golden Razor sponsors its 26th annual toy collection for needy families and First Step.

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Pay up: Users could get flooded by water rate hike

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Mention the quarterly water bill, and John Cross of Plymouth shakes his head. "I think our water bill rates are too high right now," said Cross. "I don't have any water leaks, I water my yard a minimal amount, and still my bill for three months was a little over \$300."

"I'm shocked at how high our water bill is, it's even more than the electric bill," he said. "I think we're being hammered."

Cross and his neighbors will soon find out if it will cost even more to water the lawn, wash the car and do laundry and dishes.

How much more will be determined by Plymouth city commissioners and Plymouth Township trustees as both communities determine how much of their cost from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department will be passed on to residents.

Preliminary bulk rates handed out by Detroit include a 9.9 percent increase for Plymouth, and a 3.8 percent hike in Plymouth Township. The average increase for the 126 southeast Michigan communities served by the Detroit water system is 5.7 percent.

City Finance Director Mark Christiansen said there are a number of factors which determine how much of the bulk rate increase to governmental units is passed on to consumers.

Every community sets its own capital improvements program and maintenance of the system," said Christiansen. "In our case, we're an old city and we have a capital intensive program to replace aging water lines. We're also on the fringe of the system, making it more costly to get water."

In July, Plymouth residents experienced a 4.1 percent water and sewer bill increase. That compares to a 10.6 percent rate hike in 2004, 17.3 percent in 2005 and 14.8 percent in 2002. That still doesn't measure up to the 43 percent increase in the flat rate and consumption increases in 1999. That year, commissioners made up for eight consecutive years in

which the city absorbed all the increases passed on by Detroit, and leaving consumer rates level.

"What really caused the big hike was the advent of the street improvement program, and we began dipping into reserve money for capital improvements to the system," said Christiansen. "The rate increases were high to generate additional cash."

Subsequent rate hikes helped build the cash reserves in the city's water fund to more than \$1 million the past two years.

"This year, there isn't the demand or need to garner additional cash, unless the City Commission wants to fund future utility improvements," said Christiansen.

Plymouth Township water and sewer rates have mostly remained steady – and decreased once – since 2001, according to Treasurer Ron Edwards.

"We absorbed the rate increase last year, but I don't think we'll do it this year," predicted Edwards. "We've been able to keep the rates down because residents are using more water. The system is not based on conservation, but on maximizing use."

Supervisor Richard Reaume also indicated a rate hike could be in order for township residents.

"This is something we will have to take to the entire board to decide to what degree we'd pass that on to the customer," Reaume said. "We don't want to get caught behind the eight-ball, so my inclination would be to pass it on."

Some communities have taken the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to court in an attempt to determine how water rates are calculated.

"They've never been clear on justifying how they determine rates," said Christiansen.

"They're facing billions of dollars to improve the system, which will require double-digit increases."

"It's not something anyone wants to see, but it will be reality for most communities," he said.

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Students reach out to Latino families

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Alicia Maturen, Jane Spiteri and Andrea Stuechel all teach Spanish at Plymouth High School.

But, it may be the precepts about life that will be the biggest lesson of all and earn students an A+ this semester.

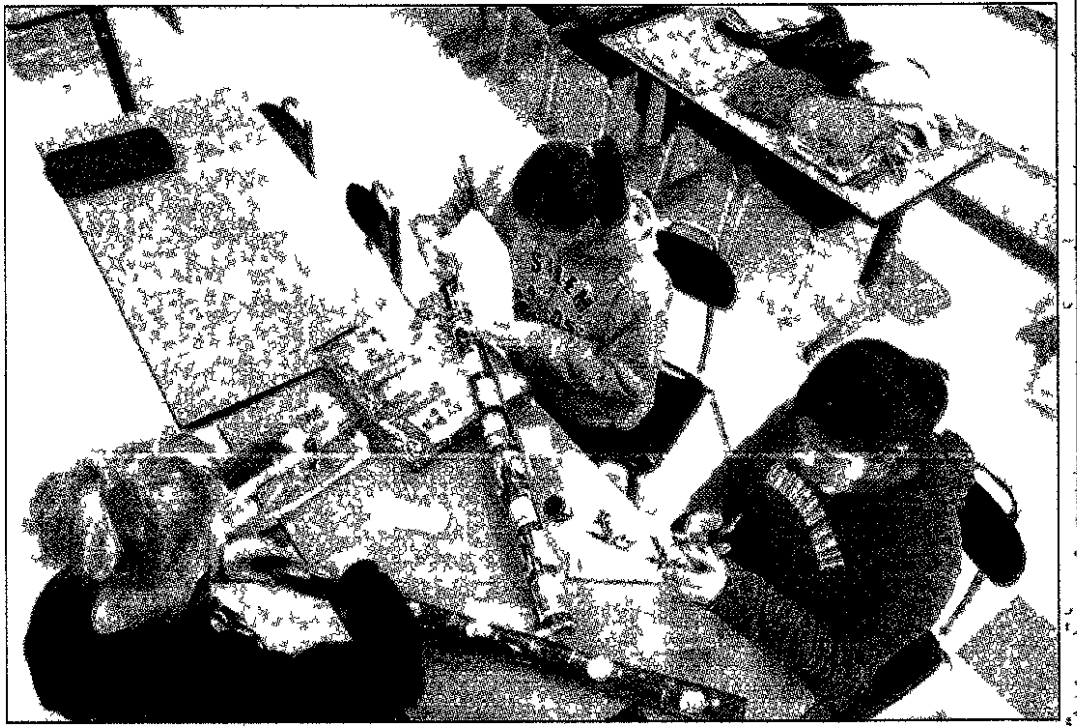
Nearly 70 Spanish students from the three classes adopted more than two dozen families from Latino Family Services in Detroit, and on Friday delivered two busloads of food, clothing, toys and other gifts to people less fortunate than themselves.

"When the teachers first explained it, everyone's eyes opened up," said Ally Ciotti, 16, of Canton. "I felt depressed for the rest of the day because so many people don't have what we took for granted. The next day, people were bringing in clothes, toys, everything."

This year's goal was to double the 13 families Maturen's and Spiteri's classes helped last Christmas. With gifts that included simple necessities, students assisted 119 people from 29 families.

"Sometimes the moms wouldn't list anything for themselves, but wanted things for their kids," said Maturen. "Some asked for food and underwear. One wanted a bed, and we found a used one."

"I want students to understand these aren't poor people somewhere in Mexico who live in boxes," she said. "They're poor people who live only 20 minutes away. Students picked up the les-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth High Spanish students Hanna Bentley, Lauren Koehler and Amy Shoemaker wrap gifts

son quickly, collecting clothes, blankets, coats, food and toys.

To realize there are people so close to you that don't have anything," said Ciotti. "It's really important that you reach out to them."

For Katie Fiedler, 16, of Plymouth Township, it was a real eye-opener.

"We're giving to families who are less fortunate, and who won't receive any gifts for Christmas unless someone helps them," said Fiedler. "It really opens our eyes to see how much we have."

I think it's kind of cool you're helping Spanish families with kids from a Spanish

class," she said. "It's a connection, so when you actually go visit them, you can use your Spanish and it brings it together for you."

Students did get to visit with the families they collected necessities and gifts for, which is one reason why Maturen started the program last year.

"That's a challenge for them because a lot of the families don't speak any English," said Maturen. Last year, they were translating through some of the 4- and 5-year-olds who spoke English."

Alicia Villarreal, president and CEO of Latino Family Services, says without the

help of people like Plymouth-Canton Schools students, there would be families who wouldn't have Christmas.

It's really nice when youths come together to support families during the holidays," said Villarreal. "It's a strong statement of compassion and caring and giving."

"It's making a difference in someone's lives," she said. "You see tears from people who didn't know if they could meet the needs of their families this year."

Spiteri said she's not surprised by the generosity. "Teenagers really are compassionate, kind and considerate," said Spiteri.

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Suspect arraigned in robbery

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

A 48-year-old Plymouth man was arraigned Friday in 35th District Court in Plymouth, charged with twice robbing the Charter One Bank branch inside the Kroger store on Ann Arbor Road.

Mark Benyo was charged with two counts of bank robbery, one count of fleeing and eluding, one count of resisting and obstruction. He was charged as a fourth-time habitual offender.

However a second suspect in the robbery will not be charged, according to Plymouth Township Police.

There are some knowledge issues there, Detective Dennis Wilson said Friday. There are indications the second man

didn't know Benyo intended to rob the bank.

Police say Benyo, dressed in a fake beard and baseball cap, walked into the Charter One Bank Wednesday, allegedly demanded money and walked out with an undisclosed amount of cash. He left the scene in a Honda Accord, which also carried the second suspect.

Witnesses gave police a description of the car and the license plate number, which Plymouth Township Police then disseminated over their police radios. A Livonia police officer then spotted the Accord traveling eastbound on I-96.

A second officer deployed 'stop sticks' to flatten the tires, and the car eventually left the expressway at Outer Drive, then crashed into a pole.

According to police, Benyo tried to run and eventually forced police to fire shots.

Police said Benyo suffered superficial injuries to his hand and was taken to St. Mary Mercy Hospital. Police had hoped to arraign Benyo on Thursday, but he complained of chest pain and was kept in the hospital for tests, Wilson said.

Wilson said that, while in custody, Benyo admitted to robbing the same Charter One Bank branch Nov. 17.

"We found the coat he was wearing in that incident in the trunk of the car, along with a pair of sunglasses," Wilson said.

He was released from the hospital and arraigned Friday.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

Plymouth-Canton district files deed for Miller Woods

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Jim Ryan has done a good deed — literally.

On Wednesday, Ryan filed a 15-year-old deed restriction on 10.2 acres of the Miller Woods nature preserve in Plymouth Township, protecting it from future development.

However, it wasn't as easy as it seemed, as Ryan's efforts to file the deed restriction last month were stymied because of an error in the legal description of the property.

"We asked legal counsel to proceed and we quickly discovered the original declaration of restrictions was not in recordable form," Ryan told Board of Education members Tuesday. "Counsel also discovered an error in the legal description of the property, and they went ahead and corrected the error."

The school board approved an affidavit acknowledging the changes, and Ryan filed the deed restriction with Wayne County the next day.

The original document was approved by the Board of Education in 1991 for the woods portion of the 40-acre site purchased in 1968, however, no one ever filed it with the county.

When the school board began discussing the possibility of selling the beech-maple climax forest, wetlands and wildlife sanctuary

— on Powell Road between North Territorial and Ridge — the Friends of Miller Woods began putting pressure on the board to file the belated document.

"I'm glad we didn't just attempt to file it because the county wouldn't have accepted it in the condition that it was in," said vice-president Judy Mardigian. "I know it's taken us awhile, but it was always our intent to file the deed restriction. It just had to be done property with the i's dotted and the t's crossed."

Marcia Fowler, a member of the Friends of Miller Woods, said supporters of Miller Woods can breathe a bit better with the filing of the deed restriction.

"We're grateful the board followed through on filing the deed restriction," said Fowler. "We're hoping that since the deed restriction has been properly recorded, we could discuss with them what else we might do to preserve some of the property around the woods."

"In terms of wildlife and ecology to the property, it's important to consider not just the 10 acres as a nature preserve," she said. "If the board is really serious about maintaining the integrity of the woods, there needs to be some property around the woods. The woods doesn't end with a boundary line of 10 acres."

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- B**
- Luwana Bond (nee Wheeler) Bond 81 died Dec 14
 - Ronald G. Bray Bray 62 of Clarkston died Dec 13
 - Ruth Erickson Brooks Brooks 90 formerly of Birmingham died Dec 7
- D**
- James J. Dobby Dobby 63 of Webberville died Dec 8
 - Gordon F. Donaldson Donaldson 66 died Dec 15
- G**
- Howard E. Gray Gray 89 of Farmington Hills died Dec 11
- H**
- Anna Mary Heringhausen Heringhausen of Garden City died Nov 18
 - Jack C. Hutchinson Hutchinson 89 of Holland formerly of Birmingham died Dec 15
- L**
- Edward Hodson Lerchen

For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in *Passages* on page C4.

- Mayes 50 of Westland died Dec 9
- Richard N. Miller Sr. Miller 80 of Livonia died Dec 14
- N**
- Lena M. Nicholson Nicholson 96 of Birmingham died Dec 16
- O**
- James P. O'Donnell O'Donnell 91 of Livonia died Dec 6
- P**
- Susan Peacock Peacock died Dec 13
- R**
- Sharon E. Rea Rea 58 of Plymouth died Dec 13
- Ralph W. Richmond Richmond 49 of Westland died Dec 9
- Robert Paul Russle Sr. Russle 92 died Dec 13
- Y**
- Carmen Frank Yaconis Yaconis 72 of Westland died Dec 10

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Can drive assists cancer patient

While Plymouth resident Jennifer Hayse continues her fight against breast cancer by getting treatment in Israel, friends and supporters are trying to help back home

The "Jen Possible Community Can Drive" started Friday and runs through Dec 23 at Bellavino Market on Anh Arbor Road (at Lilley) in Plymouth and at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish School in Plymouth

Hayse, a 34-year-old mother of three, has been in Israel since mid-November in an effort to fight her breast cancer. Hayse expects to be there another several months and will miss the Christmas holiday with her children

Members of the Plymouth-Canton community are being asked to bring redeemable soda cans to either location to raise money for the Jennifer Hayse Family Assistance Fund. The treatment Hayse is undergoing in Israel is not covered by health insurance

Cans can be dropped off at Bellavino 8 a.m.-7 p.m. every day, and at the OLC School, 1151 William, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday

"She has great hopes this treatment will save her life," said Cindy Peterson, one of the people organizing the can drive. "We hope the community can unite together to help this special family in their time of need"

Peterson said the JenPossible team also wanted to thank Bellavino, OLC, FedEx Kinko's and the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for their assistance

More information is available on the Web at www.jenpossible.us or by calling Peterson at (734) 274-1026

Write stuff: Bookstore seeking 'Book Angels' for holidays

The Book Cellar & Cafe in downtown Plymouth is asking its customers to join in donating books to needy children this holiday season. The locally owned bookstore has teamed up with First Step, a local shelter, to sponsor a program that will get new books into the hands of disadvantaged children in the community who might not otherwise receive gifts this holiday season

"Our goal is to help promote literacy and the love of

To become a "Book Angel," stop by the The Book Cellar & Cafe in downtown Plymouth or find out more about the program by calling (734) 455-BOOK.

reading among a group of kids who really good use the special attention," said Dr. Bashar Salame, one of the co-owners of Plymouth's Book

Cellar. Added his partner, Nader Iskandar: "We wanted to work with a local community group because we are a community bookstore and feel a need to support our neighbors"

The program is quite simple. Plymouth's Book Cellar is asking its customers to pick out a book for one of the children in the program, and the store will gift wrap the books and deliver them in time for Christmas

Customers who want to participate in the program select one of the book angels and then pick out a book they think the child will like. Customers can write a holiday message on the back side of the angel cut-out, which will serve as the gift card

"Books are presents that kids can open again and again," Dr. Salame said, "and we're pleased to be able to deliver this kind of gift that helps young minds grow"

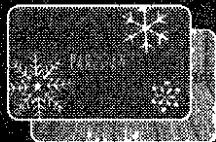
Both owners feel that the

public will respond and support such a noble cause this holiday season. "It's a good thing to do," Iskandar said

To become a "Book Angel, stop by the The Book Cellar & Cafe in downtown Plymouth or find out more about the program by calling (734) 455-BOOK

Plymouth's Book Cellar & Cafe is a full-selection, full-service community bookstore that opened earlier this year on West Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth

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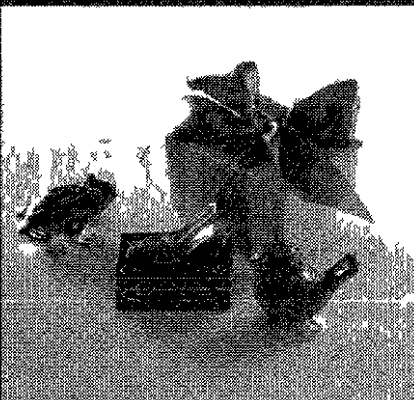
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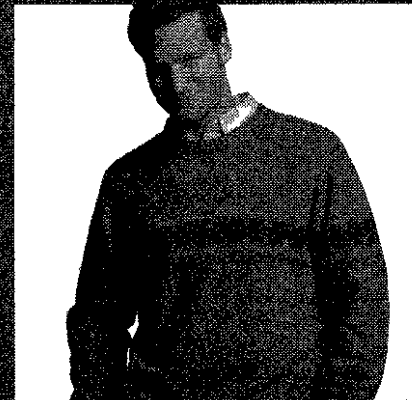
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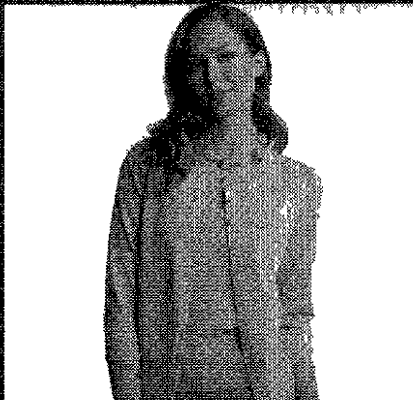
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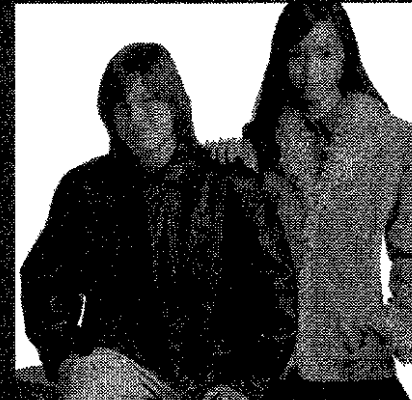
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Granholtm signs wine legislation

Gov Jennifer Granholtm Thursday signed legislation that will allow Michigan and out-of-state wineries to ship their products directly to customers in limited amounts

"Protecting Michigan wineries means protecting Michigan jobs," Granholtm said. "This legislation represents a compromise that will comply with the Supreme Court and, more importantly, protect our local economies"

In May, the United States Supreme Court declared unconstitutional Michigan and New York state laws regulating the sale of wine. In both cases, in-state wineries were allowed to ship directly to consumers, retailers and restaurants while out-of-state wineries were not

The legislation will allow licensed wineries to ship up to 1,500 nine-liter cases, or 13,500 liters total, directly to customers each year. The bills also put regulations in place to ensure that minors cannot get access to wine through direct shipment and allow the Liquor Control Commission to charge an annual license fee of up to \$100 to help fund the regulation of direct shipping vendors

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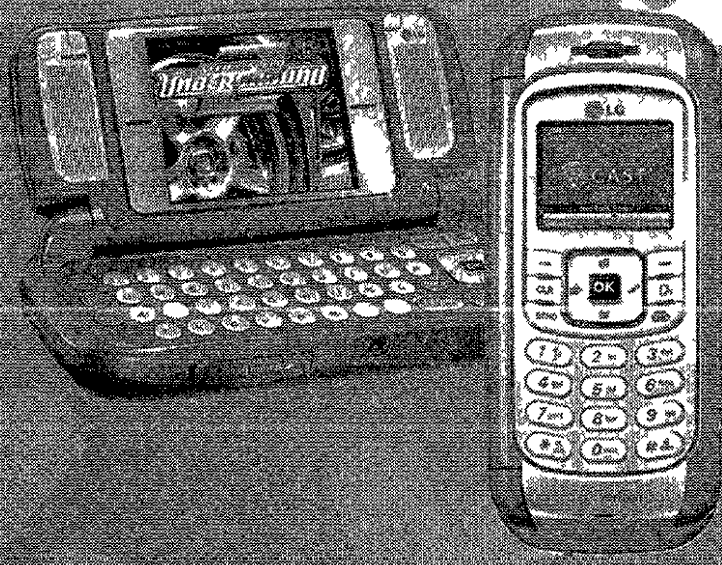
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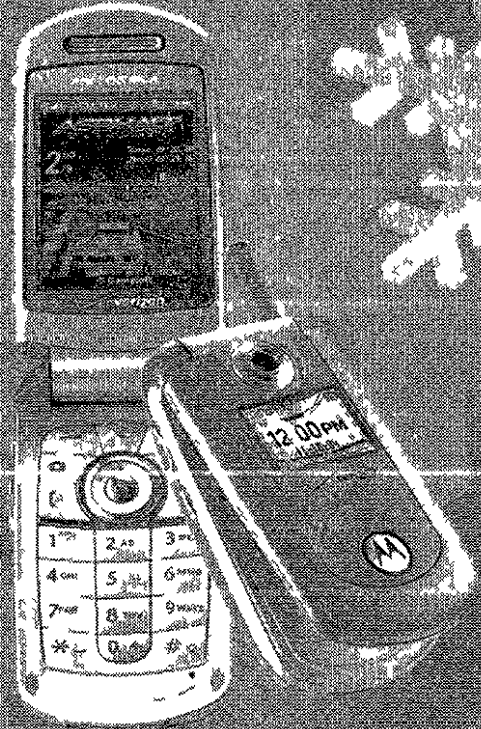


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NEWS BRIEFS

Community Foundation

Plymouth resident Bill Lawton, the president/CEO of Community Financial in Plymouth, has been named to the Advisory Committee of the Community



Lawton

Foundation of Plymouth. The Community Foundation of Plymouth is a newly established geographic affiliate fund of the Ann Arbor

Area Community Foundation. Earlier known as the Community Fund of Plymouth before undergoing a name change, the Community Foundation of Plymouth is overseen by an Advisory Committee of community volunteers who live and/or work in the Plymouth area.

The Foundation serves the 48170 zip code, which includes the City and Township of Plymouth, as well as those parts of Salem, Superior and Northville townships served by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

A permanent endowment fund, the Community Foundation of Plymouth will assist nonprofit organizations and programs serving residents in the Plymouth area. Annual distributions will take place through a formal grant-making program overseen by a volunteer grant committee. A separate development committee will actively seek contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations, additional gifts are expected to come from estate donations.

In addition to a general, unrestricted fund, the Community Foundation of Plymouth will be able to accommodate donor-advised funds, scholarships, broad field-of-interest funds, and an administrative endowment fund to help support the Foundation's administrative costs over time.

Lawton also serves on and the board of Community Financial's Scholarship Foundation and the board of the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

Simrit development director

Simrit, the industrial sealing products division of Freudenberg-NOK, has named Clive J. Hill as development director of heavy duty hydraulics. The announcement was made by David R. Monaco, president of Simrit.

"With more than 20 years of international experience in industrial hydraulics, Clive exemplifies what we believe in as an organization - dedication, commitment and the constant pursuit of innovation," Monaco said. "His vast knowledge and expertise of our global products and programs will help expand our overall company capabilities as 'The Technology Specialist' in the North American market."

In his new position, Hill is responsible for expanding the North American business base of the Merkel Freudenberg Fluidtechnic brand of products in a variety of specialized industrial markets, including tunnel boring machinery, steel and aluminum rolling mills and hydraulic equipment, injection molding machinery, presses, wind power, and mining equipment.

The Simrit Division is based at Freudenberg-NOK's headquarters in Plymouth. Freudenberg-NOK is part of the Freudenberg and NOK Group Companies, which have total annual sales of more than \$7 billion. The global Freudenberg and NOK Group offers an extensive portfolio of precision-molded products for the aerospace, appliance, automotive, marine, medical, off-highway equipment, recreational vehicle and semiconductor markets.

Call center launch

United Way for Southeastern Michigan will launch its 2-1-1 call center Monday at the orga-

nizations downtown Detroit location. 2-1-1 is an easy access multi-lingual, comprehensive information and referral service that will connect people in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties to health and human services, as well as volunteer opportunities, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. 2-1-1 can also disseminate public health and preparedness information in times of crisis.

United Way is partnering with other organizations to implement 2-1-1. Common Ground Sanctuary, the Detroit Public Library, Macomb County Crisis Center, Neighborhood Service Organization and The Information Center.

United Way has been advocating for a 2-1-1 call center in southeastern Michigan for nearly two years. Only 14 percent of Michigan's residents have had access to 2-1-1 prior to this time. As of Dec. 5, more than half of Michigan's population will be able to access needed services by dialing 2-1-1.

This 2-1-1 call center is made possible by the generosity of Comerica Charitable Foundation, Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan, DamlerChrysler Corporation Fund, DTE Energy Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, McGregor Fund, Metro Health Foundation, Michigan First Credit Union, Ralph L. & Winifred E. Polk Foundation, State of Michigan, Virgil H. Carr Memorial United Way Classic, and the Whitney Fund.

United Way's Tel-Help Information and Referral Service received more than 34,000 calls in 2004. In Oct. 2005 alone, over 8,300 calls were received, more than double the calls from last year at this time. Top concerns were utilities, rent and housing, holiday programs and food. It's estimated that 2-1-1 will serve over 140,000 callers next year, connecting people with more than 5,000 programs and services throughout the tri-county area.

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Look for Mike's Ad Every Week in Sunday's Observer Newspaper! Check Our Website for Additional Specials mikes-marketplace.com

Aspiring musician performs at boxing match

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Music might as well be a family affair when it comes to the Ansaras of Redford Township. And their rising star is known simply as Stevie Soul. A 2005 Thurston High School graduate, Stevie Soul Ansara and his brother, Billy Ansara Jr., have joined forces to produce a sonic style that practically defies description. Based on Stevie's distinct brand of vocal percussion and integrating Billy's background in music production, they're forging ahead blending genres of hip hop, jazz and soul.

The sound recently caught the ear of representatives at Winlane Sports and Entertainment. Stevie Soul is the first musical act to be included at Winlane, a management company which historically promotes athletes and models.

As Soul's father, Bill Ansara, explained "He opened his mouth and things started to happen."

With the support of Winlane, Stevie Soul made his very public premiere - performing between bouts at The Night of Olympians professional boxing event at The Palace of Auburn Hills. The event was 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17.

"I'm excited, Soul said "I'm kind of waiting for this break."



Drawn to rhythm at an early age, Stevie Soul Ansara has honed his skills as a vocal percussionist. His use of drums accompanies his talent.

Stevie Soul will also perform during the Superbowl of Boxing, another event set for Saturday, Feb. 4, at The Palace. The event coincides with Superbowl XL in Detroit. "I love it," Soul said of the opportunity. "I've been working hard."

Soul said he can make roughly 12 different sounds while beatboxing. He started experimenting with his voice when he was younger during

family trips to Northern Michigan. Exposed early on to Middle Eastern styles of music, he started humming it and drumming it in the car. He admits these sounds were initially a bother to family members, including his brothers Billy and Jimmy.

But Billy Ansara Jr. now sees those sounds for what they are, in his words, raw talent. And talent he can work with, as a deejay and music producer.

"He has beatbox skills, said Billy Ansara. I'll make melodies and we'll develop it into a full song."

As brothers, they work is seamless. "He takes the words right out of my mouth," said Soul.

Ansara agreed. "We balance each other."

Even more than a musician, Soul said he's a performer. And his music is best experienced in a live setting. He said he's been a performer "ever since I had the opportunity to get on a microphone."

He doesn't think twice about getting up in front of an audience. But performing does take preparation. Soul said he does breathing exercises and often prays before he takes the stage.

Inspired by everyone from Ray Charles to The Roots, Stevie Soul said his music begins with a drum beat, and is layered with melodies.

He started recording in a



Stevie 'Soul' Ansara jams at Sandman Entertainment studios in Livonia while preparing for a Dec. 17 performance at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

basement studio in the family's home. About two years ago, Billy Ansara Jr. had grown his production company - Sandman Entertainment - to a point where he sought studio space elsewhere. Now located in Livonia, Ansara's production skills at Sandman Entertainment is devoted full time to Stevie Soul.

And their father, Livonia native Bill Ansara, is busy managing Stevie Soul. The entertainment industry isn't new to either Billy or Stevie. They've done acting and modeling work locally. Soul currently attends the International Academy of Design and Technology. And they run NO. IV Cigar Cafe at Novi's Fountain Walk.

Meanwhile, Soul has kept busy preparing for his upcoming performances at these boxing events. He's customizing his 20-minute set to be as aggressive as the sport of boxing itself.

Soul's audience ranges from ages 8 to 80 - there's something in it that everyone relates to, he said. When compared to other vocal percussionists, his



Billy Ansara Jr. runs Sandman Entertainment and is devoting his time and production skills to working with his brother Stevie Soul. The Ansaras live in Redford Township.

music stands out because it incorporates an array of cultures. The live show is definitely where it's at," said Soul.

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Building blocks: Regional Chamber launches economic project

The Detroit Regional Chamber announced Thursday that it is launching a first-of-its-kind initiative called "Design Regional Detroit" to develop and implement a blueprint for achieving long-term economic prosperity in Southeast Michigan.

"Design Regional Detroit" is a two-year collaborative project that will marshal the resources and talents of the best minds in the region to chart a decisive course for the next 10 to 20 years and beyond," said Chamber President and CEO Richard E. Blouse Jr.

"This is a massive, unparalleled undertaking. It's ambitious in outlook and bold in scope - and it's long overdue," Blouse said. "Other metropolitan areas across the country have experienced tangible results through similar initiatives. It's time we did the same. We don't have the luxury of sitting back and simply letting it happen."

Edsel B. Ford II will serve as champion of the project. Blouse praised Ford for heeding the call to serve as the project's official champion.

"The fact that a community leader and business icon has agreed to take on this critical role underscores the impact and significance of this project," he said. "This is an unprecedented opportunity to shape our future, and I commend Edsel Ford for stepping up and making this commitment for our future."

"Design Regional Detroit" will take an inclusive, broad-based approach and will seek to include established as well as emerging business leaders. Furthermore, it will yield a specific action plan with a long-term vision for the area's future. The goals for the initiative include:

- Identifying regional priorities which offer the great economic and social benefit to the greatest number of people

- Provide measurable objectives for sustained economic growth and prosperity

- Create strategies to meet those objectives
- Design specific indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress

Although the Chamber is spearheading the initiative,

Edsel B. Ford II will serve as champion of the project.

"Design Regional Detroit" will emphasize inclusion by engaging and involving a wide range of diverse people, organizations, geographical locations and sectors including business, government, labor, civic, religious and

nonprofit stakeholders. Ford will lead an advisory committee of energetic, hard-working leaders who, as he put it, are willing to roll up their sleeves and make things happen.

In his role as champion, Edsel B. Ford II, board director and consultant at Ford Motor Co. and former COO of Ford Motor Credit,

will provide leadership for the initiative and involve a broad group of stakeholders and advocates from across the region. This role is a natural extension of Ford's deep commitment to the community. He previously served as chair of Detroit 300, which planned the city's 300th anniversary celebration, and currently is the former

chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago-Detroit Branch and chairman of the National Advisory Board of the Salvation Army.

As a member of a family that traces its roots in this community back more than 150 years, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the Detroit

Regional Chamber and all the stakeholders on this meaningful project," said Ford. "We have a lot of work to do in a relatively short period of time, but I'm confident the results will benefit the future generations in Southeast Michigan, who are depending on the outcome of this collaborative effort."

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PAY HIKE

FROM PAGE A1

for Reaume over two years, an 8.16 percent hike for both Massengill and Edwards, and a 3.6 percent raise (all in 2007, with no raise next year) for the four trustees.

The raises boost 2007 salaries to \$90,159 for Reaume, \$83,680 for Massengill and Edwards and \$11,400 for trustees. The commission met Nov. 28, and its recommendations were presented to the board Tuesday.

"We looked at 12 other communities, and we felt we should be somewhere in that range, based on the economy," said Roy Hart, who chairs the compensation commission. "We examined everything, and (commissioners) felt if we're going to get qualified people, we've got to pay them."

Township ordinance requires the compensation commission to meet in odd-numbered years to make recommendations on the salaries of the township's elected officials to the board. If a motion to reject fails, as it did Tuesday, or if no action is taken, the raises are automatically enacted.

Reaume said Tuesday the raises are in line with what the board has given to both union and non-represented employees, and in fact are necessary to keep Plymouth Township competitive in the job market.

"We continue to cut (the budget) in all areas, and in fact we're down five positions just since I took over," Reaume said. "(But) we still have to compete in the labor pool."

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The Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive donations off 30 percent

The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division's Red Kettle Christmas Campaign is currently \$625,000 short of its targeted pace and is on track to fall short of the \$7 million goal by at least 29 percent.

To date, the campaign has brought in \$2.66 million, just 38 percent of the total \$7 million needed to maintain current service levels in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties in 2006.

The Salvation Army's \$7 million goal represents real need as reflected by the fact that Detroit has been ranked our nation's poorest city. In Michigan alone last year, 1.2 million people relied on the



Salvation Army for basic assistance like food, shelter, and clothing. The Salvation Army's tremendous outreach, including programs serving the elderly, homeless, addicted, and even pregnant teens, is only possible through the use of the funds raised during

The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Christmas Campaign

"Imagine what Detroit will be like next year if we have to cut services. If people don't give a little more, we'll have to turn people away during a time when more and more people are asking for help," said Russ Russell, executive director of development for the Salvation Army.

"We've got our own tsunami here at home 365 days a year. The Salvation Army helped so many around the world through tremendous disasters this year. But I'm worried that we won't be able to help our own community, which is facing a critical need."

RECRUITER

FROM PAGE A1

area, stationed in Livonia. "That question comes up a lot in school visits, even though we don't have a huge presence over there. But (Hessler) will do fine. He's very sharp, very intelligent."

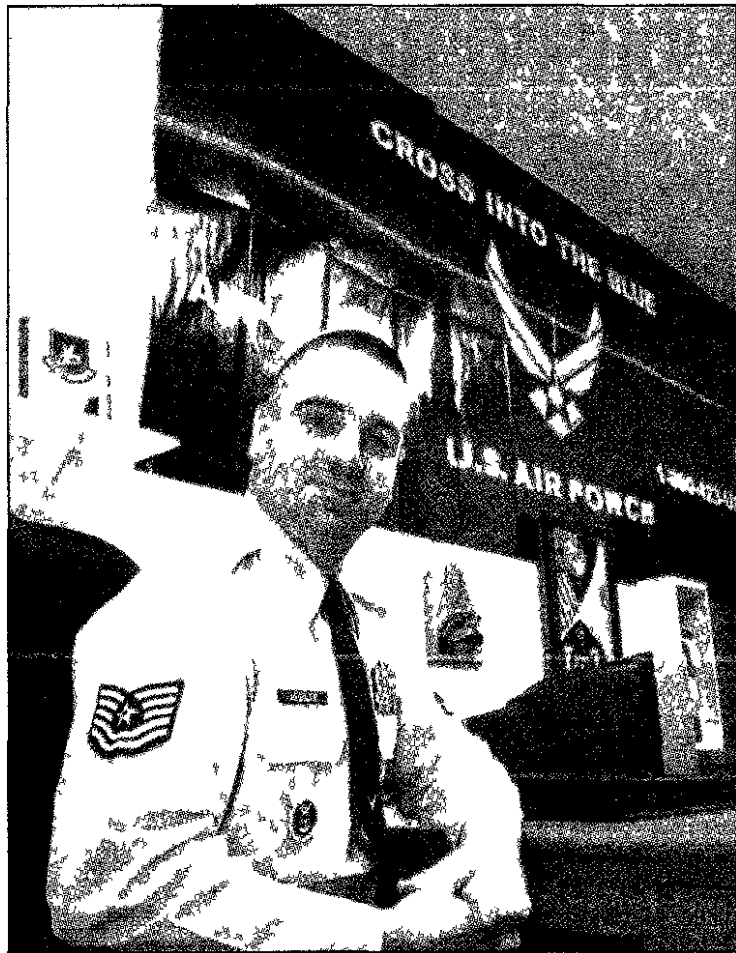
School visits are something Hessler is getting used to, because he spends a lot of time there. He's responsible for recruiting in Plymouth-Canton, Wayne-Westland, Romulus and Van Buren schools, and it's something he enjoys doing.

Much of that time he spends dispelling the myth everyone in the Air Force flies a plane. In truth, Hessler said, only about 4 percent of Air Force members fly.

"Everyone thinks the Air Force just flies," Hessler said. "When they find out 96 percent of us do other things, they're enthusiastic, because they think the only way to get in is to be able to fly."

Hessler signed on for a three-year tour as a recruiter, and he's not sure what he'll do when that time is up.

"I love this, but I loved the security forces, too, and



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tech Sgt. Adam Hessler spent more than 14 years in the Air Force's security forces before taking on a new role as a recruiter.

"I miss that," Hessler said. "My original plan was to do this for three years, then go back to my original job."

But I love this, so who knows?"

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TRAINING

FROM PAGE A1

nity' for me.

"He was looking for people to work in disaster service," added Jones. "I had the time and he had the need, so here we are."

Jones said he's been called out in the middle of the night to shuttle the canteen from the Plymouth Township DPW garage to many places in metro Detroit.

"I remember being awakened on Christmas Eve night for a condo fire in Northville," said Jones, "and saying 'Merry Christmas' to people in the cold."

Volunteers will be trained on the history, mission and structure of the Salvation Army, the types of incidents they could be sent on, and determine where they could best serve the Salvation Army.

"Not everybody can do warehouse work, food handling, spiritual care," said Maj. Bill Hogg, commander of the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps. "We'll go through the incidents, and find their niche."

"We always need volunteers, and what these classes do is give us a bank of people to be called upon when something comes up," he said. "We need people who are flexible and understand they will be stepping out of their comfort zone."

It's not 9-5 work."

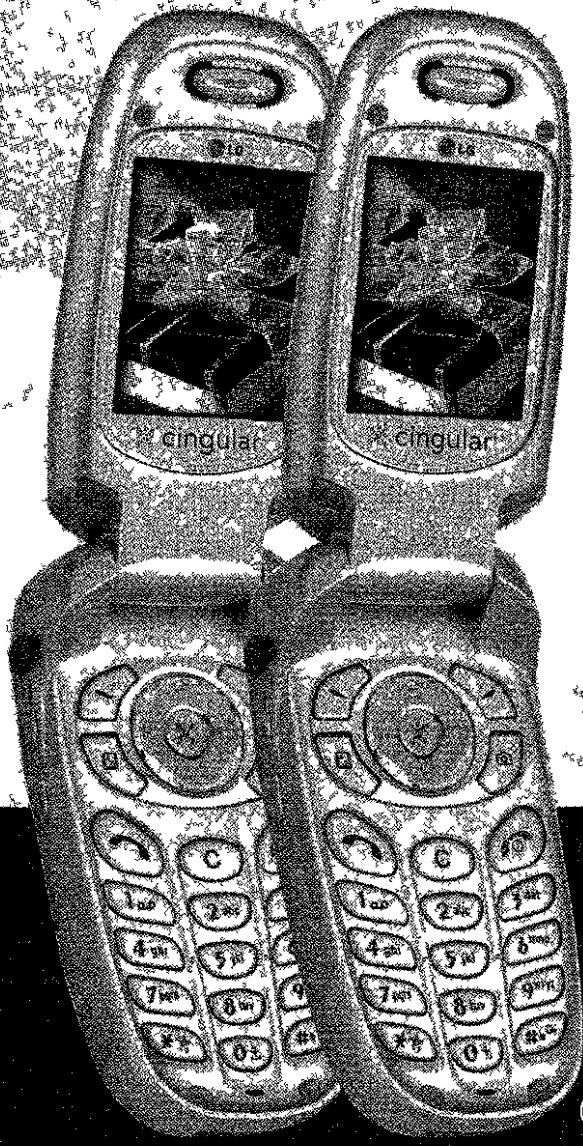
For the retired Jones, being available anytime the phone rings wasn't a problem.

"It's a case of having time once I retired, and wanting to give something back to the community," said Jones, who worked for Ford Visteon in Saline. "There is a lot of reward and satisfaction in that."

Anyone interested in the Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services class Jan. 14 at the Plymouth Corps 9541 S. Main St. must register by Dec. 31 by calling Julie Pearson at 248/443-5500 Ext. 314 or via e-mail at Julie_pearson@usc.salvationarmy.org.

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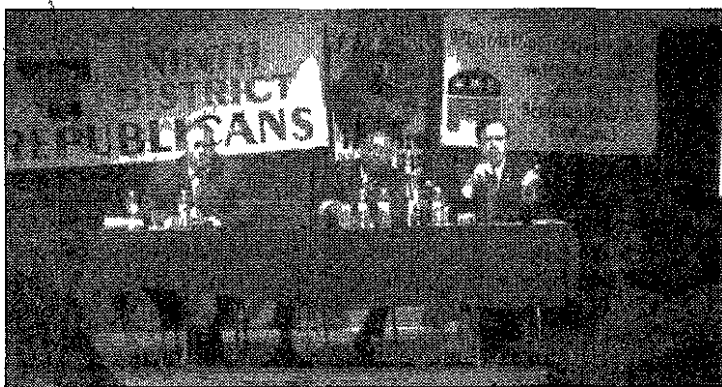
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Senate candidates face off

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Republican candidates to challenge Democrat Debbie Stabenow next November faced off Dec. 5 at the 'Showdown in Motown.' The Rev. Keith Butler, Jerry Zandstra and Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard attended the candidate forum hosted by the 9th Congressional District Republican Party, to introduce themselves to voters and air their thoughts on the issues of the day.



Republican Senatorial hopefuls (from left) Jerry Zandstra, Rev. Keith Butler and Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard echoed mainstream Republican themes as they addressed the 9th Congressional District Republican Party.

The forum was moderated by Republican National Committeeman for Michigan and RNC Vice Chair Chuck Yob, who kicked off the roundtable with a question any Republican could score with — whether or not the budget could be balanced with a tax increase.

"There isn't a deficit because revenues are too low," Zandstra said. "It's there because federal government spending is out of control. It's time to return some kind of fiscally responsible leadership to Washington." Butler agreed, citing items like the \$450 million bridge project in Alaska as signs that Congressional pork projects are the problem. The bridge funding initiative was championed by Republican Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska.

Bouchard said the only thing higher taxes would do is tank the economy.

While all three candidates echoed traditional Republican themes — anti-abortion, anti-gay marriage, gun rights and lower taxes — they all said they'd support Arizona Sen. John McCain's anti-torture legislation. President George W. Bush has promised to veto the measure.

"There are a variety of (interrogation) methods that don't use force and with the proper training, you can bring forth information," Bouchard said.

Butler said the U.S. has to do everything it can to protect the nation, but not things that are outside the law. Zandstra said torture says more about the torturer and sends a message to the world about who we as

nation think we are. On the topic of curbing illegal immigration, the three agreed that it was at its heart a national security issue.

Bouchard said the problem of illegal immigration highlights failings in border control in general — you can't really protect the country if you don't know who's there. Zandstra said the police have all the technology they need to do the job, all that's lacking is the will to use them.

I'm in favor of increasing legal immigration, Butler said. But if you come to this country, it's you that has to be the one that changes.

The economy, both at the state and national level, was of concern to the candidates. Zandstra said Michigan has 22 percent higher costs of doing business than any other state in the nation and therefore the state's tax structure must be changed. Butler agreed, saying Michigan's economic woes could be chalked up to taxation, litigation and regulation. "In government, if it grows, tax it. If it moves, regulate it," Bouchard said. "We've got to incentivize and get rid of regulation."

The candidates agreed that a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to allow eminent domain property forfeiture for economic redevelopment was a serious breach of the public trust and proof that the court needs justices who respect property rights.

The big question of who has what it takes to beat Sen. Debbie Stabenow rounded out

the discussion. At the end of the day, we all want to beat Debbie," Bouchard said. "I've won 14 elections in Oakland County and when Bush lost the county, I got 64 percent of the vote. I have the base that's proven to win."

Stabenow is vulnerable on economic issues, Zandstra said. The ideal Republican candidate is going to be strong on social issues, but also understand how the economy works. (Republicans) lost nine of 10 elections because we haven't drawn enough Democrats to vote for us, Butler said. "To beat Stabenow, we have to get votes where she gets votes. I've done that."

Bill Walker of Bloomfield Township was in the minority at the roundtable. He was one of the approximately 200 attendees who didn't know who he'd vote for. I think all of them bring something to the party that could beat Stabenow, he said. Its so far in advance of the election, it's hard to tell how it would go.

Yob said the party has to work harder to bring home the bacon in Oakland County. The county hasn't delivered for a Republican presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan was in office.

"For some reason, we can't deliver the vote for the top of the ticket," Yob said. "This is a diverse population, a lot of people are coming up from Detroit."

Theater heats up winter

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is preparing for its last blast of 2005, and looking forward to a happy new year in January.

"We are almost done with events for the rest of the year, but we do have one more the night before New Year's Eve," said theater director Jennifer Tobin.

The event, Tribute to the Stars, will bring together a host of tribute artists who will imitate celebrities such as Tina Turner, Barry Manilow, Neil Diamond, Ray Charles and Diana Ross.

"The guy who plays Jack Nicholson is my favorite. He's almost better than the real Jack," Tobin said.

Guests are invited to join the stars and be part of the act by dressing in their very best star-worthy attire.

"We want people to dress up and look, and act, like their favorite celebrities," Tobin said. "We have so many events where you can wear blue jeans to hear a symphony, and people just want to dress up at this time of year, so we thought this would be the perfect event to do that."

Coming up in January are the Donna Holman Trio, and the Gratitude Steel Band. The latter is billed as a mix of Mother Africa, Jamaica and the United States, and blends the harmonies of steel pans, electric guitar, drums and percussion.

All of January is piano month at the theater, a new promotion during which Tobin hopes the Endowment for the Arts can begin raising money for the theater to buy its first grand piano.

Evola Music will loan the theater a piano for that

month so the theater can highlight local young musicians who will be able to showcase their talent by playing in the vestibule.

Tobin is looking for youth piano players interested in participating.

Three of the events feature Canton musicians at the keyboard. Neil Donato will take to the stage Jan. 8 to perform pop, jazz and classical numbers. Andrew Song will perform on Jan. 25, entertaining classical music lovers with selections by Chopin. And Dumas Carabello will fuse together a virtuoso piano recital with a fiesta as he performs Latin American music along with European piano pieces.

For information, call the theater at (734) 394-5460. To inquire about teacher rates, or about volunteering to play in the vestibule, call Tobin at (734) 394-5484.

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Tractor collectors finding rewards in adoptions

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

Looking at the wish list from one of the families adopted for Christmas by the Tri County

Two Cylinder Club, Jody Cannon is struck by the requests

There are household items - very humble things that are being asked for - pots, pans,

flatware, cleaning products," said Cannon, a Garden City resident. "They ask for coats, hats and mittens. We try to fulfill that and we like to give some toys, too

This year, the 200-member club of tractor collectors is adopting a total of eight families in counties where they live. The Salvation Army provided most of the referrals for families to be adopted in Washtenaw, Monroe and Lenawee counties.

A mechanic at Crestwood Dodge, Cannon is coordinating the adoption of three Wayne County families referred through the Volunteers of America.

"I like going through the Volunteers - the families are screened and when you get a family you know they are in need," said Cannon. "Unfortunately, if you ask who needs help you get a lot of hands."

The Adopt a Family program through Volunteers of America gives donors options on how directly involved they wish to be with the adopted family. Cash can be donated but donors also have the option of shopping for the family themselves and whether they would like to deliver the food and gifts personally.

Cannon chooses to shop for

the three adopted families and make the deliveries himself.

"One of the things that touches me is that the children will make Christmas cards for me and the club," said Cannon. "They may like to know who is giving to them. I put together a letter about the club for them."

The donors who decide to shop for their adopted family and deliver the gifts find it rewarding, said Volunteers of America President and CEO Alex Brodrick.

"The families that take the time to talk to the mothers and kids develop a bond over the holidays," said Brodrick, noting most of the families on the adoption list are single mothers and children.

Unlike many holiday donation programs, Volunteers of America gets a wish list from the recipients.

"Whether it's a family or a senior, they tell us what they'd like. We ask the donors to pay special attention to the needs of the children," said Brodrick. "We want them to get clothing, but also a toy that they are asking for rather than a random gift."

When the Adopt a Family program began over a decade ago, there were 100 families adopted.

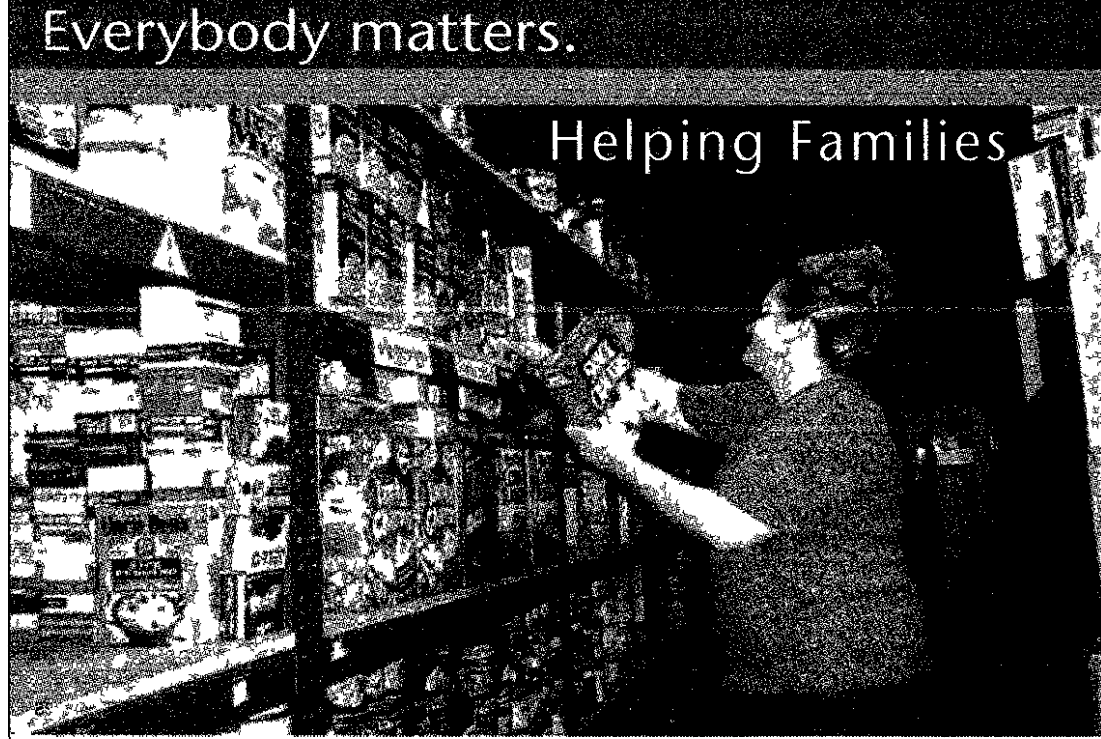
"The program has grown and grown. The 100 families was one thing - we have 2,800 families asking for help," said Brodrick. "My staff does a tremendous job coordinating the lists."

Volunteers of America has stopped taking requests for adoptions and earlier this week only had 1,800 adoptions in place.

"That's down substantially from last year. Many of those who donated in the past have been affected by layoffs," said Brodrick. "We also have regular donors who gave to help after the natural disasters in New Orleans and the tsunami, so they didn't have the usual amount to give."

Volunteers of America will continue accepting donations and adoptions through Dec 24. For more information, call (248) 353-4862 or visit their Web site at www.voam1.org.

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Working together: Basketball Planet, sponsor team up

A new private basketball club in Canton has found itself a major sponsor. Capital Mortgage Funding, one of the largest independently owned mortgage banking firms in southeast Michigan, has announced it will sponsor the Basketball Planet club and training center, which is preparing to open early next year.

"We are delighted to be joining in partnership with Capital Mortgage Funding," said Jamey Petree, president of The Basketball Planet Inc. "Capital Mortgage Funding is an outstanding company, which involves itself with the youth in our community through sports, and prides itself on offering individualized personal attention to each client's needs."

Will Vance, vice president of The Basketball Planet Inc., said, the new business is beginning to develop a number of community based programs in conjunction with the club's new sponsor.

"I couldn't be happier that Capital Mortgage Funding, such a well known community based

Scheduled to open Feb. 1, 2006, The Basketball Planet will offer 47,000 square feet of space for its courts and other amenities. The company will hire some 30 full- and part-time workers.

mortgage banker, has chosen Canton to partner with my clients' facility," said Bryan Amann, attorney for The Basketball Planet Inc. "It's nice to know that people from all over the metro Detroit area are discovering what we've known for years - that Canton is the place to be."

Scheduled to open Feb. 1, 2006, The Basketball Planet will offer 47,000 square feet of space for its courts and other amenities. The company will hire some 30 full- and part-time workers.

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In fight for freedom at home, librarians take a lead position

The congressman leaned forward over the microphone and pointed his finger menacingly

"Let me ask you again," he said "Are you now, or have you ever been, associated with a librarian?"

"Well, um, uh"

"Let me remind you, sir, that you are under oath and in danger of being found in contempt of Congress if you don't answer"

"OK, OK I admit it I'm married to a radical, militant librarian"



Hugh Gallagher

It's only a nightmare, it's only the phantom ghost of Christmas yet to be, but depending on how negotiations go in Congress the FBI may continue to be engaged in lethal combat with my wife and other dangerous librarians for the next four years

Who knew that behind those glasses and conservative dress lurked the seeds of our destruction

Or at least that's what some FBI agents seem to think

The House voted Wednesday 251-174 to reauthorize the USA Patriot Act, following a House-Senate Conference agreement Dec 8 that makes most provisions of the act permanent and extends two controversial provisions - on roving wiretaps and the library cause celebre Section 215 U.S. Rep Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, joined his Republican colleagues in voting for the renewal, despite having voiced reservations about some provisions on several occasions

Sixteen provisions of the act are set to expire by Dec 31 so congressional action is needed. On Friday the Republican leadership in the Senate was unable to get the 60 votes needed to head off a filibuster. The cloture vote was 52-47. Now intense negotiations begin to provide more safeguards for our liberties in the wake of a New York Times story Friday that the President authorized illegal spying on people in the United States without judicial warrants following 9/11

Section 215, which allows easier access to business records including bank records, bookstore sales and library records, has become a rallying point for the nation's librarians. Supporters of the act argue that investigative agencies such as the FBI need to see these records to fight terrorism. Opponents say this is an unnecessary invasion of privacy and a potential danger to free expression by allowing government monitoring of what people read

The section allows investigators to obtain "any tangible thing (including books, records, papers, documents and other items)" as long as they are sought in connection of a "terror investigation"

The Justice Department says the law has never been used against libraries or bookstores, but that's no guarantee that it wouldn't be used. The American Library Association and civil liberties

groups have been fighting since implementation of the act to protect library and bookstore records and to end the frightening "gag rule" that prohibits anyone who receives a Section 215 order from talking about it with anyone

The conference compromise allows a recipient of a 215 order to speak with an attorney and challenge the order before a judge. The FBI will be required to present facts that show they are conducting a "terror" investigation, but it still allows a lot of leeway for random investigation. New documents released under the Freedom of Information Act show the frustration of FBI agents seeking warrants from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and one agent zeroes in on the true culprits

The memo which is now a badge of honor for librarians everywhere reads "The inability of FBI investigators to use this seemingly effective tool has had a direct and clearly adverse impact on our terrorism cases. Quite frankly, agents have spent the last two years screwing around with weak NSLs (National Security Letters) or using made up 'voluntary' NSLs literally begging people to give us information in our terrorism cases. The fact that this new FISA tool has languish(ed) for two years - with no likely usage in the future - is nuts. While radical, militant librarians kick us around - true terrorists benefit from OIPRs (Office of Intelligence Policy and Review) failure to let us use the tools given to us"

This memo from 2003 has been exhibited by some as a testimony to the restrictions that keep overzealous FBI agents from acting. Others might also see in this memo how easy it is for government agencies to see themselves as above the law, above the Constitution and kicking and screaming to be allowed to use their powers in the "war on terror, which becomes anything they define it to be"

J. Edgar Hoover used his investigative powers in fights against Communism and organized crime to maintain himself in power and black-mail elected government officials. The FBI history, storied as it is, has this dark cloud that rains a warning when they are given too much power

Terrorism, like Communism and Nazism before it, are terrible things, because they threaten our freedom, "our way of life". The president is always saying that "our way of life" is what terrorists are trying to destroy. Librarians and others argue that if we destroy our own freedoms, we help the terrorists get what they want

Sacrificing freedom for safety is a poor bargain. My wife is thinking about wearing a T shirt with Radical Militant Librarian on the front and "We kicked the FBI's butt" on the back

Tom Paine would be proud

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149 by e-mail at hgallagher@oehomecomm.net or by fax at (734) 591-7279

New drunken driving rule is unfair to the accused

On Jan 1, 2006, a new court rule will go into effect that will require the majority of Michigan drunken driving cases to be resolved by trial or plea of guilty within 91 days

This is a significant change in the law, because it formalizes and shortens time limits that already exist, and does so squarely at the expense of the rights of the drunken driving accused. In fact, one may argue that as a consequence of passing this new rule, the Supreme Court has inadvertently compromised the very Constitution it is meant to uphold. This is because such short time limits make it extremely difficult and in some cases impossible for the accused to obtain a fair trial

Our state and federal constitutions both provide that every person who is accused of a crime has a fundamental due process right to know the facts upon which the prosecutor claims the law has been broken. In the context of drunken driving, the necessary information includes, at a minimum, the narrative reports prepared by the police who arrested the alleged drunken driver, any videotapes that may exist and all the information required to show that the equipment used to test the motorist's breath or blood was working properly

Obtaining this information takes time, in many cases several weeks, and sometimes even months

Nevertheless, it is only after all of this necessary information is obtained, reviewed and analyzed that a defense attorney and his or her client can determine if any of the motorist's rights have been violated by the police, or if the breath or blood test is unreliable or inaccurate

There are many reasons why problems with chemical testing may occur, but without adequate research time it is not possible to know if the results can or should support a conviction. Then, if problems that adversely impact the accuracy of the breath or blood test are uncovered, these problems must be brought to the attention of the court. This process is called "motion practice" and requires that written arguments be presented to the judge and prosecutor and sometimes that testimony be taken from witnesses in court

Motion practice requires additional time, usually several more weeks or months. Once this process is complete, then - and only then - is it proper to set a case for trial. If the case is immediately set for trial,

there will be no time to for the defense to complete this necessary pretrial investigation

Devising a system that will assure that the accused will obtain this information quickly enough to satisfy the court rule will require that police departments and prosecuting attorney offices hire more staff to process and disseminate the required information. Realistically, the costs involved in such an endeavor means that necessary staff additions are unlikely. Technology might solve the problem as well, but this represents an even bigger financial investment

In response to these problems, the district judges are likely to simply set cases for trial long before all the facts are known to the drunken driving accused and, in so doing, place the burden of compliance back on the accused. In other words, the burden will be placed exactly where the Constitution dictates that it does not belong

The court rule has not yet gone into effect, so it's not entirely clear what the overall effect will be, but it is very likely that this severely abbreviated judicial process will cause extreme pressure on the drunken driving accused to simply plead guilty to the charges. This situation places the accused in an untenable position, because the rule essentially requires that the drunken driving accused make the most important decision they will face in their case, which is the decision to plead guilty or go to trial, long before they have all the necessary information. The end result will be either the drunken driving accused pleads guilty when, in fact, he or she is not, or be forced to go to trial without adequate information or preparation

Either way, the rule creates circumstances whereby our system of government and ultimately our Constitutional freedoms are in danger of being undermined and eroded, and for no other reason than base expediency

It is beyond question that drunken driving is a societal problem, and that because drunken driving is such an unpopular crime there will be no public outrage over the unrealistic time limits and probable Constitutional violations this new rule creates. What should cause public concern, however, is that when the rights of the criminally accused are placed into jeopardy, as they are with this rule, every citizen is endangered, whether he or she realizes it or not

Patrick T. Barone is with the Barone Defense Firm which exclusively handles drunken driving cases

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KVC courts four Western Lakes schools

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Kensington Valley Conference is looking to expand and four members of the Western Lakes Activities Association appear to be on the most wanted list. The *Observer* has learned that the KVC has already entered into preliminary talks and has approached WLAA members Walled Lake Central, Western and Northern, along with Northville – about joining for the 2007-08 school year. The KVC currently consists of eight schools bordering the I-96 corridor – Novi, Brighton, Piquette, Milford, White Lake Lakeland, Howell, South Lyon and Hartland. Two new schools, Howell Parker and

South Lyon East, have already been admitted as members and will start KVC play within the next two years. Bringing in the four WLAA schools would make the Kensington Valley a 14-team conference. "It's all preliminary, but they (KVC) wants a decision made by the end of the school year (2006)," Northville athletic director Bryan Masi said. "There are some attractive things and some things which would be hard to leave the WLAA. We share a lot of similarities as far as what they do and we do, which are a full complement of sports. We also are associated already in middle school sports, which is a natural. But you have to weigh everything. Everything is preliminary and we don't know which direction we'll go."

The WLAA currently consists 12 schools divided into two divisions including the Lakes Salem, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Stevenson, Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Central and Westland John Glenn, and the Western Livonia Franklin, Plymouth, Walled Lake Western, Wayne Memorial, Canton and Northville. Walled Lake Central principal Dave Barry confirmed discussions between his district and the KVC will take place again in February when the principals meet. "We were approached and they recently met with our athletic directors," Barry said. "But any decision by us right now is premature. They (the KVC) want an answer by the end of this year. As far as analyzing the pluses and minuses? What has to be considered are

travel times, distance and transportation costs. Also, there are comparable sports. The Western Lakes doesn't have bowling or lacrosse. There's also figure skating and snow boarding." During the 2002-03 school year, the WLAA lost three members – Farmington, Farmington Hills Harrison and North Farmington – to Oakland Activities Association, which currently consists of 25 schools. The OAA became attractive to the Farmington schools because it grouped each sport individually into divisions by past performance and strength of schedule. They were replaced the same year by Wayne Memorial (from the Michigan Mega Conference) and two new schools, Plymouth and Walled Lake Northern.

Sidelines

Sox add Haeger

According to Baseball America, Plymouth native and former Catholic Central High standout Charlie Haeger has been promoted to the World Champion Chicago White Sox 40-man roster for the 2006 season.

The 22-year-old right-handed knuckleballer just completed a winter league stint with the La Guaira Sharks of the Venezuelan League where he got off to a hot start, earning Player of the Week honors during the third week of the season.

That week, Haeger pitched 16 innings, went 2-0 with a 1.13 earned run average. He gave up two runs, walked four and struck out seven while giving up 16 hits.

After learning he had made the Sox roster, Haeger ended his winter league stint in preparation for spring training with a 4-3 record and 4.74 earned run average in 44 innings. He struck out 17 and walked 23.

The 25th-round pick in 2001 threw over 200 innings in 2005, going a combined 14-5 with a 3.50 ERA as Class A Winston-Salem (N.C.) and Class AA Birmingham (Ala.) Barons.

Baseball sign-up

The Canton Little League will be holding a pair of upcoming registration sessions for the 2006 season. The sessions will be held from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, and Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Four Seasons Internet Cafe, located at 3500 Lilley Plaza in Canton.

Players from Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township are eligible to play in the Canton Little League. Teams will play a 20-game schedule and compete in a Father's Day tournament and a tournament against teams from Belleville.

For more information, contact Ray Waack at (734) 397-0147.

Coaches: Please call in results

The area's prep athletic coaches are encouraged to call the results of their teams' competitions into *Observer Sports* Editor Ed Wright so that the high school athletes receive the recognition they deserve.

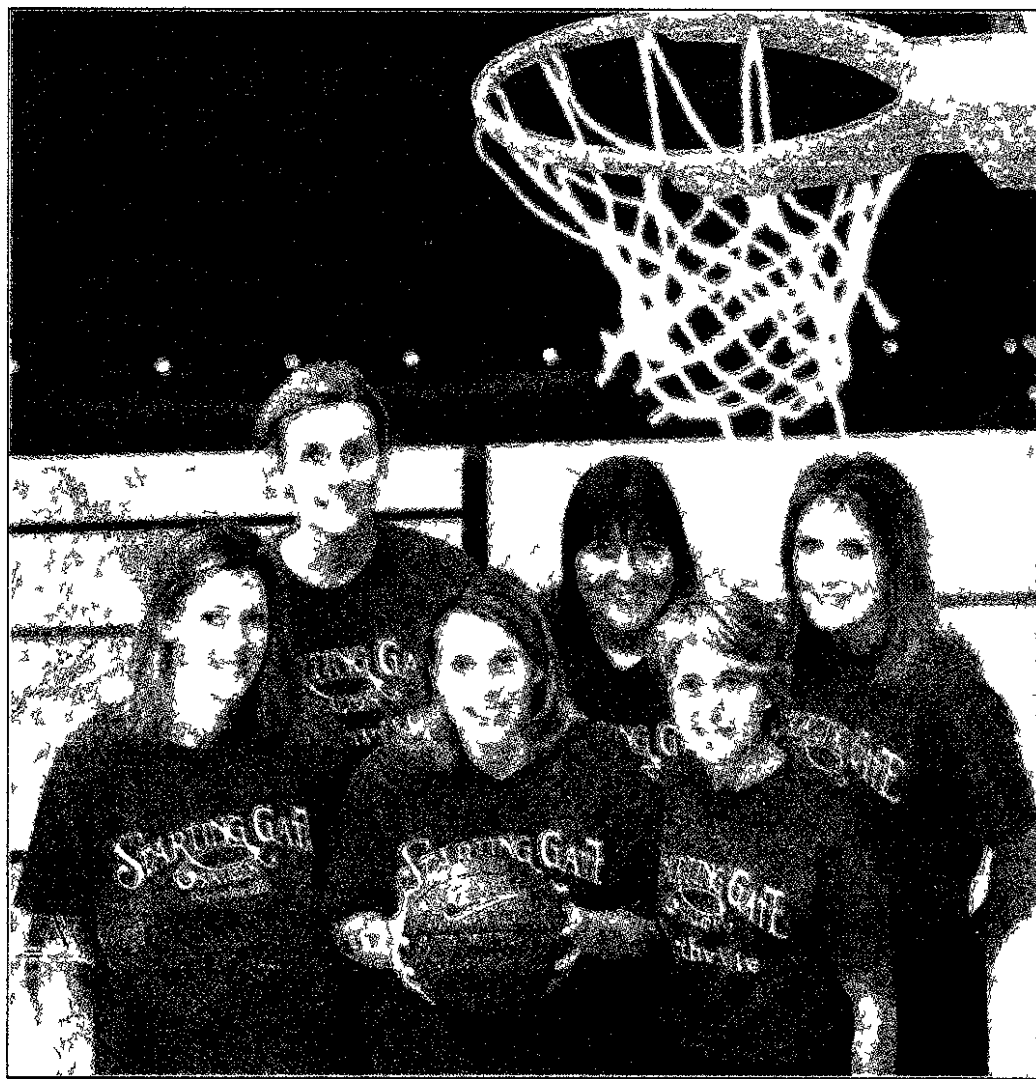
Results can be phoned in to Wright at (734) 953-2108, they can be faxed to (734) 591-7279, or they can be e-mailed to ewright@hometownlife.com.

If Wright is covering an event at the time of your call, please leave a message and he will return your call promptly.

The deadline for Thursday's *Observer* is Tuesday at 11 p.m. The deadline for Sunday's issue is Friday at 11 p.m.

Re-broadcast

The Fox Sports Network will be re-airing the Division 1 football final between Canton and Rockford at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A group of area women fulfill their basketball fix by competing in two leagues. Pictured (back row from left) are Carrie Dickson, Diane Ziroll, Lori Moss, (front row from left) Shelly Dunphy, Amanda Hilden and Tami Bealert. The women currently play for the Arena Restaurant in Ann Arbor on Thursdays. Beginning in January, they will double up when their Northville league begins.

'Swish'ful thinking

Local women find full-court enjoyment while playing recreational basketball

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

With heavy snow falling at a relentless pace, driving from Canton to Ann Arbor on the night of Dec. 8 was almost as enjoyable as dribbling through a full-court press with roller skates on.

But the near-blizzard conditions didn't deter several area women from making their weekly trek down M-14 to play in a Thursday night basketball league coordinated by the Ann Arbor Community Recreation and Education Department.

"At times, it was almost like a white-out, but I never thought about not going to the game," admitted 42-year-old Canton resident Lori Moss. "That's how much I love playing basketball. When games do get postponed because of the weather, I get bummed out because I enjoy playing so much."

PLEASE SEE HOOPS, B2

LOOKING FOR A LEAGUE?

If you're a woman searching for a recreation basketball league, check out the following list:

- Northville Parks & Recreation's winter league, which is set to begin Jan. 31, is looking for one more team. The registration fee – which is due no later than Jan. 13 – is \$400 (\$100 of which is refunded if the team does not forfeit a game). For more information, contact Joe Barberio at (248) 449-9947.
- The Westland Recreation Department coordinates women's leagues throughout the year. The entry fee is \$350. For more information, contact Lisa Blackburn at (734) 722-7620.
- The Ann Arbor Community Recreation and Education Department hosts women's leagues. For more information, contact Larry Dishman at (734) 994-2300.

Cousino triples its pleasure in 67-49 victory over Salem

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Three-mendous. That's the word that best describes Warren Cousino's long-range shooting during the first half of Friday night's game against Salem.

The Patriots (2-1) treated 20-foot bombs like they were layups, swishing 10-of-15 triples in the first half of their 67-49 road victory over the Rocks.

The loss dropped Salem to 0-3. "Cousino scored 87 in a game last week, so we knew they could shoot," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "When the other team is draining threes like they were in the first half, you know you're in for a long night. A couple of their long shots were uncontested, which I wasn't happy about. But for the most part, we were right there with them and the ball went in anyway."

The Patriot with the hottest hand was senior guard Danny Schmelzer, who went 6-for-7 from beyond the arc in the first half before finishing with a game-high 22 points. Schmelzer connected on four of his triples from a few feet behind the line with a Salem defender's hand waving a few inches from his face.

Cousino senior forward Joe Rivard also enjoyed a productive evening, netting 15 points. Nine of his points were the result of triples.

"We like to freelance on offense, but we're always setting screens and trying to get Danny and Joe open outside," said Cousino coach Brad Nettles. "We were definitely successful at doing that tonight."

It really is an honor to play against Salem because Bob is a coaching legend. It looks like he has some nice tools to work with this year. They play very

TRIPLE THREATS

Salem's basketball team was victimized by a pair of sharp-shooting, long-distance Warren Cousino players in Friday night's 67-49 setback. Following are some of the three-point stats from the game:

- The Patriots' Danny Schmelzer buried 6-of-7 three-pointers in the first half alone and finished with 22 points.
- Cousino's Joe Rivard went 3-for-6 from beyond the arc. He finished with 15.
- As a team, Cousino connected on 10-of-15 shots from three-point land in the first half.
- On the other hand, Salem struggled with its threes, nailing just 1-of-17 shots from behind the line.

hard, but they're young.

The way the early portions of the game unfolded, it looked as though it was going to be a 32-minute barn-burner. When Salem's John Johnson filled the net with a 12-foot baseline jumper with 5:50 to go in the first half, the Rocks trailed just 19-17. However, the Patriots followed with a 20-2 run over the next four-plus minutes to build a 39-19 cushion.

At the half, the Rocks had outscored Schmelzer, 21-18, but trailed the

PLEASE SEE TRIPLES, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stellar season

Salem junior forward Teresa Coppiellie (middle) is pictured above being guarded by Plymouth's Chrystien Guyton (left) and Jalesa Morse. Coppiellie was named to the first team All-Observer girls basketball squad for her stellar play this past season. For a detailed look at the entire team, please see page B5.

HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

Mross's passion for the sport is shared by several of her 30-year-old-plus teammates on the Arena Restaurant team, which competes in Ann Arbor on Thursday nights, and the Starting Gate squad, which will open its season in the Northville Recreation Department league in late January.

They can all relate to the nearly indescribable love for roundball that can only be appreciated by someone who has felt the satisfaction of swishing a 15-foot jumper over the outstretched hand of an opponent, or finishing a three-on-two fastbreak by threading a perfect pass to a cutting teammate.

NOTHING COMPARES

TO HOOP

"Basketball has always been appealing to me and it always will be," said Carrie Dickison, 33, of Plymouth. "I like playing team sports and being active. I'm still a competitive person, so going for a jog is nice, but it doesn't compare to playing basketball."

After earning three varsity letters at Plymouth Salem during the early-90s, Amanda Hilden stepped away from organized basketball for almost 10 years before hooking up with Mross's Starting Gate team two years ago.

"I really missed playing basketball, so I checked out some Web sites and I e-mailed a couple of parks and recreation departments," said Hilden, 30, whose maiden name is Tubaugh. "It was frustrating because I wanted to play, but I couldn't find any leagues to play in."

"Finally, I hooked up with Lori's team through the Northville rec department. Once I started playing again, I realized how much I missed the competitiveness, the exercise and just running up and down the court. The sport helps keep me young."

"I'm probably better at softball than basketball," Mross explained, "but I like basketball better because it makes me feel good. It's exhausting at

times, but it's a great outlet for relieving stress and just having fun."

DOUBLE 'DRIBBLE'

Childbirth did not delay this year's hoop season for Dickison and Hilden, who both gave birth in July.

"It's nice to have a night where I can get out and do something to stay in shape," said Dickison, the proud mother of five-month-old daughter Ryley. "And it gives my husband (Marc) more time to spend alone with the baby. We already got Ryley her first little basketball hoop, so it won't be long before she's playing."

"I was back playing a month after I had the baby," said Hilden, whose son, Coen, turns five months old this month. "The doctor said the best thing to do is get back out there and get active."

While the sport offers the women an abundance of enjoyment and exercise, there's a small degree of frustration involved when they get matched up against a team made up of early-20-somethings.

"We run into some very good teams whose players just graduated from college," Dickison said.

"And you can tell they've played together quite a bit. It can get a little frustrating when you fall behind by 20 points, but then you remember that it's just a rec league and we're out there to have fun."

YOUNG AS YOU FEEL

Mross said her teams aren't always made up of the senior players on the court.

"Last year in Ann Arbor, we played against a team whose players were all in their 50s," she said. "They didn't win a game, but you could tell they were having a great time."

All of the women said they'll play until their bodies tell them it's time to hang up their sneakers.

For Mross, that day may be a long time coming.

"I want to play until I'm 90," she said, smiling. "And when I get to that age, I'm going to organize the first nursing-home basketball league."

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Eppler helps Canton de-claw South Lyon

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Nine months after suffering a stinging, last-second loss to South Lyon in a district championship game, Canton earned a little pay-back Friday night with a 55-34 victory over the Lions.

The triumph improved the Chiefs' record to 2-1 while South Lyon dropped to 1-3.

Canton received strong play from a trio of seniors. Andre Bridges netted a team-high 13 points, Andy Larsen netted nine and Rob Eppler added nine points and five steals while holding the Lions' leading scorer, Chad McMullen, scoreless. McMullen had tallied 26 and 33 points in his two previous contests.

Junior guard Eric Thornton also played well in a reserve role for the Chiefs, twinning eight points, all in the fourth quarter. Junior forward Steve Paye chipped in with six points and nine boards.

Kurt Carroll paced the Lions

PREP HOOP

with eight

Canton led 13-8 after one quarter and 24-16 at the break. The Chiefs extended their advantage to 41-24 after three quarters before cruising in for their second-straight victory.

The Chiefs return to action Tuesday at Ann Arbor Pioneer Tip-off is slated for 7 p.m.

PCA 66, BAPTIST PARK 62: The Eagles scorched the net in the first half when they raced to a 38-25 halftime advantage.

The Wildcats cut their deficit to three late in the fourth quarter, but Plymouth Christian repelled the rally thanks to a key rebound by Scott Brandt and clutch free-shooting down the stretch from Matt Saagman and Trevor Zinn.

Zinn had a career night scoring 21 points. The sophomore drained 11-of-14 free throws and buried two long threes. Other key contributors for

the Eagles were Matt Saagman (14 points), David Koscielny (eight) and Devyn Govan (eight points and a team-high six rebounds).

Halston Hodges paced the Wildcats with 19 points. Robby Miller and Caleb Thompson both netted 14.

"Offensively, we did a good job of moving the ball and sharing the ball tonight," said PCA coach Doug Taylor. "We were getting good shots, and we were making them. Defensively, we made them penetrate, then we collapse on them in the middle. We did a good job of filling the gaps."

The Eagles canned 10-of-14 free throws in the fourth quarter and 23-of-33 for the game. Baptist Park was 15-of-24 from the charity stripe.

PCA led 17-9 after one quarter and 38-25 at the half.

BELLEVILLE 76, WILLOW

RUN 42: The Tigers (2-1) turned a tight game into a blowout with a 23-point second quarter. Leon Freeman led the winners with 21 points.

Mike Donaldson netted 14 points and 10 boards, Carlos Clark scored eight and Darius Hardwick and Randle Green chipped in with seven a piece. Arnie Tomlin was the top Flyer with 13 points.

"It was close for the first four or five minutes," said Belleville coach Mike Krogel. "Then we went on a run toward the end of the first quarter and we played well the entire second quarter. We were moving a little too fast early on and it led to turnovers. We weren't showing the patience we needed. In the second quarter, we turned it around and started getting more open looks."

The Tigers led 36-17 at the half and 56-31 with eight minutes left.

Belleville is idle until Dec. 27 when they tangle with Lansing Sexton in the Ypsilanti Holiday Tournament.

On Dec. 29, the Tigers will travel to East Lansing to battle powerful East Grand Rapids at Michigan State University's Breslin Center.

Flip-flopping Penguins white-wash Mercy

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

What happens when you move Penguins out of their natural habitat?

They keep winning — at least, that's what you could surmise from the results of the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins' 7-0 victory Friday night over Farmington Hills Mercy at Livonia's Eddie Edgar Arena.

PCS coach Lori Callahan moved her forwards to defense and defenders to the front lines during the latter two-thirds of Friday's convincing victory over the Marlins. The move worked just like everything else Callahan and the Penguins have tried during their 5-0 start.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity for the forwards to see what it's like to play defense and for the defensemen to play up, so we changed everything all around," Callahan said. "If nothing else, the girls learned how

PREP HOCKEY

important fore-checking is"

The players didn't seem to have a problem with the role reversals, Callahan said.

"Everyone was fine with it for the most part," she said. "No one complained. A couple came up to me and told that they'd never played the position they were playing, so I told them they could do it, and they did it."

The only Penguin who stayed in her natural habitat was goaltender Kristie Kowalski, who recorded her fifth shutout in five games.

"Kristie didn't have to handle a lot of shots, but she did a great job on the ones that did get through," Callahan said.

Edra Burriss and Kate Zimmerman enjoyed an outstanding evening for the winners, notching two goals and two assists each. Single-goal scorers for the Penguins were Nicole Sensoh, Stephanie

Murray, and Annie McTurner, who lit the lamp for the first time.

Dishing out assists were Kelsey Nikkila, Keely Kowalski, Murray, Lisa Ealy and Kristen Schwan.

Ashley Wrobel suffered the defeat in goal for the Marlins, who trailed 5-0 after one period and 6-0 after two.

The Penguins return to action Tuesday when they host Port Huron at the Arctic Edge. The opening face-off is set for 6:30 p.m.

CHURCHILL 5, CANTON 3: Five different players scored Friday as Livonia Churchill (1-2-2) earned its first victory of the season against the visiting Chiefs in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover game at Edgar Arena.

The Chargers scored four times in the opening period and led 5-0 just 31 seconds into the second period on Ryan Ostrander's goal from Zac Archer and Dave Graciak.

"The first period was a great period of hockey, we did all the right things," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "Then when you get a big lead like that there's a tendency to have a let-down."

Churchill, which outshot Canton 42-26, also got first-period goals from Cody Strong from Phil Wendecker (at 2:23), Keith Yackley from Matt Henzelman (at 7:16), Steve Greco from Kyle Burke (at 10:48), and Henzelman from Graciak (at 11:15).

Andy Barylski scored Canton's first goal from Kyle Kowalski at 8:34 of the second period.

The Chiefs added two more goals in the final period — Brett Giacchino from Pat Gallagher (at 2:31), and Gallagher from Donnie Barlow (at 8:27).

Churchill netminder Scott Lewan made 23 saves, while Canton used two goaltenders as starter Nick Basel gave way to Kevan Swanberg at the end of the opening period.

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Whalers out-shoot Generals, 7-4

John Tavares notched his first career hat trick Friday night, but it wasn't enough as the host Oshawa Generals suffered a 7-4 loss to the Plymouth Whalers in Ontario Hockey League action at Civic Auditorium.

The Whalers, now 17-11-1-3 in the OHL, led 4-1 after two periods on goals by Joe Gaynor, James Neal, John Armstrong and Gino Pisellini.

Plymouth put it away on goals by Jarred Boll, Ondrej Otcenas and Evan Brophrey.

On Thursday, the OHL's top team, the Peterborough Petes, edged the Whalers, 5-4, on

Jordan Staal's second goal of the game with 4:16 left in regulation before 3,615 at the Memorial Centre. The Petes improved to 24-5-1-0 with the win.

Derek Merlim (second), Andrew Fournier (11th), Steve Ward (ninth) and Dan Ryder (20th) scored for the Whalers.

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SPACE PROVIDED BY THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

Ladywood coach Blazes new trail

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Andrea Gorski's 10th season as Livonia Ladywood's girls basketball proved to be special in more ways than one.

Gorski guided the Blazers to a 22-2 overall record and their first Catholic League A-B Division title since 1984.

Ladywood also captured its ninth Class B district championship in 10 years under Gorski and earned its second Central Division title in the Catholic League and were ranked as high as No. 3 in the state.

The Blazers' lone setbacks came against Detroit Public



Gorski

School League champion Pershing in the Operation-Friendship final, 46-63, and to the state's No. 1-ranked team and three-time defending champion Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day, 69-41, in the regional semifinals. All 13 kids on the team were great because they worked hard and they liked to have fun, said Gorski, who was named Coach of the Year by the Observer sports staff. "They all had great attitudes and they were all unselfish.

They provided a lot of energy in practice. They were highly motivated and competitive. "Sometimes practices would get so intense I'd have to break things up and we'd have to go into some kind of shooting drill.

Gorski, who has a career record of 144-91 at Ladywood, is no stranger to success on the basketball court.

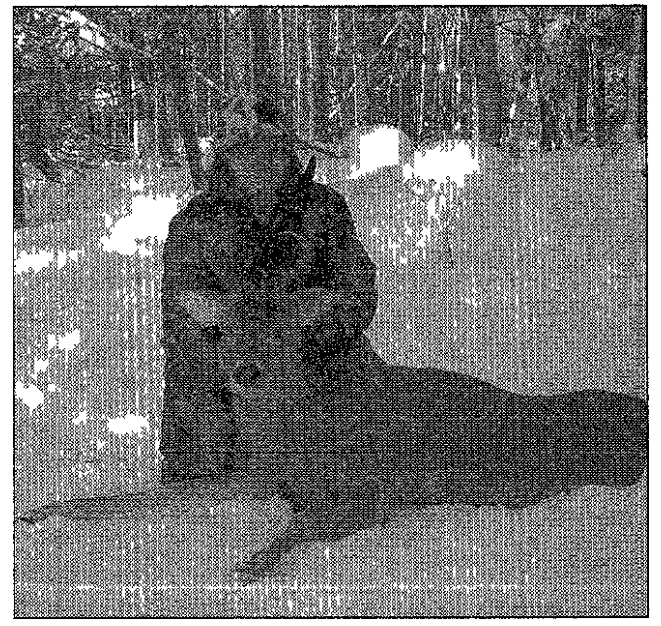
The Dearborn Divine Child High guard played four years at Bradley University (Ill.) where she started three seasons and earned All-Gateway Conference honors as a senior. She was later inducted into Bradley's Hall of Fame. The former Andrea

McAllister began her coaching career as a graduate assistant at her alma mater before returning home and going into the Catholic Youth Organization and AAU youth ranks.

When she's not coaching girls basketball, Gorski is a full-time mom. She and her husband Marcus have two children, Kiley, 10, and Luke, 7.

Gorski may be hard-pressed to duplicate Ladywood's 2005 season, but the notion is not far-fetched.

"We're bringing nine (varsity) players back," she said. "We had some sophomores on this team that will definitely help out next season."



Successful hunt

Adam Payter, 14, of Canton shot this 170-pound, five-point buck Nov. 26 while hunting with his grandfather, 81-year-old William Payter, in the Upper Peninsula's Houghton County. It was the first time hunting with a rifle for the young Payter, who is a student at Discovery Middle School.

Plymouth's gymnastics team is beaming with optimism

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

GYMNASTICS PREVIEW

The size of the Plymouth gymnastics team's roster is not the only thing that has grown by leaps and bounds since last season.

So has the level of optimism that surrounds the Wildcats' program.

First-year coach Diane Hodur, a former standout gymnast at the Michigan Academy of Gymnastics (MAG) in Westland, takes over a team that has expanded from four gymnasts to 18.

More importantly, the Wildcats have the stuff it takes to be competitive this season following a 2004-05 campaign

in which they had no chance of winning a meet due to the scarcity of competitors.

"I'm very excited about this season," said Hodur, who excelled in club gymnastics at Eastern Michigan University after graduating in 2000 from Dearborn Heights Crestwood. "They want to learn. They want to be at practice. I don't have to tell them to give 100 percent because they're self-motivated. I can't wait until the regionals and the league meet at the end of the year after we've added some difficulty to their routines."

Hodur remembers a few of her current gymnasts from her days as a competitor at MAG.

"I'd help them out when I was competing there," she said. "They were just little peanuts back then, but even then, you could tell they were going to be talented."

Hodur's top returner is sophomore Jordan Brodehl, who was limited by injuries to performing in just the uneven bars in Wednesday's season-opening 141-325-119-450 loss to powerful Livonia Unified.

Even though she has a couple of injuries, she still got an 8.55, which was great," Hodur said. Jordan has a lot of desire and she's probably the hardest worker on the team, which is

why I picked her to be a captain. She makes difficult things look effortless, which motivates her teammates. Some of things she can do are amazing.

The Wildcats' other captain is junior Paige Toft, who has proven to be a leader on and off the beam, bars and mat.

The first day of practice, I walked in and Paige was over with a group of freshmen asking them if they needed help with anything," Hodur said. "That tells you what kind of leader she is."

Other key members of this year's squad are seniors Alie Saker, Katie Hale and twins Courtney and Chelsey Pickard.

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(P) won by technical fall over Zeke Badgall 17:22. 140 Alex York (LS) p Steven Korpus 3:04. 145 Ali Youseff (P) dec Ziad Kharbush 15:55. 152 Adam Kokenakes (LS) won by major decision over Ryan Flaherty 18:55. 160 Jon Hagar (P) p Billy McNally 5:51. 171 Cody Rize (LS) p Vincent Darolfi 3:29. 189 Danny Jammoul (P) p Dan Inson 1:45. 215 Taylor Fox (P) p Trent Judis 0:30. 275 Shaun Bailey (P) p Ricky Bell

TRIPLES

FROM PAGE B1

Patriots 42-21

During the intermission, Nettles cautioned his team against getting over-confident.

"The first thing I told them was that we hadn't won anything yet," Nettles said, recounting his lockerroom message. "I let them know they needed to stay focused and not to let up. We had a little letdown in the fourth quarter, but overall I was pleased with the way we played."

The Patriots' largest lead came with 3:20 remaining in the third quarter when Joe Ceglarek's four-foot banker made it 50-23.

To the Rocks credit, they never threw in the towel and actually outscored the Patriots by three points in the second half. The closest Salem got to Cousino in the second half was

57-44 on a layup by Danny Cassidy with 3:12 left in the game.

I told the kids that playing them even in the second half was the only positive, Brodie said. "But we need to start putting four quarters together and eliminating the mental breakdowns. The same thing happened against Saline — we'd play well for a while, then fall apart."

All 13 Rocks saw action, with nine seeing significant playing time.

"I'm trying to find the players who want to step up and play," Brodie said. "I'm not trying to rotate everybody in. I want to see who is going to step forward and show me they're deserving of playing time."

Sophomore forward Grant Stone paced the Rocks with 17 points. Kevin Burleigh and Billy Leddy were next with six each for Salem.

Junior center Brian

Baumgart had a strong night on the boards, ripping down a team-high 11 rebounds.

Sophomore Bernard led the Patriots by snatching 12 missed shots.

Both teams launched 60 shots from the field. Cousino connected on 26 while Salem

hit 21. The Rocks were 7 for 17 (41 percent) from the free-throw line while the Patriots hit 3-of-6 from the stripe.

Salem returns to action Tuesday when it takes on Allen Park in the Allen Park Holiday Tournament. Tip off is set for 7:30 p.m.

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All-Observer girls basketball team shows the Midas touch

FIRST TEAM

Lisa Ealy, 5-9 Sr. F, Canton: Ealy capped a spectacular high school basketball career by leading the Chiefs to a WLA A district championship title and a Class A district championship. She averaged 12 points and eight rebounds a game, but her biggest contributions may have been with the immeasurable things she brought to the Chiefs' attack, including hustle and leadership.

"Lisa is a great athlete," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "She has a great ability to attack the basket, get to the rim and score. She's an awesome rebounder, too. Lisa did such a good job of getting to the basket that she went to the free throw line 169 times. She also defended the other teams' best players including Rachel Folino, Teresa Coppellie and Jeanine Moise."

Erica Yost, 5-6 Sr. G, Liv. Ladywood: The senior point guard averaged 12 points, five assists, three rebounds and two steals per game for the Catholic League A-B Division champions who finished 22-2 overall.

Yost was Ladywood's co-Most Valuable Player and an All-Catholic League selector. She also earned All-State recognition in Class B.

"Erica brought a lot to our team in terms of creating easy shots for her teammates," Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski said. "She got the ball up the floor in a hurry and put a lot of pressure on the defense with her ability to score as well as finding the open player."

Teresa Coppellie, 5-11 Jr. F, Salem: Coppellie a two-year starter, was voted the Rocks co-MVP along with Alaya Mitchell. She also garnered All-Conference recognition after averaging 11.9 points, 8.1 rebounds and 2.0 blocks per game. She posted solid shooting percentages: 49.8 from the field and 61.0 from the free throw line.

"Coming into this season, Teresa had already established herself as a tremendous rebounder and outstanding defender," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "This year, she proved to be a consummate player by scoring while doing the other things well, too. Next year I expect her to have an outstanding senior season."

Jeanine Moise, 5-11 Sr. C,

Plymouth: Moise a two-time All-WLAA selection, teamed with Kim Olech to give the Wildcats one of the strongest inside games in the area. She averaged 14 points and 10 rebounds per game along with providing strong defense.

Jeanine has been one of our most consistent players as far as scoring and rebounds the past four years," said Plymouth coach Michelle Reilly. "She's a very physical player who made great contributions to the program."

Lindsay Fletemier, 6-5 Sr. C, Garden City: Fletemier capped off an exceptional prep career with 319 points (15.2 avg.), 209 rebounds (10.2 avg.) and 99 blocked shots (five per game), establishing Garden City career records in all three categories.

According to Cougars head coach Barry Patterson, the 6-5 center "was without question the best player in our league. It was not even close."

Fletemier again earned selection to the All-Mega first team and is being honored as the Cougars MVP.

"Lindsay's one of those rare athletes that come along once in a coaching career," Patterson said. "To have a 6-5 girl with good hands who can run the floor well, and has exceptional skills that's probably a once-in-a-lifetime thing for a coach in a high school situation. It's probably the equivalent to getting that 6'10" or 6'11" male athlete that comes in."

Chloe Booker, 5-6 Jr. G, Red. Thurston: The Eagles charged to the Mega Gold title (11-1 league record) in large part to the outstanding and sometimes spectacular play of Booker.

She averaged 21 points, five assists and four rebounds per game but also was a defensive dynamo with an average of four steals per outing.

For her efforts, teammates named her team MVP. She also was named to the All-Mega first team.

"She was our sparkplug all season," said Eagles head coach Bob Ostrowski. "When she was on her game, both offensively and defensively, she was a big threat and someone the opposition definitely had to be aware of."

Kathryn Berger, 6-1 Jr. C, Liv. Ladywood: The Blazers co-MVP (along with Yost) finished the season averaging 10 points, six rebounds and two steals per game for the district champions.

"Kathryn brought a little bit of everything to our team," said Gorski of the All-Catholic League selection. "She could score, rebound and most times, defended the other teams' best post player. She is an extremely versatile player who was hard to take off the floor."

Becci Houdek, 5-8 Jr. G, Canton: Houdek proved to be a multifaceted star for the Chiefs, averaging nine points, five rebounds, four assists and four steals per game. She earned All-Conference accolades and was a key component in the Chiefs' march to a conference tournament title and district championship.

Becci has the ability to do everything on the court," Samulski said. "She sees the floor really well and she has a natural ability to find the open player."

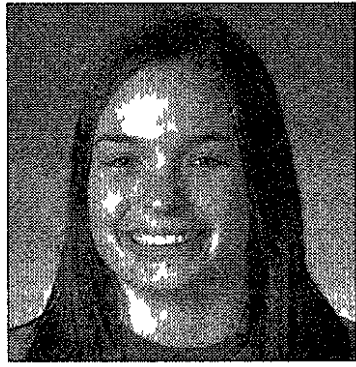
Defensively, it seems like her arms go on forever and because she anticipates passes so well, she picks up a lot of steals. Becci did a great job of leading the team on the floor, too."

Kim Olech, 5-11, Sr. F, Plymouth: Olech combined a soft touch around the basket with a tenacious rebounding style to average 12 points and nine rebounds this season. She bounced back from a serious knee injury early in her high school career to evolve into a post player that several small-college programs covet.

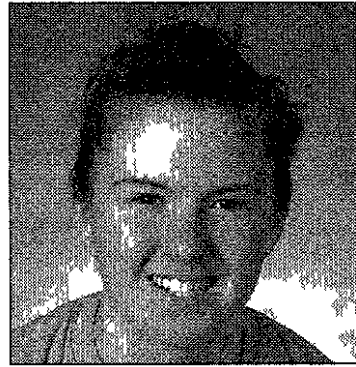
"Kim was the hardest-working player on our team," said Reilly. "She really made a commitment to basketball, both with the time she spent in the weight room and in the gym working on her game. Kim had a big impact on the success of our program the past couple of years. She'll be playing somewhere next year."

Alaya Mitchell, 5-4 Soph. G, Salem: Mitchell made her mark for the Rocks in her first varsity season, averaging 7.8 points, 2.5 assists and 2.5 steals per game.

"Alaya had an outstanding year," Thomann said. "She really stepped up her game toward the end of the season. She didn't get to play this past summer due to injury, so next season, with a full year of playing behind her, she has tremendous upside."



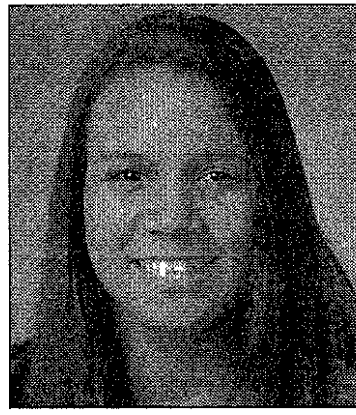
Lisa Ealy
Canton



Erica Yost
Ladywood



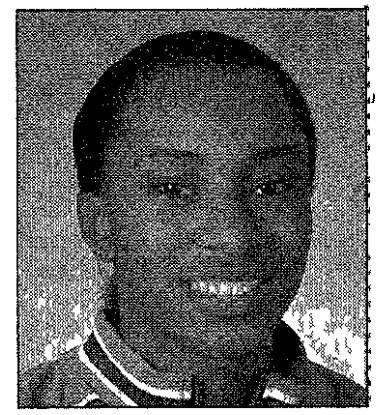
Teresa Coppellie
Salem



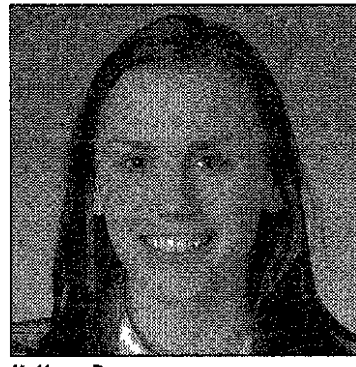
Jeanine Moise
Plymouth



Lindsay Fletemier
Garden City



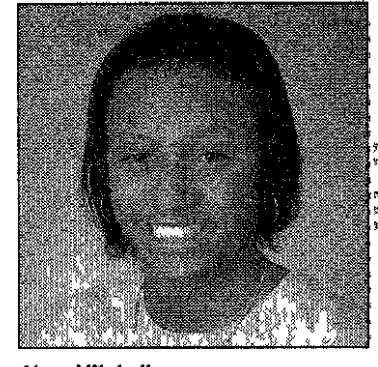
Chloe Booker
Redford Thurston



Kathryn Berger
Ladywood



Becci Houdek
Canton



Alaya Mitchell
Salem

2005 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BASKETBALL FIRST TEAM

Lisa Ealy 5'9 Sr F Canton
Erica Yost 5'6 Sr G Liv Ladywood
Teresa Coppellie 5'11 Jr F Salem
Jeanine Moise 5'11 Sr C Plymouth
Lindsay Fletemier 6'5 Sr C Garden City

SECOND TEAM

Chloe Booker 5'6 Jr G Red Thurston
Kathryn Berger, 6'1 Jr C Liv Ladywood
Becci Houdek 5'8 Jr G Canton
Kim Olech 5'11 Sr F Plymouth
Alaya Mitchell 5'9 Soph G Salem

THIRD TEAM

Melissa Traylor 5'10 Sr F Liv Ladywood
Lauren Kurtz 5'10 Jr F Salem

Ja Nee Morton 5'8 Jr G Canton
Janise Godboldo 4'11 Sr G Redford Union
Trisha Morrill 6'0 Sr C Liv Franklin

FOURTH TEAM

Robyn Whalen 6'1 Jr C Liv Franklin
Stephanie Bradshaw 5'5 Jr G Liv Churchill
Danielle Smith 5'4 Sr G Liv Stevenson
Lauren Watts 5'8 Sr G Garden City
Laura Guina 5'9 Jr G Liv Ladywood

COACH OF THE YEAR

Andrea Gorski Livonia Ladywood

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill Lindsey Graciak Amber Holod
Clarenceville Ashley Myree Amanda
Moody Franklin Andrea McCall Allison
Milcan Ladywood Kristen Hesano Erin
Szczypka Stevenson Rachel Desentz

Amanda Alpert John Glenn Jennifer Swartz Brandi Jones Heather Lindon Wayne LaDwan Jones Lutheran Westland Lauren Schwewe Kayla Gieschen Huron Valley Lutheran Amanda Gruenewald Lauren Adlof Redford Thurston T.J. Cunningham Ashley Moore Natalie Cochran Garden City Rachelle Rodriguez Liz Raleigh Redford Union Kirsten Gwizdala Chris Kenzie Redford Covenant Evette Long Canton Leslie Olech Kelsy Zemanski Plymouth Janet Hanchett Jaleisa Moise Salem Taylor Langham Brianne Clarin Plymouth Christian Academy Kelsie Tietjen Canton Agape Christian Brianna Chrenko

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VS. GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS
THIS FRIDAY, DEC. 23 AT 8 PM
First 10,000 fans in attendance receive a Joe Dumars figurine courtesy of FLASHBACK FRIDAYS A CELEBRATION OF PISTONS LEGENDS

SOLD OUT VS. SAN ANTONIO SPURS
SUNDAY, DEC. 25 AT 12:30 PM
First 10,000 fans receive a Santa hat plus all fans receive Candy Cane Thankertix courtesy of Rock Financial

VS. TORONTO RAPTORS
TUESDAY, DEC. 27 AT 7:30 PM
First 5,000 fans receive an Automation poster courtesy of ROOF ONE

SOLD OUT VS. MIAMI HEAT
THURSDAY, DEC. 29 AT 8 PM
First 10,000 fans receive Mini Fan Banners courtesy of Rock Financial

VS. ORLANDO MAGIC
TUESDAY, JAN. 3 AT 7:30 PM
First 10,000 fans in attendance receive a Rip Hamilton poster courtesy of Comerica

VS. SEATTLE SONICS
FRIDAY, JAN. 6 AT 8 PM
First 10,000 fans in attendance receive a Bill Laimbeer figurine courtesy of FLASHBACK FRIDAYS A CELEBRATION OF PISTONS LEGENDS

VS. UTAH JAZZ
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Handling Charges	\$5.00
Total Enclosed	

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MOTOWN'S NEWEST HOLIDAY TRADITION

This space donated by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Schoolcraft bounces back from forfeit, stops Lansing

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Schoolcraft College men's basketball team shrugged off some bad news earlier in the week to beat previously unbeaten Lansing Community College on Friday night, 98-82.

The visiting Ocelots got 18 points apiece from Jarred Axon and Ryan Williams to hand the NJCAA's No. 4-ranked team in Division II its first setback in 10 games.

Seven-footer James Davis and 6-7 DeMario Curry chipped in with 17 and 15 points, respectively, for the Ocelots, who led 52-36 at half-time.

Schoolcraft got off to a 20-4 lead during the first five minutes of play. The Stars cut the deficit to six with just under six minutes to go in the game, but baskets by Curry and Davis, along with timely free throw shooting (21-of-24 on the

night), secured the win. "We got off to a good start and they (Lansing) had to try and fight back from that most of the game," Schoolcraft coach Carlos Briggs said. "Our pressure defense got to them and Davis was a load inside, not necessarily with his scoring, but with his shot-blocking and

rebounding. Ron Banks led the Stars with 14 points. Lansing was 13-of-15 from the foul line.

Schoolcraft's record now stands at 9-2 because the Ocelots had to forfeit their 78-64 win on Nov. 25 over Indian Hills (Ia.), the NJCAA's No. 2-ranked team in Division I, in the Battle at the Beach Tournament hosted by Daytona Beach (Fla.) CC.

In the previous tournament game, a 102-95 win over St. John's River (Fla.), Briggs was ejected and was required to sit out the next game under a new NJCAA rule adopted this season that neither Schoolcraft administrators or the coach were aware of.

Under the previous NJCAA rule, coaches who were ejected from games did not have to sit out.

MADONNA 73, SAVANNAH ART 70
Madonna University held on to nip the Cazzie Russell coached Bees of Savannah College of Art & Design Friday night at the MU Tournament.

The Crusaders (5-6 overall) led 39-34 at halftime thanks to some good field goal shooting (16 for 38, 42.1 percent).

SCAD (6-9 overall) came back a little during the second half but could not catch up despite a 17-point outing by guard Gerard Bowden.

Leading the Crusaders to victory

were guard Charle Henry (16 points) forward D.J. Bridges (14 points) six rebounds) Adam Kerfoot (12 points) and forward Derrick Mudri who only scored two points but led MU with 13 rebounds.

Also in double figures for the Bees were guard Owen Oliver (14 points, 15 rebounds) forward Yuri Watkins (10 points) and guard Shaun Watson (10 points).

The Crusaders faced St. Francis (Ind.) in Saturday's tournament championship final.

Tigers claw Crusaders on Ky. trip

Madonna University stayed close for both halves Friday, but couldn't get over the hump in a 64-58 women's basketball setback to host Campbellsville (Ky.).

Sophomore forward Martina

WOMEN'S HOOPS

Franklin (Redford Union) led the Crusaders (5-7) with 16 points. Senior center Sarah Thomson added 12, while senior guard Lydia Prusinowski chipped in with 10.

Leigh Bolinger and Julija Illic each scored 12 points to pace the victorious Tigers (5-8). Jenny Noort contributed 11.

Campbellsville led by only two at halftime, 34-32, despite shooting 58.3 percent from the floor (14-of-24). The Tigers finished the night at 53.3 percent (24-of-45). They also hit 14-of-18 foul shots.

Madonna shot 40.3 percent from the field (26-of-67) and were only 1-of-11 from three-point range.

The Crusaders had 21 turnovers to Campbellsville's 20. MU was outrebounded, 24-18.

On Saturday, the Crusaders traveled to Lindsey Wilson (Ky.).

Mechanics drop price of tickets

The Motor City Mechanics of the United Hockey League (UHL) announce that they have lowered ticket prices for the remainder of the season.

The reorganization comes after changing ticket prices throughout the month of December and noticing a welcome change in attendance.

Starting Jan. 1 the Mechanics - who last season featured Garden City native Joe Burton - will be offering Section 1, 8, and 9 (on the blue line) at \$15, all other reserved seats at \$10 and bleacher seats (general admission) will be sold at \$5. All groups over 20 will receive the group rate at \$8 per ticket.

The Mechanics will also be selling season tickets for the remainder of the season starting with the game on Jan. 6 against Danbury. The 24-game season ticket includes all regular season home games from Jan. 6 through April 15.

The Mechanics' previous ticket prices were among the highest in the league but were priced competitively with other sporting and entertainment venues throughout the metro-Detroit area. Changing prices will make attending games more affordable for families.

For more information or to purchase tickets please contact the Mechanics offices at (866) 997-PUCK (7825).

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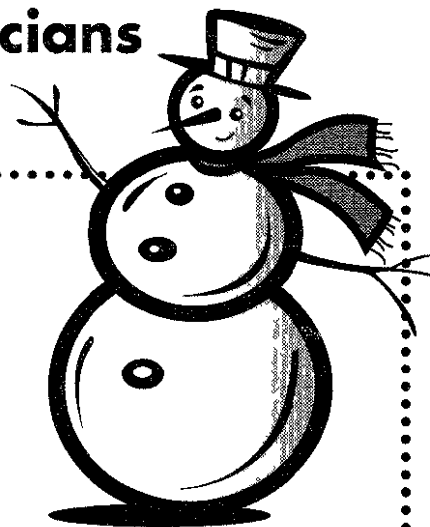
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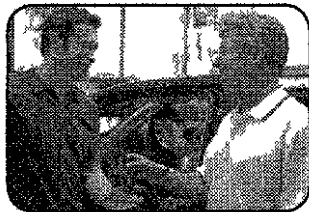
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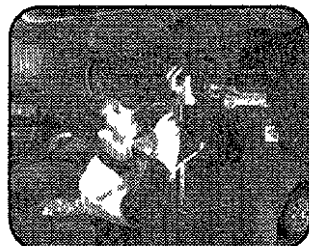
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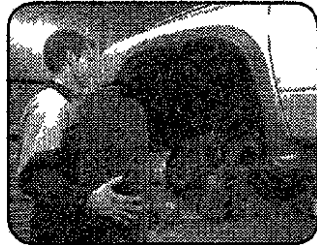
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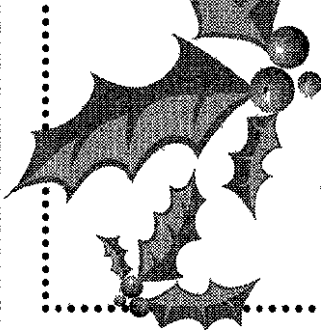
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Linda Chomin

Charities in need this Christmas

Audrey and Carl Mattson have been delivering food and clothing to the poor for years but are still surprised by the need. Last week, the Livonia couple drove up and down Woodward and Third and had no problem delivering the sandwiches made by members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Redford. Among those they came upon was a homeless man with hands as cold as ice.

Michigan is a harsh place to live in winter, but most of us can retreat to the warm indoors. Others have shelter but little if anything to give their children for Christmas. Every year, the Mattsons and area nonprofits work to make the holidays brighter. The Mattsons have more than 150 requests from mothers whose children need clothes, food and beds. To help, call (734) 522-5077.

The Mattsons deliver food and clothing year to the poor in the Cass Corridor, Brewster Projects, Brightmoor, and Norwayne in Westland in the name of their ministry, Ja'Noah House.

"They need gloves, hats, T-shirts, white and thermal socks and toys," said Audrey Mattson. "God provides and we never ask for money. It's not like we don't need it, but I was brought up not to ask."

FIRST STEP

It's Amy Youngquist's job to ask for donations so First Step can help domestic violence and sexual assault victims. This is a busy year for the associate director of the western Wayne County agency that assists women and children who flee abusive homes. Their counselors and shelter are busy as well as the assault response teams who assist women at hospitals, emergency rooms and police departments.

"We still have a few families for people to adopt," said Youngquist of First Step in Plymouth. "We have a wish list and ask gifts are unwrapped so mom can wrap them herself. We also need gift cards to K-mart, Target, Meijer, and phone cards to meet basic needs."

To help, call (734) 416-1111 or visit www.firststep-mi.org for a wish list.

CAPUCHIN SOUP KITCHEN

Brother Vincent Reyes has seen the number of families seeking help at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen go up this year as well. In the past, 200 families a day would request a Pantry Pack of food to feed a family of four for a week. The average now is 264. To help, call Reyes at (313) 579-2100 Ext. 203.

"The economy is affecting a lot of people," said Reyes. They need canned and dry goods, blankets, men's underwear, clothing and shoes, and financial help. Like everyone else, their heating bills are going up at least 50 percent. They could use gift certificates for grocery stores.

Reyes hopes to raise several thousand dollars at a photography exhibit and auction Jan. 14. It is part of the My Name Is project. For some time now, Reyes has captured the images of the poor through his camera lens.

"It's really important to tell the stories. These are just people having a difficult time," said Reyes.

Sister Nancyann Turner is doing her part to help children at the kitchen's Conner location where the Livonia nun directs tutoring and art programs. To help, call (313) 822-8606 Ext. 210.

"We need new winter socks for kids and teens, educational games or jigsaw puzzles less than 200 pieces because kids don't have the patience, and books for teens - fiction, sports stories, biographies," said Sister Turner. "They say, it takes a whole village to raise a child. We could never do this without you."

Linda Chomin is the Observer Life and Health reporter.

Observer LIFE

Diabetics get high-tech help.

HEALTH C10

Internet can harm teens.

ALICE MCCARTHY C4

Service marks 'Longest Night.'

FEATURE C4

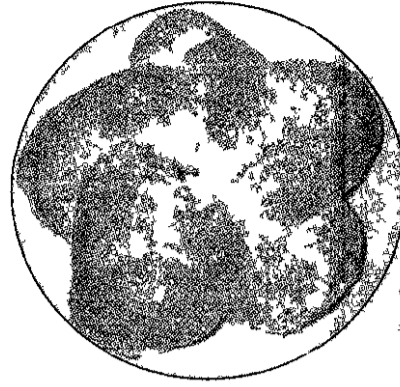
Section C

Sunday, December 18, 2005

(CP)

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bkadrich@hometownlife.com
www.hometownlife.com

Christmas traditions



'Back in Iraq Christmas was a big deal. The Chaldean spent days making Kalecha, the Christmas cookies. People would go from village to village visiting. It was a time to spend with family.'

Vanessa Denha Garmo
Redford resident, co-publisher of the Chaldean News in Farmington Hills



Vanessa Denha-Garmo (right first row) enjoys the last Christmas with her father Sabri Mansour Denha (center).

Celebrations focus on family, church, food

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

On Christmas Eve, Vanessa Denha-Garmo will be following the traditions her parents brought to America from Iraq. After going to Mass at St. Thomas Chaldean Catholic Church in West Bloomfield, the family returns to her mother's home for a meal of stuffed tripe (pacha). Family, church and food are key to many of the Christmas celebrations carried on by people who have immigrated to the U.S.

Denha-Garmo's father, the late Sabri Mansour Denha, went to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass and would usher at both. "Mass is really important," said Vanessa Denha-Garmo, a Redford resident who co-publishes The Chaldean News in Farmington Hills. "Our Christmas is about the birth of Christ. Mass is sometimes 1 1/2 to two hours long, in Iraq three to four hours."

"Back in Iraq, Christmas was a big deal. The Chaldean spent days making Kalecha, the Christmas cookies. People would go from village to village visiting. It was a time to spend with family."

Tony Boscarino remembers when as many as 35 family members gathered around the table in his parents' Italian home. Today, he and wife Martha incorporate traditions from her Finnish heritage by baking coffee cakes and pies. Both are members of the Finnish American Singers who rehearse at the Finnish American Center in Farmington Hills.

"We all sit around the night before Christmas with the family," said Tony Boscarino, 84, of Farmington Hills. "We eat homemade Italian cookies and go to Midnight Mass, then we all sit around the tree and open our gifts. The tradition is you're never

really alone. I had six sisters and we would never be alone. My father's sister would come over with all her children along with family from my mother's side. The kitchen was too small so we set up a 12-foot long table.

As a child, Boscarino's cousins lived above them in a flat on the east side of Detroit. On Christmas morning, his father and the older men would drag out a toboggan-like sled and take them down the street to play in the snow.

"We really had a ball," said Boscarino. Christmas afternoon, they had a dinner of spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salads and homemade bread. Mom did a lot of baking and bought 50-pound bags of flour.

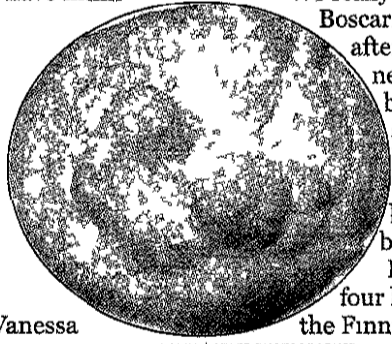
It took Ilene Yanke four hours just to bake the Finnish Christmas cake made with Pulla batter. Then she shaped a Christmas star from the batter in addition to making tarts filled with prune and apricots. The goodies were for the

Scandinavian Holiday celebration at the Finnish American Center in Farmington Hills and Pikku Joulu or Little Christmas at St. John's Lutheran Church in Redford. All of Yanke's grandparents were born in Finland.

"In Finland, one of the first things they do is go to the cemeteries that are lit with candles on Christmas Eve and remember their ancestors," said Yanke, president of the Finnish American Singers who give a holiday concert at the center on Dec. 18. Yanke and her husband Bruce sing in their church choir on Christmas Eve and Day.

For more information about the Dec. 18 concert by the Finnish American Singers, call (248) 478-6939. Tickets are \$10 and include a Finnish table full of sandwiches and desserts.

"The Scandinavian Holiday is the party of the year as far as food with roast beef, a fish dish,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pulla-nisu is a sweet coffee bread flavored with cardamom above, which also can be made in shapes such as the Christmas star design at top.



Soprano Vickie A. Kimler rehearses a solo.



Ilene Maki Yanke presents Christmas tarts with prune and apricot fillings.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PLEASE SEE TRADITIONS, C3

Designer creates sophisticated jewelry for all price ranges

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Elizabeth Alexander never dreamed that one day her custom jewelry would end up on women's tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams.

The Livonia designer's path to the big time began humbly in a metal working class at Farmington High School at the age of 17. It wasn't until nearly 25 years later that her bead necklaces, bracelets and earrings would draw the attention of celebrities as well as shoppers at Marshall Field's in Twelve Oaks, Somerset, Lakeside, Oakland and Briarwood malls and Parisian in Livonia and Rochester Hills. Even the boutique in Illusions Salon & Spa at the Willits in Birmingham is carrying her lines.

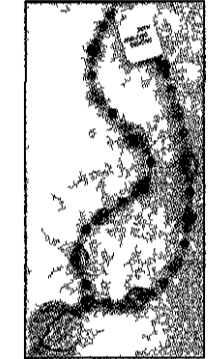
"I import handmade beads from Venice, venetian or murano glass," Alexander said. "I have all price ranges. Pendants start at \$35, earrings from \$30, bracelets \$60. Pricing depends on shape of the bead and composition of the piece. Triple strands and multiple-colored beads can run to \$500, but necklaces average \$200."

All of the beads are strung together with sterling silver or oxidized Bali silver. Only the best goes into an Alexander



Elizabeth Alexander designed this bracelet with glass beads and oxidized Bali silver.

piece. Every other year, she travels to Europe to visit glass artists' studios in search of the perfect bead. The lamp-worked art is created over torches and then slowly cooled in a kiln to prevent cracking.



This turquoise pendant necklace can be worn with any style of dress from casual to formal.

"From elegant to traditional, funky to artistic, you can wear all black and add different colors depending on your mood," Alexander said. "It's fun, bright stuff to wear. Because all women are different, there are a range of colors and sizes."

Turquoise blue glass hearts form a bracelet. Pink freshwater pearls and Swarovski crystal boast a classic look in a multi-strand necklace.

"It's all about the glass and color, balance and proportion," said Alexander, who credits the success of her jewelry to the fact it can be worn with everything from casual to dressy. Miss Michigan and Junior Miss Michigan wear her pieces for all occasions.

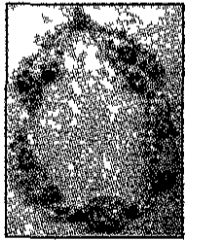
"You can be very feminine or artistic," she said. "You can create your own piece. I offer plus and petite size jewelry. It's tailored to the individual."

Alexander designs and produces special pieces for brides, mothers of the bride or to go with gowns worn to events such as the North American International Auto Show charity. Some of her most creative work occurs at night.

The flexibility of her chosen career is less stressful to Alexander, who used to practice law. Today, the former attorney works seven days a week, but never complains because she's having fun. When she isn't doing trunk shows, Alexander is exhibiting her designs at art fairs such as Art in the Park in Plymouth and the Ann Arbor Arts Fairs in addition to country club shows.

"This is so much more pleasurable. I started selling to galleries and boutiques and doing trunk shows," said Alexander, who the day before appeared at a trunk show at Marshall Field's at Lakeside Mall, where buyers pick trend colors for the season.

"Designs are always changing because bead makers are always changing shapes of beads. I love making beautiful things and working with these beautiful pieces. I like to have something for everyone, high



Elizabeth Alexander mixes freshwater pearls with glass beads in this multi-strand necklace.

PLEASE SEE JEWELRY, C3

AROUND TOWN

Entertainment books

Several Plymouth organizations are selling the 2006 Entertainment Books as fund raisers. The Plymouth Optimists are selling the 2006 Entertainment Books with all proceeds helping children through out southeastern Michigan. Price is \$25. Books are available at Saxton's Garden Center in Plymouth or home delivery is available. Call (734) 453-8253 for details. The Plymouth Community Chorus is selling the 2006 Entertainment Books to support its charitable and educational activities. The book offers 2 for 1 and 50 percent discounts on restaurants, travel, recreation, hotel stays, entertainment and sporting events. The book is being offered at a special fund raising price of \$25 and can be delivered if the purchaser desires. Order books by calling Stan Kovacheff at (734) 459-6829. Members of the Plymouth Symphony League are selling the 2006 entertainment book offering 50 percent discount coupons at hundreds of restaurants and discounts for many other services and events. The books is priced at \$25 with all proceeds to support the Plymouth Symphony. Books can be picked up at the symphony office next to the Cozy Cafe in downtown Plymouth or ordered by calling Mary Thomas (734) 453-3016. For more information call the symphony office (734) 453-2112.

Parenting tips

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers parenting classes called Parenting with Love and Logic. 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays. The classes offer a common sense approach to parenting, teaching parents skills that cultivate confidence and good decision making in children by offering them choices, empathy and respect while adults avoid anger, threats, warnings or lectures. The Jan 11 class is for toddlers and preschool age. The Feb 8 class is a time out refresher for all ages and the March 8 class is for pre-teens and teenagers. There is a fee for the class. Call (734) 655-1100 to register or for more information.

Senior Dinner and Dancing

The Wayne Ford Civic League will be hosting a Senior Dinner & Dance decorated for Christmas at 1645 N. Wayne Rd. in Westland at noon Dec 18. There will be a full buffet dinner, beer, wine, coffee and pop with dancing to the music from Solitaire. Tickets for this event are \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members of the league. Memberships are on sale year round and are only \$5 for seniors. Tickets are available at the door. You can call (734) 728-5010 for more information. You must be 60 years or older to attend.

Genealogical society

The Livingston County Genealogical Society meets 7 p.m. Jan 5 with guest speaker Linda Wright talking about Scandinavian Research. The meeting takes place at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1041 Grand River in Howell. For details call (810) 227-7745.

Art exhibit

The Belli Liu installation ALINE will begin Jan 6 and run through Feb 18 in the Ann Arbor Art Center's Exhibition Gallery, 117 West Liberty Street in Ann Arbor. Hours are 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, noon - 5:30 p.m. Sunday. A reception is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. Friday, Jan 13. For more information contact Amanda Krugliak, Exhibitions Director at the Ann Arbor Art Center (734) 994-8004, Ext. 110.

Childbirth class

St. Mary Mercy offers a six-week Childbirth Education session. Let's Get Ready to Have a Baby, 7-9 p.m. Mondays from Jan 2-Feb 6. Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the entire experience more rewarding. Classes are based on the Lamaze method. There is a fee and registration is required. For more information call the Marian Women's Center (734) 655-1162.

Master gardener

The Michigan Master Gardener Program is a horticulture education and volunteer leader training program offered by Michigan State University Extension. An interest in plants, a personal commitment to vol-



Teddy time

It was a good night all around when the Plymouth Whalers played Owen Sound last weekend at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township. Not only did the Whalers beat the Attack, but their first goal helped the Plymouth Community United Way with their holiday program. The United Way collected 425 teddy bears in the annual 'Teddy Bear Toss' at the game. About a third went to the Goodfellows for their 'No Child Without a Christmas' program, the rest were donated to the Salvation Army.

unteers and an enthusiasm for sharing knowledge with others are the only prerequisites. To become certified as a Master Gardener, participants must pass weekly quizzes, the final examination and volunteer 40 hours within one year of completing the class to help MSU Extension educate the public in the horticulture field. Wayne County MSU Extension offers the Master Gardener class at Wayne County MSU Extension Office, 640 Temple, 6th Floor in Detroit, starting 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan 14. All classes will be taught for 13 consecutive weeks. Applications can be picked up at the Wayne County MSU Extension office, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. or to have an application mailed to your home, please call (313) 833-3417 during the same hours. Wayne County MSU Extension must receive your completed application and a check for the entire course fee made payable to MSU Extension by Wednesday, Dec 21. Acceptance into the class is based on the application. Those not accepted

Literacy Council tutors

The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials and then match you with an adult student in your area. The next CLC training sessions are from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan 14 and Jan 21 at the Canton Public Library. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

Grief support

Arbor Hospice & Home Care and BraveHeart Grief Services announce a winter grief support group for adults in Northville. Support groups are tailored to meet the needs of individuals who have suffered the loss of someone close to them and are open to everyone in the community. Advance registration is required and all support groups are free of charge, although donations are greatly appreciated to defray program expenses. The group starts 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan 17, March 7 at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady in

Northville. To register or for more information about any of our support groups, contact Sandy VanKovering (248) 348-4980.

St. Mary's class

St. Mary Mercy sponsors a presentation, Surviving the Season: Coping With Holiday Stress, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Dec 19 at the Northville Senior Center located at 303 W. Main St. in Northville. Speaker will be St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Darlene Doude, advanced practice nurse in psychiatric mental health nursing. Registration is required. Call the Northville Senior Center (248) 349-4140.

Grief support

New Hope Center for Grief Support is a Christian-based bereavement outreach and resource center located in Northville. Age-appropriate groups for widows and widowers are provided in various locations in southeastern Michigan, including groups for young widows and widowers and their children between the ages of 4 through the teen years. Groups for parents who have lost a child, adults who have lost a parent, pet loss, and other specialized groups are offered at various times of the year. All services for adults and children are offered at no cost to the participants. If you are grieving or know someone who is, please call the office at (248) 348-0115 for further information about services provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support or visit www.newhopecenter.net.

CLUBS

Rotary A.M.

The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. New members are always welcome. Contact Tim Phillips, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. via e-mail at tim@phillipshq.com or call (734) 451-8267.

MOPS meet

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets twice monthly from September to May for moms and their children, newborn-kindergarten, at Lakepointe Bible Church in Plymouth. For more information, call Crystal Johnson (734) 459-1861.

Mosaic

MOSAIC is a group where Moms come together to be refreshed and equipped for the important task of

mothering. It presents speakers on child and family issues, has small group discussion time, crafts and brunch. Child care is provided. It meets at Plymouth Baptist Church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month, September to May. Contact Resha at (734) 207-0658 or resha@juno.com.

Moms Club

Moms Club of Livonia S/Plymouth offers a variety of activities. For more details, call Birthe at (734) 458-8143 or Martina at (734) 464-0481.

DAR

The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution meets the third Monday of each month, except January, July and August. A group with ancestors who fought in the American Revolution. Members participate in community work involving veterans, hospitals, schools and community service. Call (734) 420-2775 for further information.

German/American Club of Plymouth

Meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 39100 Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth. Call Mary Ann at (734) 420-0857 for further information.

American Legion

Beasley Zalesny Post 112 meets at the 100 F Hall on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. All veterans that served during any of the wars are eligible. Contact (734) 459-7324 for further information.

Women's Farm and Garden Club-Plymouth

Meets every second Monday of each month from September through June. Persons interested in joining may contact club president Linda Coughlin at (734) 459-7478.

Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club

Looking for energetic new members to participate in community service projects. This club meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Salvation Army Building on Main Street. The third Thursday is a dinner meeting with a speaker. Call (734) 981-7259 for further information.

Mothers & More

The Wayne County chapter of Mothers & More meets twice a month in Plymouth. Call (866) 841-9140, Ext. 4329 or visit Web site mothersandmore63@onebox.com.



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Churches serve Christmas dinner to anyone alone

There is no reason to spend Christmas Day alone. St. Dunstan is one of the churches inviting people to spend the day with them. They will be serving dinners to anyone who is alone or doesn't have anywhere to go on Sunday, Dec. 25.

St. Dunstan's dinner will be served at 1:30 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.), at the Catholic church at 1616 Belton Avenue in Garden City. There is no charge, but reservations are required. Call Mary or John at (734) 425-3282 for reservations or more information.

Unity of Livonia is inviting anyone alone on Christmas Day to dinner as well. Services take place at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. followed by dinner from

noon to 2 p.m. when the 12 Step open meetings begin.

In 1987, the Rev. Dennis Skiles was alone on Christmas Day and had not. **St. Dunstan's dinner will be served at 1:30 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.), at the Catholic church at 1616 Belton Avenue in Garden City. There is no charge, but reservations are required. Call Mary or John at (734) 425-3282 for reservations or more information.**

drunk alcohol for almost two years. He attended a church that invited people to share Christmas dinner and attend a recovery meeting if needed. That day changed his life. He went on to become an ordained minister and is currently co-minister at Unity of Livonia. He is still having Christmas dinner now at his church some 18 years later.

There will be a turkey with all the trimmings. If you can bring a dish to share, he asks that you please do so. If not, come anyway. To help or donate, call (734) 421-1760.

Unity of Livonia is at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster.

TRADITIONS

FROM PAGE C1

Swedish potato sausage, traditional Finnish Rutabaga Casserole, and Limpa Scandinavian bread from the Farmington Bakery. It's just a tradition. People like to come because it's a little bit of home. There will be an almond placed in the rice cream pudding. Whoever gets that is supposed to have good luck in the coming year.

Anna Kimler doesn't do as much baking or cooking for Christmas anymore. Born in Germany in 1929, she's limited by the amount of sweets she can eat because of her diabetes.

Kimler and her daughter Vickie did bake butter cookies and Lebkuchen, a spice cookie with honey and no fat or cholesterol.

"In Frankfurt they decorated stores, book and grocery, and mother would bake cookies but we could not touch anything

until Christmas Eve when the tree was trimmed," said Anna Kimler of Farmington Hills. "I didn't know about Santa and we had only a few gifts. Today we exchange presents and have a nice meal."

The Rev. Larry Zurawski is going to his cousin's Livonia home for Christmas Eve dinner in the tradition of his Polish grandparents. A bit of hay will be placed under the tablecloth to represent the manger. The white tablecloth symbolizes the swaddling clothes in which Jesus was wrapped.

It's usually a fasting meal, which means no meat, with some traditional foods like fish, pierogi, poppyseed cake, mushroom soup, said Rev. Zurawski, pastor at St. Damians Catholic Church in Westland. "The important part is the wafer. The youngest member waits for the first star to appear then everyone holds the wafer and the oldest member starts and breaks off the wafer and we wish each other

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. For some it's a time of reconciliation. The wafer is not blessed bread but the symbol of Jesus, the bread of life. Bread is served at every meal. The wafer is an Eucharistic symbol and often sent in Christmas cards to people you don't see."

After dinner everyone goes to the Midnight Mass. He'll be saying at St. Damians. Earlier in the day of Christmas Eve, children re-enact the Nativity scene during a 4:30 p.m. mass for young people. On Christmas morning Rev. Zurawski says two more masses at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

For Polish people, Advent, the season before Christmas, is very important to observe as a time of preparation," said Zurawski. "Christmas Eve begins the season that continues through January and the baptism of Jesus. Christmas Day is a time for visiting relatives. You really don't need an invitation. You just go and visit. There's lots of food and

singing of Polish Christmas carols in Polish and English. During the week between Christmas and New Year's feast days are celebrated. Jan. 1 is the Feast of Mary, the mother of God and world day of prayer for peace."

The Christmas season lasts from the feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6 to the Epiphany on Jan. 6 and then Candlemas on Feb. 2 for Rev. Gerry Bechard, pastor of SS Simon and Jude in Westland. His first language is French Canadian.

"The French will not put baby Jesus in the manger until Christmas," said Bechard who will say a mass for children at 4:30 p.m. as well as Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Later on Christmas Day morning he says a 10 a.m. mass.

"The French attend mass and eat a special meat pie, especially French Canadians."

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JEWELRY

FROM PAGE C1

fashion at reasonable prices."

Apparently women appreciate the concept of wearing sophisticated jewelry priced to fit nearly any budget. Alexander's business continues to grow with the help of her husband, Karl Sipfle, a computer engineer. Together, they've hired a marketing firm in Los Angeles to make sure her designs are seen on everyone from tennis stars to celebrities attending the Grammy Awards.

"He is how we stay in business," said Alexander, who married in 2000. "He does everything from financial planning to picking up and delivering stock. I could not do it without him. I create and produce all of the pieces myself. We're about color."

Alexander's colorful designs are what first attracted Janette Noel, manager of the boutique in Illusions Salon & Spa at the Willits in Birmingham.

"It's made very well. It's very colorful. It invites you in," said Noel, a Westland resident. "I have a couple of her pieces, a heart that has gold with a lot of fire in it, and a crystal and white pearl, double-strand necklace that I can wear in the day or evening. It's elegant, very smart. I can put on a black dress and have color. It's very youthful and mature, too. They're timeless pieces."

For more information about Elizabeth Alexander Designs, call (734) 464-0807 or visit www.elizabethalexanderdesigns.com to shop online.

Alexander will be at Parisian in Rochester Hills from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, and Marshall Fields at Twelve Oaks Monday, Dec. 19. For last-minute shoppers, visit her at Parisian in Laurel Park Place in Livonia from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Christmas Eve. For a complete listing of trunk shows visit the Web site.

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New Year's Eve gala to help Angela Hospice

Start off the New Year in style while helping a good cause. Join Angela Hospice and Laurel Manor as they team up for a Roaring Twenties New Year's Eve Gala.

Enjoy Life will be the theme of the event beginning at 7 p.m. Guests will celebrate with fine dining, a premium open bar, dancing to the nine-piece ensemble Rare Blend, performances by The Cats and the Fiddler and pianist Dan Dombrowski plus roaring twenties inspired decor with authentic 1920s automo-

biles, and photos opportunities with flappers and speakeasies. Guests will also enjoy champagne and New Year's festivities at midnight, and an afterglow with Coney dogs and pizza.

Tickets to Angela Hospice's New Year's Eve Gala are \$125 per person with a tax-deductible amount of \$55 per ticket. Coordinate a table of 10 and the person who places the reservation will receive a \$100 American Express gift card.

For those wishing to make reservations for overnight accom-

modations, complimentary shuttle service to the nearby Courtyard by Marriott will be provided. The hotel is offering a special rate for the night at \$79, which includes champagne and chocolates in the room, and brunch the next morning.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Alice Barringer at (734) 953-6018, or visit www.angelahospice.org. Guests must be age 21 or older. All proceeds benefit the many caring programs of Angela Hospice in Livonia.

Tough times: Church service eases pain of the season

Those coping with an illness or who've lost a loved one aren't necessarily experiencing Christmas joy this December. Even the demands of holiday preparations can take a toll this time of year.

"Not everybody's in the holly jolly spirit of Christmas," said Melissa Arquette, a member of Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton. To help people cope, the church will host a Longest Night Service 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, at Geneva, on Sheldon north of Ford (west side) in Canton.

"All are welcome," she said. "We're encouraging the congregation to invite others as well." The service is open to all regardless of church background or lack of it.

This is the first year Geneva has offered a Longest Night Service, although Arquette, a Canton resident, noted that other churches have done so. The Wednesday, Dec. 21, service will include prayer, Scripture and music.

Following the short service, there will be light refreshments and time for fellowship.

By Julie Brown

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Nowacki-Drake
John and Carol Nowacki of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Ann, to Michael John Drake of Grand Rapids.

Lisa is a graduate of Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids. She is a photographer at Studio 630 in Sparta.

Her fiancé, Michael, is the son of Dr. Jerry and Sandy Drake of Northville. He is a graduate of Calvin College. He is the campaign manager for Rep. Kevin Green.

Michael and Lisa are planning a January 2006 wedding at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville. A reception will be



Sulak-Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Sulak of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Ann, to Mr. Darin Joseph Brown, of Redford.

Jennifer is a graduate of Ladywood High School, and has earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Madonna University and an M.B.A. from Davenport University. She is currently employed as a change, leadership and learning consultant with Deloitte Consulting, LLP in Detroit.

Her fiancé, Darin, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Brown of Midland. He is a graduate of HH Dow High School, and has a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Darin is employed as an operations manager for Durr Systems in Plymouth.

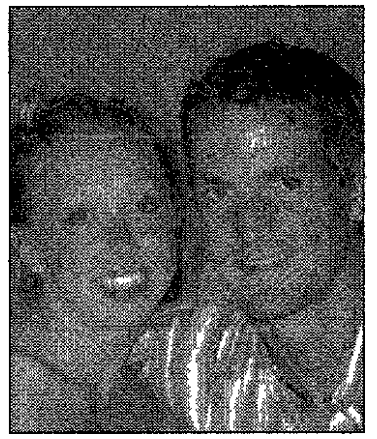
Darin and Jennifer are planning a November 2006 wedding in Detroit.

at The Dearborn Inn. After a honeymoon in Oahu, Hawaii, they will make their new home in the Grand Rapids area.

Furlong-Burns
Patrick and Sharon Furlong of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Lynn, to Christopher Patrick Burns of Flat Rock.

Jennifer is a graduate of Wayne State University with a bachelor's degree in both psychology and criminal justice, and an associates degree in liberal arts.

Her fiancé, Christopher, is the son of Mike and Joan Burns of Flat Rock. He is a graduate of Wayne State University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He is employed as an engineer at Cargill in St. Clair, Mich.



Christopher and Jennifer are planning a September 2006 wedding at Hawk Hollow Country Club in Lansing.

Cameron-Charlefour
Linda Olah of Traverse City, and Roger and Lynne Cameron of Marysville, announce the engagement of their daughter, Lindsay Ann Cameron, to Brian Marcus Charlefour of Westland.

Lindsay is a 2000 graduate of Port Huron Northern High School, and a 2005 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is a recreational therapist at Heartland-Plymouth Court.

Her fiancé, Brian, is the son of Jack and Kathy Charlefour of Canton. He is a 1996 graduate of Salem High School and a 2003 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in parks and recreation management. He is currently pursuing a teaching certificate



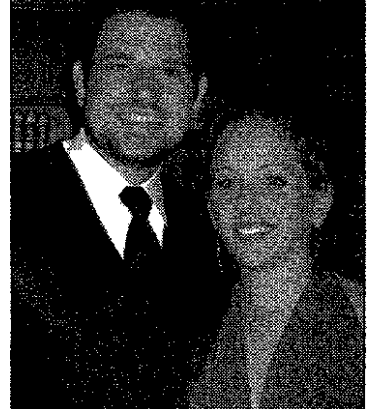
at EMU. Brian is the head junior varsity football coach at Salem High School. Brian and Lindsay are planning a March 2006 wedding at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth.

Satchell-Cahill
Terry and Kay Satchell of Hendersonville, NC, announce the engagement of their daughter, Lindsay Kristine, to Courtney Francis Xavier Cahill.

Lindsay is a graduate of Wilson High School in West Lawn, Pa. She received her bachelor's degree from Kutztown University. She is currently a candidate for her master's of fine arts in sculpture at Wayne State University.

Her fiancé, Courtney, is the son of Francis X. and Christine Cahill of Farmington Hills. He is a graduate of Harrison High School and received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Western Michigan University. He is the owner of Three Leaf Vending Services of Livonia.

Courtney and Lindsay are planning a September 2006 wedding.



NEW VOICES

Madelyn Grace Murphy
Jason and Kimberly Murphy of Westland announce the birth of their daughter, Madelyn Grace, on Sept. 17, 2005, at University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Madelyn joins big sister, Rachel, 3 years.

Her grandparents are Dale and Janice Sanlor of Westland, Robert Murphy of Curran, Mich., and Sue Murphy of Westland.

Teens in 2005
Alice McCarthy

These sites generally are found while surfing the web by mistyping addresses, misspelling names to Web sites and links from other sites. Pornography also will show up in an individual's e-mail in-box, usually from an unknown or anonymous sender.

"In addition to pornography, there are many other inappropriate sites, including those that promote anorexia/bulimia, racism, or misinformation about such things as birth control and immunizations."

Broughton reminds us that one to two million teens have a serious gambling problem and that there are now more than 2,000 online casinos. The only item needed by your teen to get into serious gambling trouble is a credit card, yours or his or hers.

Broughton tells us that "700 kids were abducted in 2004 by someone they met over the Internet. (Most frequently these are girls ages 12-17.)"

We wrote two columns about bullying early in 2005. Now, teens have discovered the Internet as a convenient

Internet may be a threat to teen

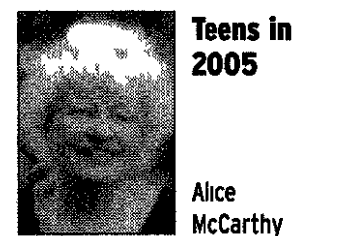
When I came home from college for the holidays my father remarked that mostly he saw the back of my head! I'm nearly 6 feet tall and in my day fashionable clothes for girls of that height were non-existent! My attachment was to my trusty sewing machine!

Today, you may spend the holidays looking at your teen's back and head as he or she sits at the computer. Please give careful attention - this activity can be considerably more dangerous than a messed up seam!

Daniel Broughton, M.D., FAAP, a member of the Communications Committee for the American Academy of Pediatrics, writes "One of the first things to understand is that being online is the same as being in public. While using the Internet at home may feel safe and secure, there are very real privacy issues.

"Personal information can be obtained easily when children create 'member profiles' with Internet service providers on a Web site or in a chat room. 'Cookies' allow outside sources to see inside one's home computer. This information can be misused in a variety of ways, including marketing directed at children and by child predators."

INAPPROPRIATE SITES
"Pornography on the Internet is an area of concern



conduit for carrying intimidating or unflattering messages, embarrassing information, photos or stories. Better check on messages sent by your teen.

BE INVOLVED
Broughton reminds parents of the daily two-hour limit of screen time recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. He says parents should be able to trace their teen's Web site visits. He notes that filtering devices do not replace parent involvement.

If you missed previous columns, you can access them at www.hometownlife.com/Livonia/News.asp. Type "Alice R. McCarthy" under Keyword Search for a list of her most recent columns. Columns, written weekly, remain only a short time on this site. All of her columns for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* are on www.bridge-comm.com.

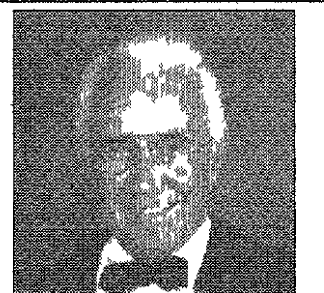
Alice R. McCarthy, Ph.D., the mother of five professionals, is a national consultant in the areas of parent involvement in schools, curriculum writing in health and health publications. She is the author of a widely used text and parenting book, *Healthy Teens Facing the Challenges of Young Lives*. Write to her in care of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or at bridgecomm@aol.com.

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax 734-953-2232
e-mail OEObits@oehomecomm.net



LUWANA BOND
(nee Wheeler)
Age 81. December 14, 2005. Beloved wife of Lowell Loving mother of Carol Peters, Nancy (Mike) McCoy and Patricia (Gary) Thomas. Proud grandmother of 8 and great grandmother of 3. Dear sister of Sally Shields. A memorial gathering was Friday at McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. 12 Mile Road. Memorial service was held Saturday. Memorials may be made to Redford Presbyterian Church, Gift of Life or PEO.

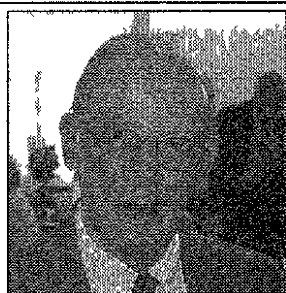


ROBERT F. BYRNE
December 14, 2005. Age 84. Dear father of Kate Henry, Grandfather of Daniel and Sean Henry. Funeral service was Saturday at A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, Royal Oak 248-549-0500. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to The Michigan Humane Society, 26711 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 175, Southfield, MI 48034. View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com.

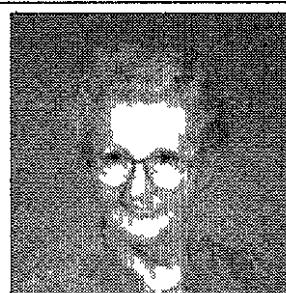
GORDON F. DONALDSON
Age 66. December 15, 2005. Husband of Frances for 40 years. Father of Roger (Holly) and David. Brother of Roger (Gen) and the late Arthur. Uncle to many nieces and nephews. Retired from Ford Motor Company after 30 years of service as a purchasing agent. Retired Chief Operating Officer at Feblo Inc. in Livonia. Visitation Sunday 3:00pm and Funeral Service Monday 11:00am at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to Angela Hospice.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

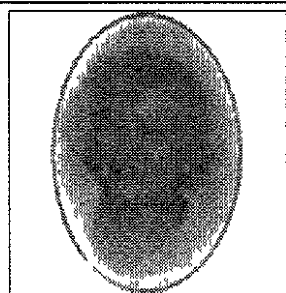
JACK C. HUTCHINSON
Age 89 of Holland formerly of Birmingham MI and Naples FL died Thursday December 15, 2005 at Freedom Inn of Freedom Village. Jack served with the US Navy during WWII. He owned and operated Hutchinson Lincoln and Mercury of Royal Oak MI for over 30 years. In 1999 he moved to Holland to be closer to family. He is survived by his wife of 66 years Dorothy W. and children John and Susan Hutchinson of Holland, Marcia A. Ebaugh of East Lansing MI, Patricia and Patrick Turner of Dearborn MI, 8 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren. Sister in law Norma A. Nobel of Grosse Pointe Farms MI. Also nieces and nephews. No services are scheduled at this time. Memorial gifts may be given to American Red Cross. Arrangements are by the Mulder Chapel, Dykstra LifeStory Funeral Homes, 188 West 32nd St. Holland for more information please visit www.lifestorynet.com.



EDWARD HODSON LERCHEN
Age 85 of Grand Rapids, Michigan passed away on Wednesday, December 14, 2005. Mr. Lerchen was born on June 12, 1920 in Detroit, MI to William Godfrey and Mabel (Hodson) Lerchen. He educated at Brookside and Cranbrook Schools (CS 38) in Bloomfield Hills MI and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Amherst College and an MBA from the University of Michigan. He served in the US Navy during WWII including duty as the captain of a mine sweeper in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. After the war he embarked on a successful career that included positions at Watling Lerchen & Co., Rockwell International, Detroit Bank & Trust and Cranbrook Schools. At Cranbrook he started as the Director of the Cranbrook Foundation, served for many years as Vice President and Treasurer and served briefly as Acting President. He also served on corporate boards including the Kresge Foundation, William Beaumont Hospital and Standard Federal Bank. Mr. Lerchen contributed much to his community serving as city commissioner and Mayor of Bloomfield Hills. He also gave generously of his time to the Boy Scouts of America, the Birmingham Community House, Manners Church, Detroit and Christ Church Cranbrook. He was preceded in death by his wife Joan Muzzy Lerchen, his son Gray Muzzy Lerchen and his brother William Godfrey Lerchen Jr. He is survived by his children Edward Hodson Lerchen Jr., Katherine Lerchen Nelson and Carol Lerchen Scheiwe, grandchildren Hadley Hopkins Bay, Megan Leslie Hopkins, Peter Hans Scheiwe, Elizabeth Claire Lerchen and Edward Reed Lerchen, and two great grandchildren, Caroline Leslie Bay and Grand Peter Bay. He was highly regarded, much loved and will be greatly missed by all. A memorial service will be held at 2:00pm Saturday, January 7th at Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, MI. There will be a burial service at Graafschap Cemetery in Holland, MI in the summer of 2006. Memorials may be sent to Cranbrook Educational Community, attn: Development Office/Schools, PO Box 801, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303, 0801 or to Hospice of Michigan, 1260 Eckhart NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Service, Grand Rapids, MI 616 940 7333.



JONNIE J. LEAVECK
Age 91. Dear wife of the late Michael J. Loving mother of Dorothy F. (Raymond) Barnes and Thomas J. Beloved grandmother of Linda Eileen Roxann and Joseph. Also survived by eight great grandchildren and 16 great great grandchildren. Funeral was held Saturday at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth with Pastor Fred Hall officiating. Interment Cadillac Memorial Gardens West. To leave a message of condolence, log on to www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com.



LENA M. NICHOLSON
December 16, 2005. Peacefully at home in Birmingham. Age 96. Formerly of Royal Oak and West Bloomfield. Longtime employee at the Fisher Theater. Dear mother of William J. Mother in law of Marysue Loving grandmother of William C. (Jacqueline) and Nancy Mae. Great grandmother of Christopher Jordan Mollypaul, Kenan and Miranda. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile), Monday 3:00-8:00pm. Funeral service Tuesday 11:00am at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorials to The Michigan Humane Society, 26711 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 175, Southfield, MI 48034. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com.

SUSAN PEACOCK
Of Livonia beloved mother of Douglas and Sandy passed away on December 13, 2005. Susan is also survived by her loving husband Alan, brother Bill and sister-in-law Shirley. Susan was formally employed at Westland Convalescence Center where she worked for fifteen years. Memorial Service will be held at 11am Saturday, December 17th at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville.

SHARON E. REA
Age 58 of Plymouth died December 13, 2005. She was born September 18, 1947 in Ypsilanti. She was a resident of the Plymouth community for 28 years and a well respected piano teacher for many years. She is survived by her husband, R. Stephen Rea, her children Elizabeth (Tom Niehus) Rea, Stephanie Rea and Robert Corey Rea, her sister Christine White and her brother Richard Harvey. A memorial service was held Saturday, December 17 at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth.

ROBERT PAUL RUSSIE SR.
Age 92. December 13, 2005. Loving husband of Virginia A. Father of Robert Jr. (Bonnie) and the late Gary V. Grandfather of Dan (Cheryl) and Kimberly. Great grandfather of Kathryn Megan Nathan and James. Brother in law to Beulah and Cecil. Uncle to Esther and many other nieces and nephews. Laid to rest at Glen Eden Memorial Park.



CLASS REUNIONS

As space permits the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print without charge announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person and a telephone number.

Central High

Class of 1946
A 60 year reunion is planned for June 4, 2006 at Glen Oaks Country Club. Both January and June classmates

will celebrate over dinner and dancing. January grads contact Al Weiss (248) 737-9313 or Esther Bornstein (248) 851-6625. June grads contact Barbara Keidan (248) 646-7199 or Saul Saulson (248) 932-5177.

Churchill High School

Class of 1995
A 10 year reunion is planned for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 5th Avenue in Novi. For more information contact Fran Yee at fye@susman.sikes.com.

Denby High School

Class of 1956
A 50 year reunion is planned for Sept.

16, 2006 at the Club Venetian in Madison Heights. Contact Doreen (McClennan) Weber at dajweb@juno.com or Jerry Love at (586) 739-3840.

Detroit Mackenzie

Classes Jan, June and Summer 1956
A 50 year reunion is planned for Sept. 16, 2006 at the Novi Sheraton. For more information call Harold Kappen at (734) 261-0325 or okappen@earthlink.net.

Edsel Ford High School

A 50th anniversary will be held over the next year with a series of special events. Final activity will be a Black

and White Ball on Saturday, May 20, 2006. About the activities: www.geocities.com/edse150th. To contact the committee, e-mail edse150@gmail.com.

Epiphany Grade School

Class of 1966
A 40 year reunion is in the planning stages for the summer of 2006. Contact Dorothy at (248) 477-9478 or dzsnyder@hotmail.com.

Franklin High School

Class of 1969
Is planning a reunion for 2007. Please contact Kathy Nisun (248) 363-5679 or e-mail Kaynini@aol.com or Kathy

Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu.com

Garden City West

Class of 1970
A 35 year reunion is planned for April 1, 2006 at Mama Mia Restaurant on Plymouth Road in Livonia. Contact Gordon Adams at (586) 949-7462 for information and reservations.

Grosse Pointe North

Class of 1991
Call (800) 677-7800 visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail info@taylorreunions.com.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1969

A reunion is in the pre planning stages for 2007. For more information contact Kathy Nisun (248) 363-5679 or Email Kaynini@aol.com.

St. Mary of Redford

High School class of 1956
Grade School class of 1952
Looking for graduates. Contact (734) 525-5888 or e-mail kheenana@glis.net.

Utica High School

Class of 1981
A 25th reunion is being planned for the fall of 2006. Please send updated address information and inquire to Todd Richter (trichter26@comcast.net).

@ THE LIBRARY

■ **WRITING MY LIFE STORY: A SENIOR WRITING GROUP**, Tuesday, Dec 20, 4 p.m. — Seniors can share and preserve their life stories with the guidance of Plymouth author, Jane Saylor. No previous writing experience is necessary. Come to either session or both.

■ **ASTRONOMY DISCUSSION GROUP**, Monday, Dec 19, 7 p.m. — Join lively astronomy popularizer Mike Best in this monthly discussion group. Mike shares his affection for the sky with adults and children over the age of 6. No registration is required. For more information contact (734) 459-BEST or starmikebest@aol.com.

■ **AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**, Wednesday, Dec 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — The holiday season finds the Red Cross in serious need of blood donations. A sign-up sheet can be found in the library lobby — but walk-ins are welcome too. For more information, call (734) 453-0750, Ext. 242.

■ **CONTEMPORARY BOOKS DISCUSSION**, Wednesday, Dec 21, 7:30 p.m. — Members of this book discussion group are invited to read *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth. New members

are welcome at any time. For further information, please call Sue Patterson at the library, (734) 453-0750, or e-mail spatterson@plymouthlibrary.org.

■ **BROWN BAG BOOK DISCUSSION**, Wednesday, Dec 28, noon (please note date change for this month only) — This month's discussion invites members to read *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides. Copies of these books are available at the circulation desk. Bring a lunch, beverages are provided. For more information about Brown Bag Books, ask at the Reader's Advisory Desk, call Dixie Cocagne at the library, (734) 453-0750, or e-mail dcocagne@plymouthlibrary.org.

■ **GREAT BOOKS** — Monday, Dec 19 — This group meets at 7:15 p.m. at the Library in the Gold Room on alternate Mondays. The anthology *Psychological Fiction* compiled by Morris Beja is the basis for study this year. The discussion group is open to anyone who is curious and willing to work with others in developing an under-

standing and appreciation of great literature. Please contact group facilitator Karen Berrie at (734) 453-2454 for the discussion topic and the dates of the meetings. To learn more about The Great Books Foundation, see the Internet Web site: <http://www.greatbooks.org/>

Youth Programs

■ **HOLIDAY MOVIE**, Tuesday, Dec 27, 2 p.m. — Enjoy the family favorite *Because of Winn-Dixie*, rated PG and intended for children 5-12. No registration required.

■ **NEW YEARS EVE CRAFTS**, Thursday, Dec 29, 2 p.m. — Make your own party hats, banners and noisemakers and prepare to welcome 2006! This free program is for children ages 5-12.

Teen Program

■ **DIY**, Monday, Dec 19, 3:30-4:30 p.m. — Just in time for the holidays, make beeswax candles and gingerbread houses. Registration is required and may be made at the Reader's Advisory Desk or by calling (734) 453-0750, #4. Class size is limited to 12.

Did you know?

■ All Teen Zone programs are FREE — that means it costs you nothing to participate!

■ The Friends of the Library provide FREE snacks and juice for every Teen Zone program.

■ All Teen Zone info can be found through the library Web site, plymouthlibrary.org.

All Teen Zone programs are designed for students in grades six through 12. For programs requiring advance registration, register at the Reader's Advisory Desk or by phone, (734) 453-0750, press 4. For more information about any of the Teen Zone programs, contact Cathy Lichtman, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 230 or chichtman@plymouthlibrary.org.

Computer training

Plymouth residency is required for all attendees of the Library's computer training classes. Please register by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

For more information on any library programs, please contact Susan Stoney, Plymouth District Library, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 242 or ssoney@plymouthlibrary.org.

LIBRARY PICKS

Every week the Plymouth District Library staff provides the Observer with their list of Best Sellers based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons. The books are available by placing a request with the library at (734) 453-0750 or on line at www.plymouthlibrary.org.

FICTION

- Mary Mary James Patterson
- At First Sight Nicholas Sparks
- Light from Heaven Jan Karon
- Forever Odd Dean Koontz
- Predator Patricia Cornwell

NON-FICTION

- Teacher Man Frank McCourt
- Our Endangered Values Jimmy

- Carter
- Team of Rivals Doris Kearns Goodwin
- The World is Flat Thomas Friedman
- Marley & Me John Grogan

PARENTS' CHOICE

NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

- 'Ace Lacey Bug Detective David Biedrzycki
- The Bora Bora Dress Carole Schaefer
- Soft House Jane Yolen
- Grandpa Gazzillion's Number Yard Laurie Keller
- Hetty's 100 Hats Emma Dodd

TAX PROBLEMS?
Never Talk to The IRS!
Talk to Tax Resolution Specialists of Michigan

We Can Help!

- Offer in Compromise
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- Penalty Abatement
- Audit Representation
- File Old Returns
- Innocent Spouse Relief
- Installment Payments
- Payroll/Sales Tax Relief

Call (248) 985-HELP (4357) for a FREE consultation

Tax Resolution Specialists of Michigan
Member of American Society of IRS Problem Solvers

AUDITION

Aspiring young actors and their parents are invited to audition for the Farmington Hills Youth Theatre production of *Alice in Wonderland*. This musical adaptation of the story by Lewis Carroll provides many parts for actors in grades 1-12 and adults. The program is offered by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Farmington Hills in cooperation with Sky's the Limit Productions. Auditions are open to residents and non-residents; there is no audition fee. Actors should bring a recent school photo. Auditions for actors in grades 1-12 will be held from 1:50 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 15 at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile Road, just east of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Audition schedule is as follows: grades 1 and 2 from 1:20 p.m., grades 3 and 4 from 3:40 p.m., grades 5 and 6 from 2:30 p.m., grades 7-12 from 4:50 p.m. Auditions for adults ages 19 and up will be held beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19 at the Costick Center. Actors cast in the play will be required to pay a class fee of \$120 (residents) or \$125 (non-residents) and attend a parent/actor meeting, 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24. Rehearsal schedules will be available at that meeting. Leading roles require more rehearsals than support. For more information about the auditions, call the Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1857.

Questions about Medicare? Attend a FREE presentation from BCN Advantage.

You've probably heard—and read—a lot about Medicare lately. It can be confusing. Fortunately, you can trust the Blues to provide the facts.

To help you understand the new benefits of Medicare—including prescription drug coverage*—BCN Advantage from Blue Care Network is sponsoring a FREE presentation in your area. Our experts will provide you with information about our BCN Advantage plans, and show you how we put more care into Medicare. We'll guide you through the ins and outs, show you how to maximize your benefits, and answer all your questions.

Mark this date on your calendar now!

December 19
Summit on the Park
46000 Summit Parkway
Canton
10 a.m. - 12 noon

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about how to make the most of your Medicare with a BCN Advantage plan. It's free, but the information you'll receive is invaluable.

**Reservations are required to attend. To reserve your place, you must call
1-866-966-BLUE (1-866-966-2583); TTY 1-800-431-7944; 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday.**

BCN AdvantageSM



Medicare and more

A nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

The benefits provided are subject to plan terms and conditions.

*Prescription drug coverage benefits subject to limitations.

A sales representative will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call 1-866-966-2583 (TTY 1-800-431-7944), 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday. Blue Care Network is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. A Medicare-approved HMO, BCN Advantage is available to all Medicare beneficiaries who have both Part A and Part B of Medicare. You must use BCN Advantage providers for routine care. Available in these counties: Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Washtenaw, Wayne. Premiums vary by county. Blue Care Network of Michigan is a nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

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CANTON CINEMA
www.cantonicinema.com

Ford Rd 141 to W of I 275 (734)
ALL DIGITAL STEREO 8.4.4-FILM

No Passes Free drink & 29¢ corn refills
ALL STADIUM SEATING SHOWTIMES 12:15-12:20

TITLES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SHOPPING (R)
7:25 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

YOURS, MINE AND OURS (PG)
11:40 1:40, 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 11:40

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG)
11:00 1:40, 4:20 7:00 9:40

JUST FRIENDS (PG-13)
12:20, 2:35 4:50 7:05 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:38

CHICKEN LITTLE (G)
11:20 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:20

ZATHURA (PG)
12:30 3:00 5:15

JARHEAD (R)
11:25 2:00 4:35 7:10 9:45

SAW 2 (R)
11:50 1:50 3:50, 5:50 7:50 9:50
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

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BEST DEAL in town!
Expires 1/1/06
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FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Historic Franklin Village Green
 United Methodist in Affiliation Ecumenical in Spirit
Christmas Eve • December 24, 2005
 7:00 and 11:00 PM
 All Services include Special Music and Candlelight
Christmas Day • December 25, 2005
 10:00 AM • Service of Holy Communion
 Guest Organist Dr Larry Hammerling
 26425 Wellington Pastor James E Greer
 (between 13 & 14 Mile Roads • 1 block west of Franklin)

Trinity Church
 10101 W Ann Arbor Rd • Plymouth MI 48170
 www.trinityepc.org
Celebrate Christmas With Us
Christmas Eve Services
 4:00 p.m. Family Service
 7:00 & 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Services
 (Childcare Nursery 2 yrs of age available at the 4:00 & 7:00 services)
Christmas Day & New Year's Day
 10:30 a.m.
 (Childcare Nursery 4 yrs of age available)

First Congregational Church of Wayne
 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
 SATURDAY DECEMBER 24
 FAMILY SERVICE AT 6:30 PM
 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 11:00 PM
 Located on Wayne Road
 between east and westbound Michigan Avenue
 734 729 7550

First Presbyterian Church ~ Plymouth
 Church & Main Streets ~ 734 453 6464
 Regular Sunday Worship Services
 8:30 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
 Christmas Eve Services
 3:00 p.m. Puppets Service (childcare available)
 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant (childcare available)
 8:00 & 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
 Christmas Day Service 11:00 a.m. only

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
 248 644 4010
 RedeemerBirmingham.org
 North side of Maple Rd between Cranbrook and Southfield next to
 December 24
 Family Christmas Celebration 5:30 p.m.
Candlelight & Carols 8:00 & 10:00 p.m.
 December 25
 Christmas Worship w/communion 10:30 a.m.

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church
 9601 Hubbard at West Chicago Ave.
 Livonia, MI 48150
 Pastors: Rev. Richard Peters and Rev. Kelly Bohlman
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
 Family Service - 5:00 PM
 Candlelight Communion Service - 10:00 PM
 Adult & Children's Chords & Bells Music Featured
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SUNDAY SERVICES
 Family Worship Services - 11:00 AM
 734 422 0494
 web www.Rosedalegardens.org

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills
 www.orchardumc.org
 248-626-3620
Saturday, December 24th
 5:00 PM Family-oriented service featuring Orchard youth. Nursery care available.
 9:00 PM Carols, candlelighting, music by Chancel Choir and soloists are included.
 11:00 PM Nursery care available. Carols, candlelighting, and Holy Communion are included.
Sunday, December 25th
 11:00 AM One service of worship, including "Blessing of the Toys." Nursery care for infants and toddlers.

Covenant Baptist Church
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 Dec. 24, 6.30 p.m.
Christmas Day - Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
 "What Would Santa Say?"
 5800 West Maple Road
 West Bloomfield, MI 48322
 248-855-9191
 www.covenantbaptistchurch.org

Antioch Lutheran Church
 33360 W 13 Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48334
 Antioch a congregation of the ELCA is located at the NE corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Roads in Farmington Hills (248) 626 7906 website antiochlca.org Join our celebration of Jesus birth God's gift to us all
Christmas Worship Services
 December 24 (communion at all services)
 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas
 6:00 p.m. Family Worship (pre service music at 5:45)
 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Festival Worship (pre service music at 10:00)
 December 25 Christmas Day
 10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols

There's no place like home
Wellspring Church
 36350 W 8 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills
 248-442-0412
 wellspringchurchmi.org
 Wed. Dec 21st, 7 pm • Blue Christmas
 Christmas Eve 6 pm • Candles & Carols
 Christmas Day 10 am • Baptism
for the holidays

Celebrate Christmas!
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
 Just north of I 96 (734) 522 6830
Christmas Eve
 7:00pm Family Service
 11:00pm Candlelight Service
Christmas Day
 10:00am Worship
 http www.ch.sourav.org

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 6:00 pm
First Baptist Church of Rochester
 6377 Orion Road
 Rochester Hills
 248-652-6151
 www.therochester.org

Come See!
 We've added a new room at the Inn
 Toddler Care at 7 pm Service
 7 pm Family Candlelight Service
 9 pm Candlelight Service/Communion
First United Methodist Church
 6443 Merriman Road
 Garden City MI
 734 421 8628
 Sunday Worship 9:30 and 10:45 am

Worship With Us This Christmas
ST OWEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 6869 Franklin Rd., Bloomfield Hills
Communal Reconciliation
 Monday, Dec. 19 • 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Liturgies
 4:00, 6:00 and 10:00 pm
Christmas Day Liturgy
 10:00 am

Geneva Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
 5835 Sheldon Road • Canton, MI 48187
 (734) 459-0013
 www.genevachurch.org
Longest Night Service, Wednesday Dec 21 7 pm
 A quiet, meditative service for those who are sad during this holiday season. (Please see our website for details or call the church)
Christmas Eve Services Saturday Dec 24
 4:00 and 5:30pm - Family Services
 7:00 and 9:00pm - Candlelight and Communion Services
Christmas Day Worship, Sunday Dec 25 10 am
 New Year's Day Worship, Sunday Jan 1 10 am
 New Year's Blessing Service, Wednesday Jan 4 7 pm

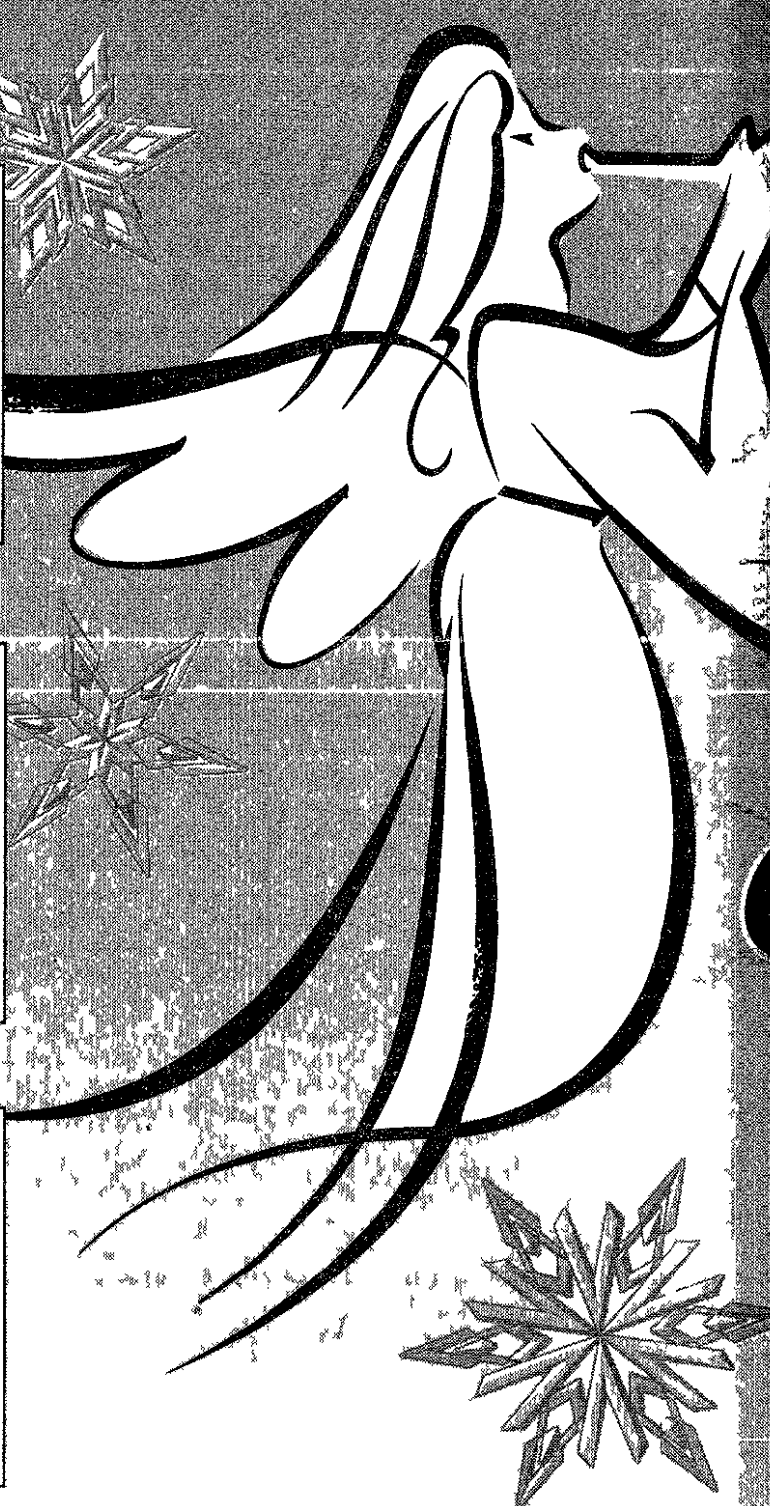
North Congregational Church
 36520 Twelve Mile Road Farmington Hills (248) 848 1750
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 7:30 PM Message "Joy to the World"
CHRISTMAS DAY
 10:30 PM Message "Glorifying and Praising God"
 Ministers Rev Dr Mark P Jensen, Rev Mary E Biedron

Celebrate the Season at
The First United Methodist Church of Troy
 6363 Livernois Between Square Lake & South Blvd
 248-879-6363
December 21-Longest Night Service
 7:00 pm - A Service for all who've experienced loss, grief, death, or feel a little down during the holidays
December 24-Christmas Eve
 4:30 pm - Family Service with a visit from the Holy Family
 7:00 pm - Candlelight & Choirs
 11:00 pm - Candlelight & Communion
December 25
 10:00 am - Carols to Sing
 Websites:
 FUMCTROY.ORG
 FINDYOURFAITH.ORG
 PASTOR RICH PEACOCK

Historic Mariners' Church
 A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE
 Traditional Anglican Worship
 Independent Since 1842
Saturday, December 24
The Eve Of Christmas
 "The Eve is as the Day"
 7:30 and 11:00 p.m.
 Duplicate Services
 Festival Choral Communion
Sunday, January 1-The Circumcision of Christ
 One service only
 11:00 a.m. The Holy Communion
Regular Services of Holy Communion
 Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
 Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.
 On Hart Plaza at the Tunnel
 Free Secured Parking in Ford Garage with entrance in the median strip of Jefferson at Woodward
 (313) 259-2206
 www.marinerschurchofdetroit.org

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 The lights are up.
 Now what?
 You put up the lights bought the gifts and sent the cards Now spend some time enjoying the season! We're planning to relax amidst the craziness of Christmas and we hope you'll join us
Christmas Celebration
 Dec. 18, 9:30am & 11:15am
Christmas Eve
 Dec. 24, 5pm & 6:15pm
Christmas Day
 Dec. 25, 10am
 All services at Novi High School (10 Mile west of Novi Rd)
Oak Pointe Church
 248.912.0043
 www.oakpointe.org

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 WORSHIP SCHEDULE
 website: stjamesbirmingham.org
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
 5 p.m. Boar's Head Festival & Pageant
CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
 5 p.m. Creche Procession & Holy Eucharist
 Carols & Candles
 Service oriented for children, Nursery provided
 10 p.m. Choral Eucharist
 Carols, Christmas Message & Candles
CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols
 (Downtown Birmingham between Woodward & Southfield, at the corner of W Maple and Chester)
 248.644.0820



Celebrate His Birth

CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2975 Dutton Road (at Adams) + Rochester Hills MI 48306
 Phone (248) 652-7720 + Website crownoflifetchurch.org

We invite you to join us for worship at these services during this the most Holy of seasons

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION SERVICE 10:00 am
NEW YEAR'S EVE COMMUNION SERVICE 5:30 pm
NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES 8:30 am & 11:00 am

First Baptist Church of Detroit
 — A diverse, multi-cultural congregation —

invites you to join us on
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm
 Rev. Bill Walker

21200 Southfield Rd
 Last Service Drive N of 8 Mile Road
 Southfield • 248-569-2972

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
 3980 Walton Boulevard
 Rochester Hills, MI • 248-373-6960
 (Located across from Oakland University)

Sunday Worship • 9:00 & 10:30 am

Christmas Cantata
 Sunday, Dec. 20 - 5:15 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services • 4, 7 & 11 pm

Servant Church of St. Alexander
 27835 Shiawassee
 (between Inkster & Middlebelt)
 Reconciliation Monday, December 19th 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve
 Saturday December 24
 Children's Play Family Mass 4:00 PM
 Teen Drama Christmas Mass 6:00 PM
 Christmas Carols & Mass 9:30 PM

New Year's Eve
 Saturday December 31
 Mass for World Peace Midnight

New Year's Day
 Sunday January 1
 New Year's Mass 10:00 AM

Come, Let Us Adore Him
St. John Lutheran Church
 Farm. Hills, 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584

Christmas Eve Services
 5:30pm Children & Families
 7:30 & 10:00pm Carols & Candlelight
Christmas Sunday
 11:00am ONLY

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 100 Romeo Road * Rochester Michigan * 48307 * 248 651 6188 *
 info@stphilipsochicago.org * www.stphilipsochicago.org

December 24th
 Children's Service including the Christmas Pageant at 5:30pm
 Anthems and Carols at 10:30pm
 Christ's Mass at 11:00pm

December 25th
 Christmas Service at 10:00am

Farmington First United Methodist Church
 www.farmingtonfumc.org
 33112 Grand River (East of Farmington Rd)
 (248) 474-6573 **Nursery Provided**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
 4:30 PM—Family Service
 10:00 PM—Carols & Bells (9:40)

Pastors: Dr. Jeffrey R. Maxwell
 Rev. Sondra Willabee
 Rev. Carolyn Wilk

Christmas Services
 Saturday December 24
 12:00 4:00 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.
 Music Prelude at 10:30 p.m.
 Sunday, December 25
 10:30 a.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church
 574 S. Sheldon Road
 Plymouth, Michigan
 www.stjohnsplymouth.org
 734 453 0190

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 17029 W Thirteen Mile Rd
 between Greenfield & Southfield Roads

Welcomes You This Christmas Season

Family Christmas Eve Service Dec 24th with Children's Nativity Play 5:30 PM
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Traditional Service At 8:00 PM
 Christmas Morning Carol Sing Dec 25th at 10:00 AM
 Join us Child care & Communion will be offered

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 36500 Ann Arbor Trail
 Livonia MI

CHRISTMAS EVE - Three Services

4:30 p.m. Family Service Carols & Candlelighting
 7:00 p.m. Lessons Carols Special Music & Candlelighting
 11:00 p.m. Holy Communion & Candlelighting

"Christ Our Hope"
Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian
 White Church on the Lake
 Christmas Eve Services
 Musical Youth Choirs • 5:00 p.m.
 Family Worship/Pageant • 7:00 p.m.
 Candlelight Communion Services 9:00 & 11:00 p.m.
 December 25th & January 1st Christmas Day & New Year's Day
 Worship @ 10:30 a.m.
 Regular Worship 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
 5171 Commerce Road Orchard Lake
 (248) 682-0730 *www.orchardlakechurch.org

Timothy Lutheran Church
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia
 between Joy Road and Ann Arbor Trail

COME JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THIS HOLY SEASON

Christmas Eve – Family Worship with Communion 7:00 pm
 Christmas Day – Family Worship with Communion 10:00 am
 New Year's Day – Lessons and Carols 10:00 am

All Saints' Episcopal Church Since 1837
COME WORSHIP WITH US
 Season of Advent • Prepare for a Blessed Christmas

Sunday, December 18th •
 8 & 10:30 am • Holy Eucharist
 4:00 pm • Lessons & Carols

• **Christmas Eve •**
 5:00 pm • Family Eucharist
 10:30 pm • Festival Choral Music
 11:00 pm • Festival Choral Eucharist

• **Christmas Day •**
 10:00 am • Holy Eucharist

EVERYONE WELCOME!
 West Pike & Williams
 Pontiac • 248 334 4571
 www.allsaintspontiac.org

AT THE PARK - CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Services

4:30 p.m. A Christmas Story
 For Families and Young Children Music by The Cherub and Wesley Children's Choirs

6:00 p.m. A Christmas Splendor
 For Families and Youth Music by The New Generation Youth Choir

8:00 p.m. A Traditional Christmas Eve Celebration
 Music by The Chancel Choir

11:00 p.m. A Sacred Communion Service

NARDIN PARK
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 29887 WEST 11 MILE ROAD
 FARMINGTON HILLS MI 48336
 On 11 Mile Road just west of Middlebelt
 248-476-8860
 www.NardinPark.org

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 620 Romeo Street, Rochester
 248-651-9361

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 p.m. FAMILY CELEBRATION
 (Glo-sticks for children, candles for adults)
 Dr. Hal Weemhoff

7:30 and 11:00 p.m. CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
 Rev. Jeff Regan

Infant and toddler care available at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, December 25
 10:00 a.m. Worship

www.stpaulsrochester.org

Christmas at Ward Church... A Family Tradition.

Christmas Eve Services
 4:00, 5:30, 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.
 (childcare provided thru age 4 at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.)

Christmas Day Services
 Traditional Christmas Service 10:20 a.m.
 Contemporary Christmas Service 11:40 a.m.
 (Childcare provided thru age 4)

WARD
 Evangelical Presbyterian Church
 40000 Six Mile Road • Northville
 (1/2 mile west of I-275)
 248 374-4000

Come home... for the Holidays

You're invited for Christmas!
 If you're looking for a church home, please visit us for Christmas.

Services every Sunday
 8:30 a.m. Communion ♦ 10:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School

Christmas Eve Services
 5:00 p.m. Family Worship ♦ 8:00 p.m. Communion and Candlelight
 11:00 p.m. Worship and Special Music

Christmas Day: One service at 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome here at the big, friendly church. We'll be expecting you!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 1669 W. MAPLE • BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009
 (248) 644-2040 • www.fpcbirmingham.org

Plymouth First United Methodist Church
 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth - (734) 453-5280
 www.pfumc.org

Invites you to

Christmas Eve Services
 4:30 p.m. - A Children's/Family Celebration
 "The Great Manger Mystery"

8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Services
 "It Isn't Far to Bethlehem" • Dr. Dean A. Klump

Infant and toddler care is available at the 4:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. services.

Christmas Day
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

New Year's Day
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK
CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE
 Saturday, December 24
 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.
 Holy Eucharist with full choir
 Musical preludes begin 30 min. before each service; child care available at 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY
 Sunday, December 25
 10:00 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist

470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills
 (corner of Lone Pine and Cranbrook)
 248.644.5210
 www.christchurchcranbrook.org

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Immemorial Tridentine Latin Rite Mass
 22310 Joy Road, Redford, MI 48239
 (313) 534-2121

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve	10:00	11:45 pm	Confessions
		12:00 am	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	9:45 am		Confessions
	10:30 am		Mass
New Year's Eve	12:00 am		Pray The Holy Rosary
New Year's Day	6:45 am		Confessions
	7:30 am		Low Mass
	8:45 am		Confessions
	9:30 am		High Mass

Pray the Holy Rosary at Midnight New Year's Eve to start the new year.



Celebrate His Birth

Risen Christ Lutheran Church
 46250 Ann Arbor Rd
 Plymouth MI
 734 453 5252

WORSHIP TIMES
 Christmas Eve
 4:30 & 7:00 pm
 Christmas Day - 10 am
 New Year's Day - 10 am

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
 16360 Hubbard Road
 Livonia, Michigan 48154
 (734) 421-8451
 Web site: www.StAndrewsChurch.net

The Rev. C. Allen Kannappell, Rector
 The Rev. Alan W. Brandemihl, Jr., Deacon

Sunday, December 18
 7:45 AM and 10 AM Holy Communion
 5 PM Sunday School Pageant and Dinner

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24
 7 PM Special Music and Carols
 7:30 PM Holy Communion
 (Babysitting Provided)

10:30 PM Special Music and Carols
 11 PM Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25
 10 AM Holy Communion

SALEM CHURCH
 Downtown Farmington
 33424 Oakland Ave
 (N of Grand River W of Farmington Rd.)
 Farmington MI 48335
 (248) 474-6880

Christmas Eve 8:00 pm
 Candlelight with Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10:45 am
 With Holy Communion
 Everyone Welcome

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran
 9600 Leverage
 Redford 48239
 313-937-2424
 www.hosannatabor.org

Christmas Eve Dec. 24
 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.
 Christmas Day - Dec. 25
 10 a.m.
 New Year's Eve - 6 p.m.
 New Year's Day - 10 a.m.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
 5631 N. Adams Road • Bloomfield Hills
 248-646-5041 • (Between Square Lake and Long Lake)

Christmas Eve
 4:30pm • Children's Service
 7:00pm • Family Service with Orchestra
 10:30pm • Festival Communion with Choir
Christmas Day and New Year's Day
 10:00am • Holy Communion

Regular Worship
 Saturday 5:30pm • Sunday School 9:30am & 11:00am
 Sunday 8:15am 9:30am and 11:00am

Big Beaver United Methodist Church
 3753 John R • Troy, MI 48083
 248.689.1932
 Jack L. Mannschreck, Pastor

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship
 Christmas Day & New Year's Day
 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.
 No Classes On Christmas & New Year's

First United Methodist Church of Wayne Westland
 3 Town Square
 Wayne, MI 48184

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 December 24, 2005
 7:00 p.m.

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church
 6255 Telegraph Road
 Bloomfield Hills 248 646 5207



Family Christmas Eve Service
 Voices from the Manger

December 24th at 7:30pm
 Candle Light Carols & Holy Communion

Church is located on the east side of Telegraph just north of Maple

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)
 17810 Farmington Road
 Livonia 734-261-1360

Christmas Worship Services
 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.
 Christmas Day 10:00 a.m.

Come, worship with us!
 Pastor James Hoff Pastor Eric Steinbrenner

The Faith Community Of St. Alan
 Welcomes ALL To Our Christmas Services

December 24th
 Shepherd's Mass 4:00 PM
 Midnight Mass 11:00 PM

December 25th
 Masses at 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

3077 Gloucester • Troy
 Rev. Gary M. Tierney, Pastor

Carols by Candlelight
 Sunday, December 18, 2005
 6:30PM Pre-service Agape Power
 7:00PM Concert

Christmas Eve
 Saturday, December 24, 2005
 Children's Program 4:00PM
 Candlelight Service 7:00 & 11:00PM

Christmas Day
 Sunday, December 25, 2005
 Christmas Morning 10:00AM

New Year's Eve
 Saturday, December 31, 2005
 7:00PM

New Year's Day
 Sunday, January 1, 2006
 10:00AM

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
 2225 E. 14 Mile Road
 Birmingham Michigan 48009
 Phone 248-646 6100
 www.oursshepherd.net
 Rev. Ray Scherbarth & Rev. Carl M. Gnewuch

Northbrook Presbyterian Church
 SW corner of 14 Mile & Lahser Roads
 Beverly Hills (248) 642 0200

Christmas Eve Services
 6:30 pm Candlelight Family Worship with Carols
 11 pm Candlelight & Communion Worship

Christmas Day Service 10 am

Resurrection Catholic Church
 48755 Warren Rd • Canton, Michigan 48187
 734-451-0444
 Rev. Richard A. Perfetto, Pastor

CHRISTMAS EVE - Dec 24th - 4:30 p.m.
 Children's Mass (All Saints Gym)
 4:30 p.m. Mass (Church) & 10:00 p.m.

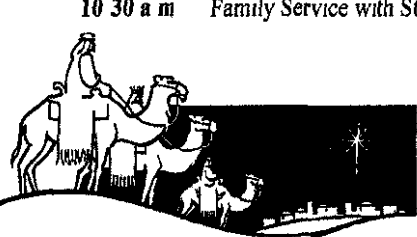
CHRISTMAS DAY - Dec 25th - 10:30 a.m. Mass
 SATURDAY, Dec 31st - 4:30 p.m.
 SUNDAY, Jan 1st - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

First United Methodist Church
 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham • 248-646-1200

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
 4:00 p.m. for Families with Young Children
 5:30 p.m. for Families with Elementary Children
 Nursery Open

2:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 p.m.
 Christmas Lessons and Carols
 Dr. John E. Harnish preaching
 Holy Communion at 2:00, 7:00 and 11:00
 Nursery Care at 2:00 and 7:00

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
 10:30 a.m. Family Service with Stories and Carols



Pastors
 John E. Harnish
 Lynn Hasley
 Carl Gladstone
 Jeff Nelson
 Carl Price
 Rodney F. Quantton

Visit us at www.fumcbirmingham.org

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
 7:30 pm: Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service
 10:00 am: Christmas Day The Bells of Christmas



Near 12 Mile and Farmington
 248.553.3380
 28000 New Market Rd.
 Farmington Hills, MI
 www.poplcms.org

Celebrate a "Marian Christmas" at Prince of Peace
 Christmas Eve 5:00 pm
 Join us for this special Christmas program!

St. John's Episcopal Church, Detroit
 Woodward Avenue and I 75 (exit 50)
 NEXT TO COMERICA PARK
 www.stjohnsdetroit.org
 (313) 962 7358

Christmas Eve on Woodward Ave
 4:00pm Children's Pageant w/Communion
 10:30pm Carol Prelude Service
 11:00pm Festive Holy Communion Service
 with our professional choir!

Come find out why so many of your neighbors are coming downtown for Biblical Preaching, Teaching, Traditional Anglican Music and Liturgy

Can't Wait to See What's Under the Tree?
 Join us on Christmas Eve for a "sneak peek" at the GREATEST GIFT you'll ever receive!

Christmas Eve • December 24th
 4pm • "A Jesus Birthday Party" for ages 1-10 (all ages welcome too!)
 6pm • Traditional Candlelight Service

Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church
 16935 W. 14 Mile Road • Beverly Hills, MI 48025
 248.644.8890
 www.ascensionofchrist.org • Pastor Tom Zucconi

Come Catch the Christmas Spirit
Redford Aldersgate United Methodist

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
 Dec. 24
 5:30 p.m.
 ☆ Family Musical "Twinkle"
 A multi-generational choir presents a delightful story with an important message with lights, drama and lively music
 ☆ Closing service with individual candles
 ☆ Nursery provided for preschool children

Sunday Dec. 25
 one service
 10:00 a.m.
 Blessing of the children & their toys

10:00 p.m.
 ☆ Adult Choirs
 ☆ Hand Bell Choir
 ☆ Communion
 ☆ Candle Lighting

10000 Beech Daly
 2 blocks south of Plymouth Road
 313-937-3170

Kirk in the Hills
 1340 West Long Lake Road - half mile west of Telegraph Road
 (248) 626-2515 www.kirkinthehills.org
 Worship services offered each Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services
 Family Services at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.
 Carols, prayers and a Christmas story for young children
 Music by Children's Choirs. Child care will be available
 Live nativity on the lawn prior to the service

Holy Night Services at 8:30 and 11:00 p.m.
 Carols, readings and prayers with a meditation by Dr. Norman Pritchard. Music by Chancel Choir and harp

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day
 Dr. Norman Pritchard preaching
 Only one Family Service will be held in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m.



Peter's Principles



Peter Nielsen

Study links hair loss, heart attack

Rich from Milford e-mails telling us about his hair loss in recent years and wonders if there may be an underlying health concern

Rich, many men experience male pattern baldness and current research shows that could raise a red flag. A newly released study looked at 19,000 men and showed that men with middle-aged baldness had a 34 percent higher chance of having a heart attack. The results were even more disturbing for men with baldness and high blood pressure. That group had an 80 percent higher chance of suffering an attack than men with full heads of hair and normal blood pressure. Factor in high cholesterol and the risk of a heart attack increases to a startling 300 percent! The reason for the link isn't exactly known yet. But until more research is done, men with hair loss should be extra careful to keep high blood pressure and cholesterol under control.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers e-mail Peter at www.peternielsen.com. Catch Peter daily on WDIV NBC 4 & WUJ News Radio 950. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

Observer & Eccentric
HEALTH

Newfound freedom

Insulin pumps change children's lives

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

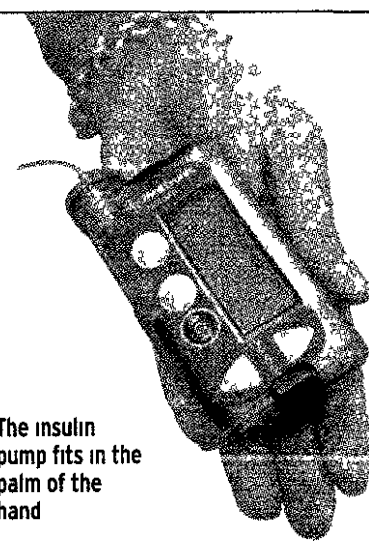
Katie Schremser likes to sleep in just like any other teenager. Until age 12 she had to crawl out of bed to take an insulin shot at the same time every day.

A diabetic since before her second birthday, the 17-year-old Plymouth Salem High School student discovered it didn't have to be that way if she wore an insulin pump. At age 12, she was not only able to throw away her sleep schedule but rigid diet as well. The device administers a short acting insulin boost automatically once an hour, but she can trigger a bolus dose before meals and snacks or to correct high blood glucose levels. With Type I diabetes, the body is unable to produce insulin to maintain healthy blood sugar or glucose levels.

"If I wanted to I could go out and get a frozen Coke and not have to worry about skipping a meal because it raised my blood sugar," said Schremser. "This whole world opens up when you use the pump. I'm even healthier. It helps you keep it in control."

The first big, chunky pump hung unattractively from her waist. Today's new generation of high-tech devices are about the size of a small cell phone and can be programmed easily. Before, Schremser had to calculate the dosage according to the number of carbohydrates she was about to eat. The pump saves her time which is of the essence with her busy schedule as a member of the student council, National Honor Society and PCEP (Plymouth-Canton Educational Park) Wind Ensemble.

The insulin pump fits in the palm of the hand



Last fall, she competed with the Plymouth Salem girls swim team and last spring helped coach a middle school swim team in addition to teaching swimming at a local fitness club.

COLLEGE-BOUND

Schremser expects to be even busier next fall. She's been accepted to Purdue and the University of Michigan to study chemical engineering.

"It's a much greater challenge to participate in sports without the pump," said her mother, Gina Schremser. "The pump has simplified her life and made it much more normal."

Kari Ritter has seen the difference the pump has made in 7-year-old son Robbie's life even though he's only worn the device since April. Before that, the Garden City boy had taken injections of four different insulins twice a day since he was nearly age 4. Today, the second-grade student swims, rides his bike and bowls in a league at Oak Lanes in Westland. The pump allows him to program activity before exercising or participating in sports. The only time he removes the pump is before jumping on a trampoline. He can even wear it in the shower because it's waterproof.

"Before he could eat only certain things," said Kari Ritter. "If he didn't, his blood sugar would go too low or too high. The pump means no more shots and his average blood sugar reading has gone down. The pump eliminated the need for long acting insulin. It mimics a person's pancreas."

"It's a new way of looking at diabetes. People think you can't eat sugar. The American Diabetic Association has said, 'a carb is a carb' so they're not as



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Katie Schremser has used an insulin pump since age 12. She turns 18 on Dec. 28.

restricted. He doesn't feel excluded. It gave him a newfound freedom and he even knows how to program the pump."

Robbie has no problem reading food labels then programming in the amount of carbohydrates in the chips and cookies he snacked on between frames. He says he doesn't miss the shots and feels healthier.

Ritter had been looking for symptoms such as thirst in her five young sons for years before Robbie was diagnosed. She was afraid they would develop the disease like her aunt who has lived with juvenile or Type I dia-

betes since age 7. Unlike Robbie, Karen Marvel grew up not eating sweets for 59 of her 66 years. The pump has changed her life.

"It really is a miracle. I carry it in my pocket and can take insulin at any time. I feel better and have a lot more energy," said Marvel, a Livonia resident who received her pump in August. "My sugar has gone down and my kidney function has improved."

KIDNEYS, EYES AFFECTED

PLEASE SEE INSULIN, C11

Randall A. Bickle, D.O.
announces the relocation of his new office to
42000 Six Mile Road
Suite 201
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 735-9100
Appointments are already being taken
The office is located 1.5 miles West of I-275
between Winchester and Bradner

Three Great Parties! Three Great Options! Choose One that Suits You!

Celebrate New Year's with Our Family
Saturday, December 31 7:30 pm to 2 am

PLATINUM
Burton Manor
featuring Cassens Murphy
Livonia: \$160/couple
Includes Top Shelf Package
734/427 9110

GOLD
Hellenic Cultural Center
featuring Persimmon
Westland \$125/couple
734/525-3550

SILVER
Roma Banquets
featuring Charming 6
Garden City \$75/couple
734/422 4550

Burton Manor Only
\$10 off couple tickets with this ad

NEW this year: Burton Manor teams up with Oldies 104.3 WOMC and Gail Puritan Ovarian Cancer Research Fund to make your evening even more memorable. Special guest appearance by WOMC's Dana Masucci. A portion of your ticket price goes to Gail Puritan Ovarian Cancer Research Fund.

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Lift Chairs

HOLIDAY SPECIAL
Bring in this Coupon and Receive **\$100 off** of any Electric Scooter, Power Wheelchair, Lift Chair, or Car/Van Lift.
expires 1/06/06



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robbie Ritter runs up to throw his bowling ball at Oak Lanes in Westland. Robbie has been able to become very active now that he has an insulin pump that he carries in his pocket.

INSULIN

FROM PAGE C10

Nugget Burkhardt knows all too well that uncontrolled diabetes damages the kidneys and eyes. The nurse practitioner works in the University of Michigan pediatric endocrinology department's outpatient clinic which follows about 1,000 diabetic children, ages birth to 21. U-M started its pump program in 1998 after taking part in the Diabetes Control Complications Trial, which studied the use of the pump in ages 13 to 39 from 1983 to 1992. U-M and Burkhardt now have more than 400 children on insulin pumps including Schremser and Ritter.

"The study proved that tight-

ly controlling the sugar prevents diabetes complications," said Burkhardt, an registered nurse with a master's degree in pediatric nursing. She's worked with diabetic children since 1983 and was hired to set up the U-M pump program. "If blood sugar is kept as close to the normal range as possible, the study showed it reduced kidney and eye damage by about 70 percent."

Today we have much better tools than ever before, very sophisticated technology, fast acting insulin. We know a lot more about the diet and counting carbohydrates. We have a goal of trying to control the blood sugar as well as possible and promote normal growth and development.

It's Burkhardt's job to educate the children on how to use the

pump so they can live as normal a childhood as possible.

About 95 percent of what they do is self-management and they have to do it all day long, every day," said Burkhardt.

"They have to learn to think like a pancreas. We teach them technical skills, how to program the pump, load the insulin and care for the tiny Teflon catheter that goes in subcutaneously and must be changed every two to three days."

"They have so much to learn. After they begin using the pump, so many families tell us they got their kid back. They act like they used to act. They don't have mood swings and do better in school. These kids are an inspiration to all of us."

lchomn@hometownlife.com | (734) 953 2145

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

DECEMBER

Depression lecture

Darlene Doute, an adult psychiatric mental health nursing and clinical nurse specialist at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, gives tips on coping with holiday stress. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 19 at the Northville Senior Center. Registration required. Call (248) 349-4140.

Stress reduction workshop

Learn the seven danger signs that indicate when your body is under too much stress. 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20 and Jan. 3. Learn about three kinds of stress and how to decrease emotional, chemical and physical stress. The workshop also teaches Trigger Point Therapy, which is a natural way to relieve tight and sore muscles. At 8524 Canton Center Road. Guest lecturer is Dr. Michael Brackney, D.C. No charge, but seating is limited. To reserve a space, call (734) 455-4444.

G.E.M.S.

Group Exercise for Multiple Sclerosis meets 6:15 p.m. Dec. 23 and every Friday evening at the Livonia YMCA on Stark Road. It is a water exercise class for MS patients and their families. Support group meeting from 7:15-8:15 p.m. For information, call Karolyn Davis (734) 459-9715 or Mike Hickey (734) 522-0036.

Recovery Inc.

The group meets Dec. 23 and every Friday in the Southfield Parks & Recreation Building on Evergreen at

10 1/2 Mile. For more information, call (734) 464-0027.

Half an hour to health

A fun and informative look at how the human body works and the five aspects of health. Lecture includes a discussion on the most beneficial foods and the most harmful for your health. Learn how low carb diets may actually be dangerous for some individuals. Learn how to sleep correctly and how to eat and drink to reach your optimal levels of health. 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27 at 8524 Canton Center Road. Guest lecturer is Dr. Michael Brackney, D.C. No charge, but seating is limited. To reserve a space, call (734) 455-4444.

Eating disorders support

Groups meet 7:30 p.m. Mondays at William Beaumont Hospital, 3601 W. 13 Mile west of Woodward, use east entrance and take central elevators to 10th floor classroom A & B. 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster between Ford and Warren, use main entrance, take elevators after the gift shop down to

the auditorium on the right. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of each month, parents only on fourth Wednesday of each month at the same time and place as the Monday night closed group. For more information, call (734) 324-3089.

JANUARY

Having a baby

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is offering a six-week childbirth education class. 7-9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 2 to Feb. 6. Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery. Classes based on Lamaze Method and include exercise, relaxation, breathing techniques and comfort measures to assist expectant mom through labor. Includes information on anesthesia options, medication, nutrition, family adjustment and the importance of the support person's role. In Classroom 1 at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levon, Livonia. To register, call (734) 655-1162.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860



WHY DRUGS STOP WORKING

You have either experienced the following or know someone to whom it has happened. You are taking medication for say rheumatoid arthritis and doing well. You sleep without disruption, can awaken in the morning without slight stiffness that resolves after 10-15 minutes of activity. You go through your day without undue fatigue and can enjoy an evening out when the opportunity arises.

Then over one or several days everything changes. Pain disrupts your sleep, joint aching pursues you throughout the day, and by evening you are too exhausted to do anything but sit on a couch. You may conclude that you have become immune to the medication that formerly worked for you. Your doctor sees a more complicated situation.

You may be right in part. Your medicine may no longer be doing its job. Most arthritis medicines work at the cellular level, often controlling intracellular channels that direct the entrance and exit of molecular solutions. Over time the body develops alternative channels that bypass what the drug counteracted. The result is return of inflammation.

Another cause of pain is that your arthritis has progressed, you may hurt because your joints are worsening despite medication. Finally, the pain you experience may be the result of another condition other than the arthritis for which you are under treatment, as for example, new fibromyalgia.

The doctor sees his job as separating out these possibilities since each cause or their combination requires a different medical response. At times, only changing your therapy in stages will uncover the reason for the flare in pain. You may need patience, just at the time you most want immediate relief.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

050899442

Holiday card sales to benefit cancer patients

Stay in touch with friends and family while supporting a good cause at the same time. Beaumont Hospital's Integrative Medicine program is selling holiday cards to benefit programs for cancer patients at Beaumont.

The cards, one with a snowy, winter scene and the other with colorful poinsettias, are available in packs of 10 for \$15.90. All proceeds from the cards, minus printing costs, benefit cancer patients. The greetings inside the cards are generic. The designs were donated by Clarkston artist Jan Mayer, an 11-year cancer survivor. To order, call (248) 551-7837.

Beaumont's Integrative Medicine program offers treatments such as medical massage, healing touch, guided imagery, yoga, meditation, and Reiki to supplement standard therapy. It is part of the hospital's Oncology Services department.

Spine surgeon comes home



Spine Surgeon
Nish Patel, MD - a member of

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital's medical staff - is currently accepting patients at the Oakwood Healthcare Center - Canton, located at 7300 Canton Center Road.

Dr. Patel's specialty focuses on adult spinal disorders with a special interest in cervical spine disorders, minimally invasive techniques and motion preserving technology.

Dr. Patel - who grew up in Canton - completed a combined Orthopedic and

Neurosurgical Spine Surgery fellowship at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston. He received his medical degree, with honors, from the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Dr. Patel's affiliations include an active membership in the North American Spine Society.

Dr. Patel also has a practice in Dearborn located in the Waterworks Building at 21031 Michigan Ave., and has privileges at all Oakwood hospitals.

To make an appointment, please visit www.oakwood.org or call 800-543-WELL.

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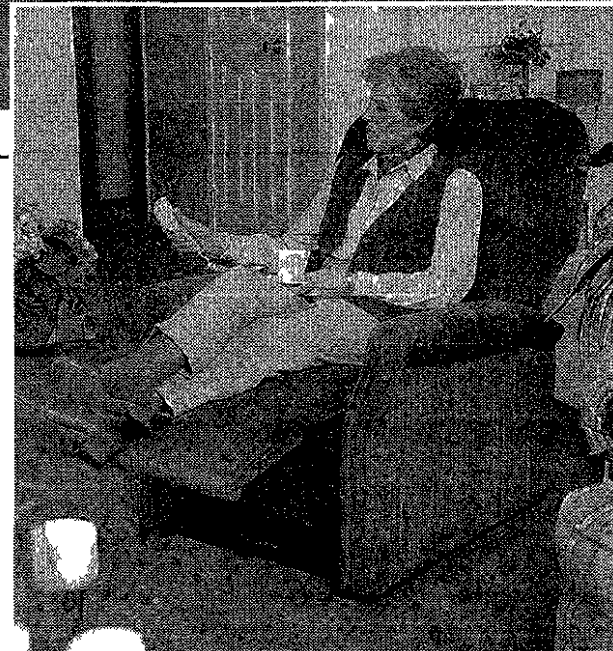
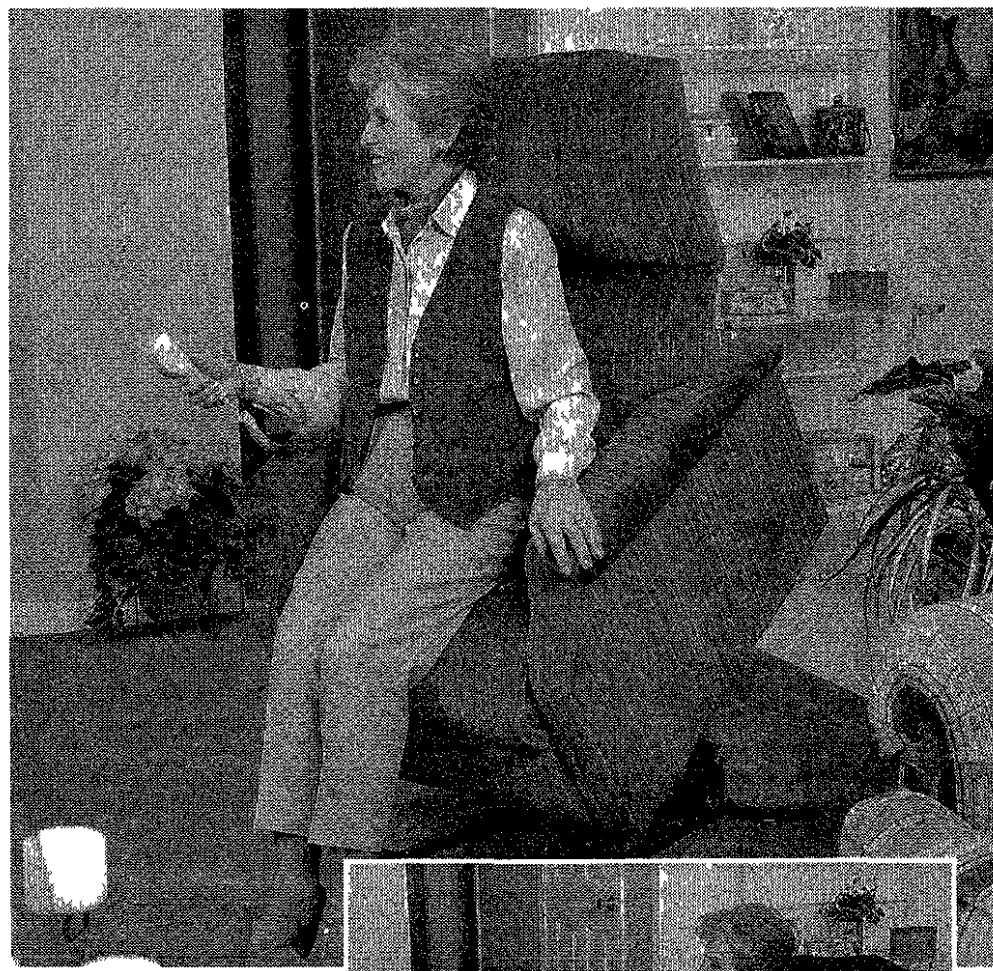
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* See store associate for details.

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Etiquette builds confidence in business

BY SANDRA ARMBRUSTER
COMMUNITY EDITOR

So you're at a business meeting and about to greet a fellow guest. The guest is taken with a sudden urge to sneeze and does so - into his hand. Then he extends his hand in greeting to shake yours

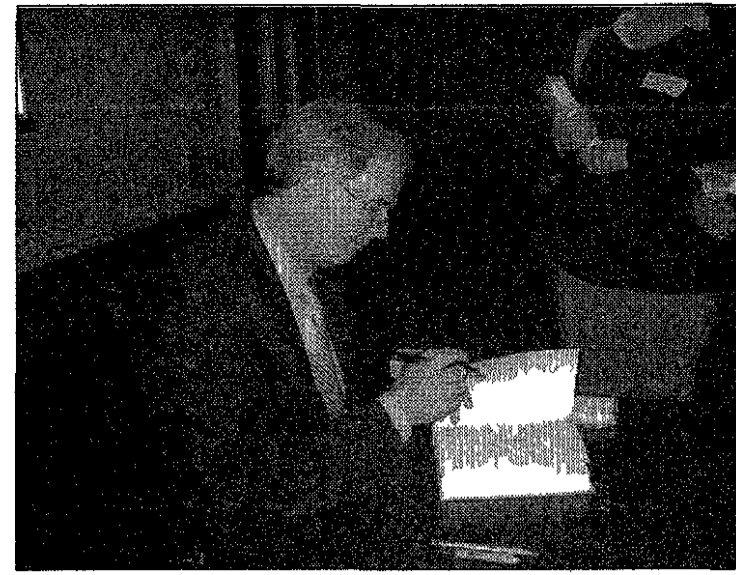
Ew-w-w. Besides grimacing, what do you do? You have some choices, according to Peter Post, who spoke to Troy Chamber of Commerce members at a luncheon. Among them are refusing to shake hands, say you have a cold and decline to shake

hands, or go ahead and shake his hand. "It's much worse if you don't deal with the situation," Post said. The correct answer: Go ahead and grasp his hand. "What etiquette helps us do (is handle) the difficulty in how to shake hands," said Post, the son of Emily Post, the mother of rules of etiquette in the U.S. Post now heads up his enterprise and speaks around the country.

The most important aspect of shaking hands is to do so confidently, he said. "That's the value of etiquette - it gives you confidence. That confidence is built from standing up at eye level - even if you're a woman - to greet guests approaching a table and offer a firm handshake. 'I can't tell you what a difference it makes,' he said. 'Acknowledging the person is key.' Which leads to Post to comment that business people should participate actively in work-related social events. 'The food is secondary,' he

And don't be the first to take seconds from the dessert tray, he added.

said. And remember what your mom told you: Chew with your mouth closed. Think that's tough - how about a business-related pool party, pool as in jump in and get wet? That's just what Post doesn't want you to do. "Take your swimming suit in a bag and a towel - just don't be the first person to put a swimsuit on and jump in the pool." And don't be the first to take seconds from the dessert tray, he added. Post offered other modern rules of etiquette to the chamber members, including returning e-mail messages. But do it carefully. Post cited the example of a worker who, at the end of a long day, replies to an e-mail with a few choice comments about his boss. But instead of replying to the sender of the e-mail, the worker replies to all



Peter Post signs copies of his latest book on etiquette for members of the Troy Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon.

in the office.

Ouch. You could start working on your resume, Post said, but there is another option.

"The reason answer (to this dilemma) is to go and talk to the boss and explain the situation and apologize," he said. "How you recover from business mistakes makes a big difference."

The quality of an e-mail is better than its length, and rather than fire off a hot one, it's better to write a draft and save it for later transmission, according to Post.

There were other pointers business persons may have already heard, like dress for

where you want to be, job-wise, not where you are.

"He was terrific - practical and pragmatic," said one chamber member.

Etiquette consists of manners plus principles, Post said. "Manners are what you do and what you expect someone else to do. Etiquette helps you know what to do with confidence" and how to build relationships.

Forget worrying about which fork to use, Post said, that's the easy part. The goal is for people to "think more about what to do before they do it."

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'Bed Hogs' named Michigan Reads book

The Library of Michigan Monday announced *Bed Hogs* as the preschool book that captured the most votes for the March 2006 Michigan Reads! one-state, one-preschool-book program.

Written by local author Kelly DiPucchio (who grew up in Rochester and currently lives in Macomb Township), *Bed Hogs* is the engaging story of Little Runt, who grows weary of sharing a straw bed with his parents and siblings and kicks them out one by one. Only when he has the bed all to himself does Little Runt realize it's scary and lonesome without his family around him.

Four other librarian-selected books were in the running with *Bed Hogs* to be the 2006 Michigan Reads! title, including *Imogene's Antlers* by David Small, *In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming, *Sheep in a Jeep* by Nancy Shaw, and *Stranger in the Woods* by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick.

"Who knew that something good would finally come out of all those years of sleep deprivation? I am absolutely thrilled that *Bed Hogs* has been chosen by my home state as the 2006 Michigan Reads! one-state, one-preschool-book winner," said DiPucchio. "As both an author and a parent, I am honored to be a part of a program that acknowledges the importance of early-childhood literacy in families. 'Hogs and kisses' to our wonderful Michigan libraries and to everyone who voted!"

"Congratulations to Kelly and to all the authors and illustrators whose work was selected to be a part of this year's Michigan Reads! ballot," said State Librarian Nancy Robertson. "The Michigan Reads! program aims to get people excited about sharing words, ideas and stories with our youngest readers. *Bed Hogs* is a terrific book around which libraries, parents and caregivers statewide can create meaningful reading experiences this coming March."

Michigan Reads! was launched in 2004 by the Library of Michigan in partnership with the Michigan Center for the Book to promote the value and benefits of reading early and often to preschoolers, to encourage family bonding through reading, and to increase awareness and usage of public libraries. Learn more at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads.

The program is sponsored by Brogan & Partners, Michigan Education Savings Program, Michigan Education Trust and the Library of Michigan Foundation.

The benefits provided are subject to plan terms and conditions.

*Prescription drug coverage benefits subject to limitations.

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Medicare Plus Blue is a private-fee-for-service plan with a Medicare contract and is available to all Medicare beneficiaries who are Michigan residents who have both Part A and Part B of Medicare. Premiums vary by county. Medicare Plus Blue is issued by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, a nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

H2319 N15 xx/xxxx

SINGLES

MISC. SINGLES

Ballroom Dancing to a live band every Saturday 8 30 11 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center 15218 Farmington Road Livonia Admission guest/\$6 associates/\$5 50 members/\$5 Dress Ladies - date style clothes gentlemen - jackets and ties for more information call Joe Castrodale (248) 968 5197

Bethany Suburban West

New Years Eve Party Saturday Dec 31 Hors d'oeuvres catered dinner beer wine and other refreshments Music dancing and champagne toast at midnight Advance tickets \$45 Call Michele for details (313) 996 8644

METROPOLITAN SINGLE PROFESSIONALS

Join the e mail list at www.mspsc.com for special events Information (248) 544 6445 Office (248) 851 9919 Monday Friday 9 a.m. to noon

Euchre

Every Monday 6 30 9 30 p.m. Meets at the Main Lounge at Drake Road in Farmington Hills Cash bar and reasonable priced dinner is also available off the menu \$5/members \$6/non members

Dances

MSP dances from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Top 40 DJ cash bar hors d'oeuvres (8 9 30 p.m.) and door prizes Admission \$5/members \$9/non members unless otherwise noted Attire is dressy casual (no jeans or tennis shoes) unless otherwise noted

SINGLE POINT MINISTRIES

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church is at 40000 Six Mile Road the corner of Six Mile and Haggerty in Northville

Sunday Fellowship

Meet at 11 30 a.m. every Sunday in Knox Hall for fellowship and encouragement Coffee doughnuts conversation and Christ are always present For more information call the SPM office at (248) 374 5920

Walking Club

Meet in the Single Point office of Ward Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays Open to all fitness levels (248) 374 5920

Volleyball

Meet at 8 30 p.m. Wednesdays in Knox Hall For further details regarding any sport contact the SPM Office at (248) 374 5920

Bible Studies-Prayer Nights

- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m. Mondays in Room A101
PACS 7 p.m. 2nd and 4th Mondays in Room C309
Praying Together 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Sanctuary at Ward Church
Learners - 7 30 p.m. Thursdays in Room A101

Single Parents Wednesdays

Single parents meet at 7 p.m. in S.A.M. Office on Wednesdays 1st Wednesday Just Breathe Parenting 2nd Wednesday Simplify My Life Please! 3rd Wednesday What Money? 4th Wednesday I Have an Issue with That and 5th Wednesday Family Feud game night

Coffeehouse

Lighthouse Café will be 7 10 p.m. on Friday Dec 23 in Knox Hall. An evening of relaxation and fun Games fellowship music snacks and specialty coffees \$5 Free childcare

Convivial

Friday Dec 30 at 6 30 p.m. at Ward Church Enjoy a holiday dinner SPM 2005 in Review show and entertainment by Keith Longbotham singer songwriter humorist A punch reception at 6 30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25/person

Football Open House

Paul's Football Open House will begin at 12 noon on Monday Jan 2 2006 in Parlor C317 There will be big screen TV's and snacks It ends after the Fiesta Bowl (usually around 8 p.m.) Bring desserts appetizers beverages and/or snacks if you can Sub sandwiches are provided

Laugh-Out-Loud

Friday Jan 6 at 7 30 p.m. Ventriloquist David Pendleton will be the entertainer for the evening Tickets are \$5

WARD CLASSIC SENIOR SINGLES

Senior Singles Bible Study

Meet at 10 a.m. Thursdays in Room C317/319

Mission Project

Helps On the Way is a local mission endeavor that primarily ministers to single women and children and is located at Beech Daly and VanBorn In need of food (packaged/canned) furniture women's and children's clothing and money Bring your contributions to our monthly meetings or to Single Point Office

CROSSING JORDAN

Single Adult Ministry ages 20s 30s meets at 10 20 a.m. Sundays in the chapel

There's still time to help needy metro families

BY MEGAN PENNEFATHER STAFF WRITER

Amy Witkowski's favorite day isn't Christmas. It isn't her birthday, nor is it her anniversary.

It's the day she shops for people she's never met. "It's very rewarding to provide for a family who doesn't have nearly as many things as we do," said the Troy resident, who's been adopting a family for Christmas through Southfield-based Volunteers of America for seven years.

We do it all the day after Thanksgiving and it's real fun because you're buying for the whole family, clothes for everyone in the family, toys for everyone in the family. For Volunteers of America, people like Witkowski are needed now more than ever.

Even with Christmas only 10 days away, the organization is sending out an urgent plea for people to donate money or adopt a family for the holiday season. "We've got a whole huge group of families who haven't been adopted," said Alex Brodrick, president and CEO of Volunteers of America of Michigan, who added that Volunteers of America will be working, and shopping, right up until Christmas Eve to assure as many families as possible can receive a Christmas.

"Our challenge is all the people who've helped are helping us again but helping us a little bit less," he said.

Witkowski and her family are among those who have - whether by the poor economy, job losses and large contributions to Hurricane Katrina relief - cut back on their sponsorship this holiday. In past years, they've sponsored two families, this year, they can only afford to sponsor one.

"We're like everybody else," she said of how her family's been affected by fiscal struggles. "I still want to be able to do as much as I can." Brodrick said that adopting a family of four costs about \$140. There are three ways to do it. First, you can shop for all the gifts - usually clothes, a toy or gift item for each member of the family, and a grocery store gift card - and bring them to the family yourself, you can shop for the gifts and give them to Volunteers of America to give to the family,

HELP A NEEDY FAMILY

Volunteers of America is working through Christmas Eve to help buy gifts for needy families. For more information on the program to donate or to adopt a family, call the organization at (248) 353-4VOA. You may also visit online at www.voami.org

or you can donate money and volunteers will go out and buy the gifts for a family.

"You can do something with very little," said Witkowski. Brodrick noted the extreme joy adopted families express at getting to celebrate the holiday. "You bring them Christmas, it can change the whole child's way of viewing Christmas."

mpennefather@hometownlife.com (248) 901 2558

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a Bid for the Remodeling of Salem High School. Bid documents are available by phoning Doug Underwood of McCarthy & Smith, Inc. at (248) 427-8400 or are available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle Farmington Hills, MI, 48335, FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield, Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills, Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit, Builders Exchange, Grand Rapids, Construction News Service, Grandville, and Reed Construction Data, Novi, MI.

Bid Division descriptions include: 103 Selective Demolition / 105 Interior Concrete Flatwork / 106 Masonry / 107 Steel / 108 Carpentry/General Trades / 109 Roofing/Sheetmetal / 113 Hollow Metal/Wood Doors, Finish Hardware / 114 Aluminum Windows/Storefront Entrances, Glass & Glazing / 115 Metal Studs, Drywall / 117 Acoustical Treatments / 118 Resilient Flooring & Carpet / 119 Epoxy Terrazzo Flooring / 120 Painting / 121 Visual Display Boards / 128 Pre Manufactured Casework / 129 Science Casework / 130 Window Treatments / 138A Elevator Upgrades / 138B Wheelchair Lifts / 140 Plumbing / 142 HVAC / 143 Electrical / 160 Pre Pricing of Vertical Unit Ventilators (for reference only).

A pre bid meeting will be held at 3 00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20 2005 at the Salem High School cafeteria located at 46181 Joy Road Canton MI 48187. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the bid division being bid identified on the outside of the envelope. All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) and are due to the PCS E J McClendon Education Center on or before 10 00 a.m. Thursday, January 12, 2006 where they will be opened and read publicly. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools JOANNE LAMAR, Secretary

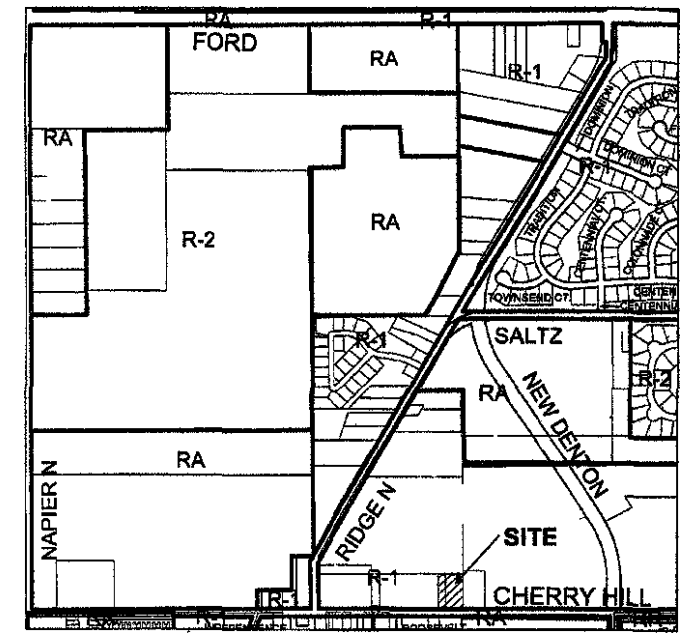
Publish December 17 & 29 2005

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 9, 2006, in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7 00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.

CHERRY HILL VILLAGE PLAZA PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PDD) - (FINAL PLAN) - CONSIDER REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A PDD AS PERMITTED IN SECTION 27 04 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE INCLUSIVE OF PARCEL NOS 072 99 0020 000 AND 072 99 0021 000 Property is located north of Cherry Hill and east of Ridge Road.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S prior to Thursday, January 5, 2006, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish December 18 and 29 2005

Read Taste

ADVERTISEMENT OF BIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH VOICE AND DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

The Charter Township of Plymouth is currently accepting bid proposals for Voice and Data Infrastructure for its new Township Hall/Police Station and Fire Station. The Request for Proposal may be obtained in the Office of the Clerk 42350 Ann Arbor Road Bldg #3 Plymouth Michigan 48170. Sealed bids are to be delivered to the Office of the Clerk no later than 3 00 pm on January 20 2006.

Publish December 15 & 18 2005

0E083704

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

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

Publish December 18 2005

0E0828 800

Notice is hereby given that the following units will be sold to the highest bidder by way of open auction on 01/06/06 at approximately 9 00 a.m. or there after at the following locations:

- Shurgard Storage of Canton *2101 Haggerty Rd* Canton*734 981-0900 4004 Sanders Boxes Totes Bags Television Dining Set
Shurgard Storage of Canton*45229 Michigan Ave* Canton*734-398 5416 2015 Hlavacek Ford Probe GT bike 70box furn tv 50+ box/ totes desk 1014 Willis Furn box vacuum 4213 Clements WD Furn 6004 Scott furn/spg gds 12box 2022 Windham
Shurgard Storage of Dearborn*24920 Trowbridge* Dearborn*313 277 2000 1194 Jackson lawn mower ladder bird house fire place screen door flower pot edger shop vac 1220 Fowler safe love seat 3 bed sets toys lamp tree lawn chairs dresser pictures misc boxes 2290 Dodson 3 pc microseide living room set end tables tools stereo equipment misc bags 2298 Jones furn tute small appliances bicycle office equipment misc boxes

- Shurgard Storage of Livonia*30800 Plymouth Rd* Livonia*734 522 7811 3020 Donaldson Wood Hunting Supplies Arrows Hand Truck File Cab Tools 3080 Northington Dresser Microwave Mattress chairs blankets clothes 3104 Moin Weights Lamps Speakers Grill Mach ne BB Gun clothes 3113 Smith Mattress Bags Bed Room Furniture Boxes Chairs 2121 Taylor Bikes Mattress L. Rm Furniture Micro ave Sofa 3004 Morse Car Parts Shelves Car Seat Desk Tools Tables Lumber 4130 Flumerfelt Antiques Chairs wall hangings tables ladder desk

- Shurgard Storage of Taylor*9900 Palham Rd* Taylor*313 292 2950 2069 hendrix jeep boxes dresser sm grill 3019 Crawley dining & living room furniture boxes 3038 Compasn Tools Ladders boxes cleaning supplies 3077 Marlin Furniture Toys Air conditioner dryer tools 3079 Franks Jr Dining & bedroom set sm appliances 12 boxes 5015 Kopp 6 boxes/bins sporting goods desk 6016 Hart Boxes Furniture appliances TV 6024 Brooks DeJgo Stratus 6070 Danville Furniture bags and boxes 6109 Rogers Stove hutch furniture lawn mower 7016 King Furniture boxes fish tank

- Shurgard Storage of Westland*9601 Warren* Westland*734 326 6000 1034 RYLES SAFE LG SCREEN TV BOXES EXERCISE EQUIP 1300 BROWN LIVING RM FURNITURE WASHER & DRYER HAND TOOLS 12+ BOXES & BAGS 3014 HOCKENBERRY 35- BOXES & BAGS ELECTRONICS OFFICE EQUIP TV TOOLS CAR PARTS TOYS MINI FRIDGE 4052 BAKER FURNITURE 20+ BOXES SM APPLIANCES 4040 HARDNETT FURNITURE (BDRM/DINING RM) 25 BOXES & BAGS 3150 VALIND LIVING RM FURNITURE HAND TOOLS SATELLITE DISH 6 BOXES 4112 WAGONJACK BEDS 25+ BOXES BINS & BAGS TOYS 4168 GRAVES TV LEATHER OTTOMAN 10+ BOXES & BAGS DINING CHAIRS 5126 KENDRICK SPEAKERS/STEREO SPORT EQUIP 50+ BOXES FURNITURE 5116 JACKSON FURNITURE (LIV&DIN) KITCHEN STUFF 15+ BOXES TOOLS 5128 JACOBS 3 TV'S STEREO VCR BDRM SET MICROWAVE LIV RM SET 2 BEDS COMPUTER TOYS ART BOXES 6080 JOHNSON VACUUM 2 END TABLES MISC BAGS BOXES & TOTES KIDS STUFF DRESSERS TV STAND CARPET CLEANER LG TV SECTIONAL COUCH 2 BEDS 6+ CHAIRS

- Shurgard Storage of Plymouth*41899 Joy Rd* Canton*734 439 2200 1018 Kuhn Equipment 2042 Hernandez 10 tubs 25 boxes and bags furn tute toys small appliances 2070 Patnck Chairs bags boxes 20 totes & furn 4011 Smith Lamp Dodge auto chairs toys furn

Publish December 18 & 25 2005

0E083884

Legal Notice Charter Township of Plymouth 2005 Winter Taxes Due by February 14, 2006

Winter taxes are due December 1 2005 and payable through February 14, 2006 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be made at the Charter Township of Plymouth Hall from 8 00 am to 4 30 pm. After hours payments can be placed in 24 hr DROP BOX located in parking lot adjacent to Building #1 or DROP BOX adjacent to entry way. Standard Federal Bank offices will also accept payment for your convenience through February 14 2006.

RON EDWARDS Treasurer Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish December 18 2005

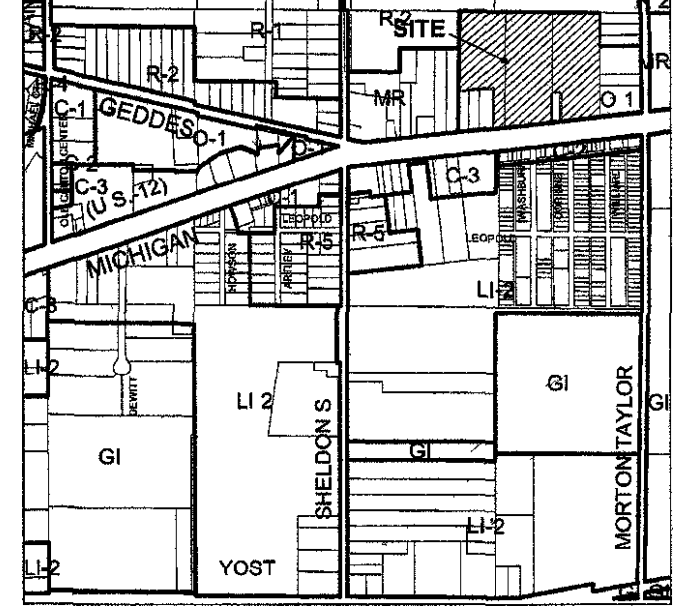
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PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON WAYNE COUNTY MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 9, 2006 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7 00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.

J.C. DEVELOPMENT REZONING. CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NOS 133 99 0004 000, 133 99 0006 000 AND 133 99 0007 000 FROM O 1 OFFICE TO C 3 REGIONAL COMMERCIAL. Property is located north of Michigan between Morton Taylor and Sheldon Roads.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S prior to Thursday January 5 2006 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish December 18 and January 5 2006

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i560 by Motorola
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The i560 by Motorola, the phone for people on the go.

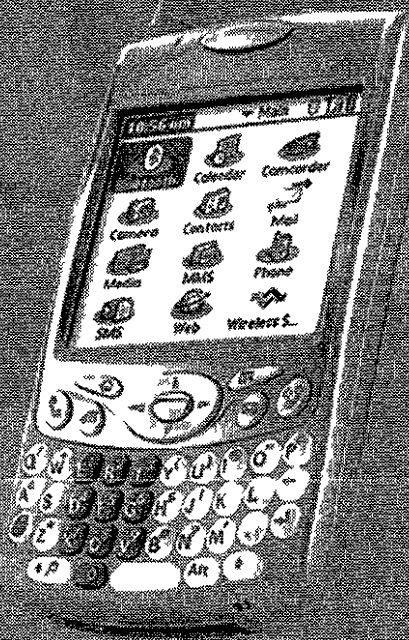
- Built In Nextel Walkie-Talkie
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** Offer expires January 14, 2006 or while supplies last. Phone Offer: Requires activation, credit approval, and 2-year agreement. Additional Fees: Up to \$36 activation fee per phone. \$150 early termination fee. Mail-in rebate: Allow 9-12 weeks after phone purchase, activation and mailing of complete and valid rebate form to receive rebate check. Rebate form must be postmarked by January 27, 2006. Does not include taxes and/or shipping or handling fees. Sales tax is calculated before the rebate. One rebate per purchase. Full terms and conditions on rebate form or visit Sprint.com/rebates.

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Canton
 44011 Ford Rd
 (3 blks East of Sheldon Rd)

Brighton
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Fenton
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 (in Subway Plaza)

Lansing
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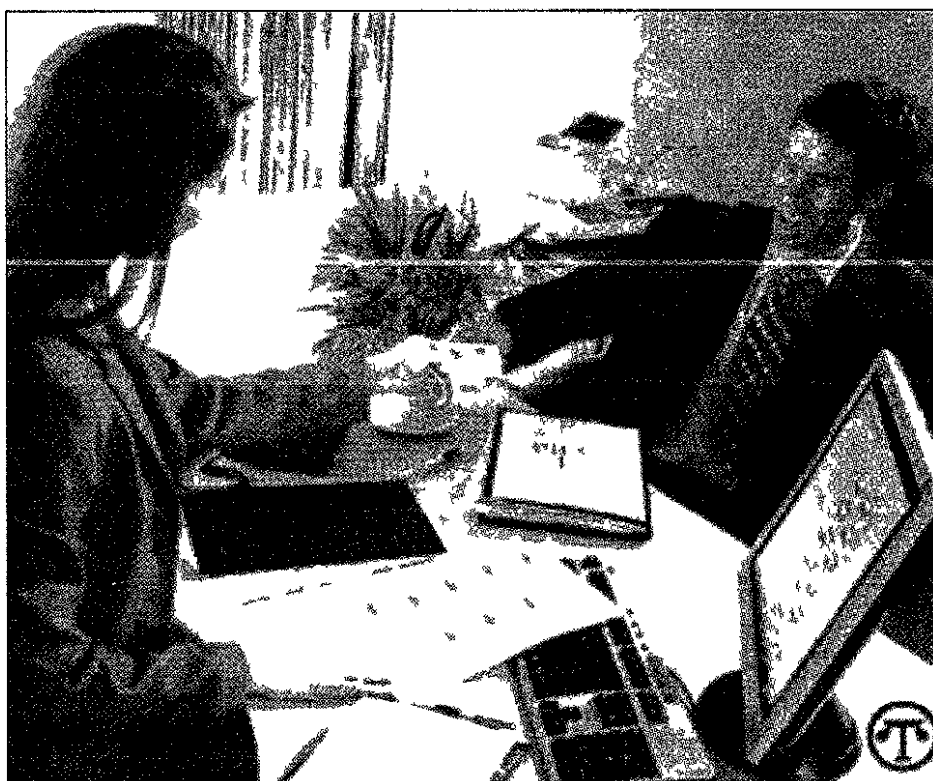
The 2006 small business forecast

(NAPSI) — It seems small businesses are bracing for a big year. Two-thirds of small- and medium-sized business owners said they expect their companies to grow in 2006, according to an Administaff Business Confidence Survey — and that's just the start of what could be welcome news for employees. How will these companies invest and in what direction will they grow? Experts offer these predictions for 2006 business trends.

■ **Advancements in technology** — Forrester Research's Ken Vollmer writes that organizations are focusing on "integration-centric business process management" solutions. These solutions involve improving interactions between co-workers, customers and business partners. In plainer terms, this could mean that 2006 is the year of the all-in-one device.

For instance, the C5510n MFP from OKI Printing Solutions is a compact color communications center that lets business teams copy, scan, print or manage documents from their desks or at the machine itself. The technology can be networked, allowing for multiple users and, just as importantly, one MFP can take the place of three or four other machines.

■ **Improved communications** — The availability of color printing technology means the bar has been raised for small business communications. Professional-looking color documents will be the norm, with exceptional documents possibly giving companies a competitive advantage. That is once again where devices such as the C5510n MFP come in. It prints and copies in vibrant color at up to 12 pages per minute — the fastest of its class on the market — and enables



A survey found that 66 percent of small and medium sized businesses plan to hire more workers in 2006.

end users to scan hard copy documents or artwork.

Business meetings are expected to get a boost as well, with new types of software applications turning old-fashioned presentations into interactive experiences. New technology can be used to make presentation slides appear three-dimensional or to add new types of graphics, animation and even music to projects.

■ **More employees** — 2006 may be a good year to work for a small or medi-

um-sized business. Sixty-four percent of respondents to the Administaff survey said they plan to increase salaries and 66 percent plan to hire new employees. What type of workers will be hired? Companies generally say they're looking for people who are comfortable with technology and with decision-making.

Those characteristics may lead to some good matches. Management consulting firm ECNow.com predicts that employer-employee relationships will strengthen for the first time in years.

The art of networking starts now

(NAPSI) — If you plan to begin the new year with a job search, get ahead of the competition by refreshing your network now. Networking is not about the size of your network, but about quality relationships. Genuine networks stem from friendships or business relationships, and holiday greetings offer a perfect excuse to revitalize your network.

Getting the ball rolling, making that initial call or sending the first e-mail is often the most intimidating step. If you don't call people, however, no one is going to call you. Once you start, networking can easily blend into your daily life. Set aside a few minutes every day to network and it will pay off when you least expect.

One important thing to remember is to get to know people at all levels of the business world. Keep their contact information, including personal information like birthdays, in one central location. An easy way to keep contacts current is with Plaxo, a free service that automatically updates contact information to ensure that people have access to their data anywhere and at all times. For more information, visit Plaxo.com.

Research has shown that as careers progress, new jobs are often referrals from acquaintances, friends, friends of friends, or fellow alumni.



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Star Cutter Company,

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A BS degree in accounting, finance or economics is required in addition to 8 years of experience in accounting and finance with 3 years minimum in cost accounting or equivalent education and experience combined. A CPA or CMA is preferred. Also preferred is experience with ERP systems, knowledge of IFS, experience with GAAP and taxation.

We offer a competitive wage and benefit package. Send resumes to HR@starcutter.com or via US Mail to Star Cutter Company, Attention Human Resources, 980 Kneeland Rd, Mio, MI 48647.



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Observer & Eccentric

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Observer & Eccentric

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ Customer Service Rep High Volume fast paced Southfield organization...

ACCOUNTANT Chain of retirement homes central office based in Bloomfield Hills seeks full time accountant...

Help Wanted-General 5000

APARTMENTS Saddle Creek Apartments has great career opportunities that just became available...

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AUTO BODY PORTER Needed for a growing shop Full or part time...

AUTOMOTIVE ASE Certified Car/Truck Techs Driveability Tech Benefits Fax Attn Jay 734 422 8106

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A word to the wise when looking for a great deal check the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

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ATTORNEY With at least 5 years exp with commercial litigation finance real estate or franchise or corporate experience...

ATTORNEY With at least 5 years exp with commercial litigation finance real estate or franchise or corporate experience...

Help Wanted-General 5000

AUTO DEALER Mercedes Benz of Novi is looking for a Service Porter/Driver...

AUTOMOTIVE Gordon Chevrolet is taking applications for Service Technician Lube Technician

AUTOMOTIVE LIGHT SERVICE TECH \$400 to \$500 per week with benefits...

AUTOMOTIVE POSITIONS ASE Certified Car/Truck Techs Driveability Tech Benefits...

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CHILD CARE TRANSITIONAL PRE SCHOOL ASSISTANT TEACHER & INFANT ASSISTANT TEACHER

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CHILD CARE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Experienced and qualified & FULLTIME TEACHERS

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CLEANING POSITIONS Available in Livonia and Farmington Hills area Full/Part time days/evenings Call 888 533 4600 or fax resume to 810 715 3381

COLLECTOR Plymouth law firm looking for collector Legal collection experience preferred Fax resume to 734 254 1025 Attention Hiring Partner

COMMUNITY MANAGER If you have diplomacy and tact like to influence others and are results oriented please fax your resume and cover letter to Community Manager Barger Realty Group Inc (248) 905 5511 or email to humrsnew2@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY MANAGER / ON-SITE Part Time position available at the Woodbury Green Club house office in Belleville Must be familiar with Word Excel & general office duties...

COMMUNITY MANAGER / ON-SITE Part Time position available at the Woodbury Green Club house office in Belleville Must be familiar with Word Excel & general office duties...

DOG GROOMER 2 yrs exp required Part Time Sat & Sun only Call 734 788 9130 Cell or 734 261 1922 Shop

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CUSTOMER SERVICE/ INBOUND CALL CENTER See our display ad in Career Marketplace on the Front Page of the Employment Section

DELIVERY POSITIONS USA TODAY USA Today the nation's #1 newspaper has 2 openings for independent contractors in the Pontiac/Sterling Heights area...

DIRECT CARE Mental health provider is seeking qualified applicants for direct care positions at shifts available...

DIRECT CARE ENTRY LEVEL management position in Livonia supporting 3 men with developmental disabilities...

DIRECT CARE POSITIONS available working with people in their homes competitive pay & benefits all shifts paid training great people meaningful work 734 728 4201

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DRIVERS CDL Class A drivers wanted Local & Regional Call Wayne 734 274 0060

DRIVERS Trucking company looking for Semi and Train Drivers w/ dump experience only Call Mon Fri 9am 4pm (734) 455 4036

DRIVERS ATTN OWNER OPERATORS WANTED For Dedicated Runs No Up Front Money •IRP Plate Program •Fuel Taxes Paid •Free Permits •No charge for Satellite •Fuel Surcharge 1 year verifiable exp required Call Joel for more details 800 447 5173 Ext. 5413

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DRIVERS CDL Class A drivers wanted Local & Regional Call Wayne 734 274 0060

DRIVERS Royal Oak based transportation co needs full & part time day & evening chauffeurs for sedan & limousine service...

DRIVERS Trucking company looking for Semi and Train Drivers w/ dump experience only Call Mon Fri 9am 4pm (734) 455 4036

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DRIVERS & OFFICE CLEANERS Growing Livonia based medical equipment company needs Full & Part Time Drivers & office cleaners Fax resume to Attn Jason 734 522 9380

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Help Wanted-General 5000

HAIR STYLISTS Now hiring for Canton Plymouth S Livonia & Westland locations...

HANDYMAN Wanted for Livonia area Hotel Plumbing electrical experience preferred Call 734 261 6800 ask for Gary

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PLYMOUTH Awesome 4 bdrm 2.5 bath 2727 sq ft Colonial Great room w/fireplace Island kitchen w/pantry & breakfast room Master suite w/walk in closet Lower level w/daylight windows 2 car garage \$353,900 (CH507)



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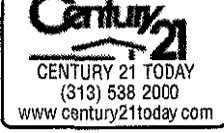


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By Owner

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Westland 3445

JUST LISTED!

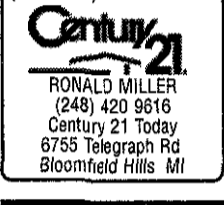
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Oakland County 3540

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Condos 3720

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ROCHESTER HILLS Stream wood 2 bdrm 1st floor park like setting move in cond \$126,500 248 650 3850

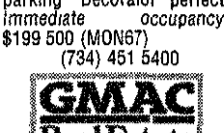
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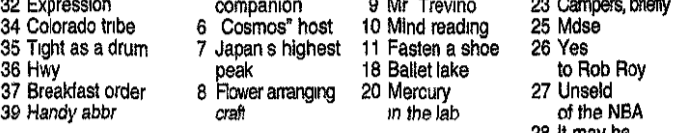
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ACROSS 1 Tree fluid 4 Desktops 7 Emery board 11 Kinks tune 12 Novelist - Levin 13 Luau strummers 14 Indigo plant 15 Boxer 16 Off road vehicle 17 Bake sale items 19 Raj title 21 Before in verse 22 Incorrect 24 Turkish title 27 Make bye bye 28 Amos radio partner 29 Sanctuaries 32 Expression 34 Colorado tribe 35 Tight as a drum 36 Hwy 37 Breakfast order 39 Handy abbr 42 I Am Woman" singer 44 Mead s Island 46 Judicial order 48 Bravo in Barcelona 50 Type of cherry 51 Fair trace 52 Outback jumper 53 Camembert cousin 54 Guru s practice 55 Almost grads 56 PC button DOWN 1 Treasure hunter s aid 2 Comparable 3 Faded 4 Humdinger 5 Friday s companion 6 Cosmos" host 7 Japan s highest peak 8 Flower arranging craft 9 Mr Trevino 10 Mind reading 11 Fasten a shoe 18 Ballet lake 20 Mercury in the lab 23 Campers, briefly 25 Mide 26 Yes to Rob Roy 27 Unseled of the NBA 28 It may be abstract 29 Ben- - 30 Legal rep 31 Swerving 32 Ballet step 33 Cabins 35 Liz or Rod 37 NFL score 38 Bloodhound s clues 39 Kuwait leaders 40 Old fashioned remedy 41 Corline 43 Grammy winner - James 45 French trar 46 Journalist s question 47 Road movie" locale 49 Aurora to Socrates

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<p>CANTON - Instantly appealing 3 bedroom 2.5 bath ranch w/new floors Conen in kitchen SS appliances included New roof baths & landscaping Wonderful finished basement w/family room full bath work shop and storage Call Carol Hussey \$235 000 (25174421) 734 751 9563</p>	<p>CANTON - 4 bedroom 2.5 bath Canton Colonial Formal dining room great room library Master suite w/sitting room/nursery 3 car garage Immediate occupancy Call Terry Bromley \$429 900 (25159689) 734 223 8251</p>	<p>CANTON - 3 bedroom Condo with master on the 1st floor Hardwood floor in entryway hallway and kitchen 2.5 baths full basement and loft Ready to go! Call Joe Scaglione \$217 000 (25139481) 734 502 4985</p>	<p>GARDEN CITY - This is a charmer! Newer furnace C/A electrical bath flooring carpeting and more Formal dining room eat in kitchen 15x13 laundry 1/3 acre Side deck Call Carol Hussey \$137 900 (25167665) 734 751 9563</p>	<p>PLYMOUTH - Priced reduced! Rare find Ranch within walking distance to schools and downtown Flowing open floor plan w/3 bedrooms 2.5 bath family room 1st floor laundry Side entrance garage Call Terrence Serman \$359 900 (25151733) 734 368 2789</p>	

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You can do it: Selling during the holidays has up side

My house is for sale and with the holidays coming up things are slowing down, is it a good idea to sell during this time period? The market does slow down during the holidays. However, there are certain advantages you have as well when you are selling in this season. Some of these are:

- Less competition. Many sellers are afraid to sell their house during the holidays, as a result they wait until after the season.



Ask the Realtor

Michael Aldouby

Because of this there is often much less competition. This brings us to the basic law of supply and demand. The smaller the supply, the easier it is to sell your house.

■ Serious buyers are still out there. Even though there are fewer buyers, the buyers that are out there are more likely to buy soon. This keeps you from wasting time with lookers, instead of buyers. The difference between buyers compared to lookers, is that buyers have money, motivation, and urgency. There are going to be fewer lookers out there in the wintertime who want to see your house because they want to get

decorating ideas or because they are nosy neighbors. No matter what the season there are people who need to buy because of their circumstances. There are still buyers who are getting transferred into the area. Also, people are getting married and divorced who need a new home. Many buyers want to be in their new home by the end of the year, as well.

- The best agents are still working. Many people like to

take off for the holidays. In the real estate industry though the best agents are still working. The way this can benefit you is that if you are working with top-notch agents there is a greater likelihood of getting the house sold in a smooth transaction.

- Even though there is a mess it can be considered a happy mess. You may be concerned that because of holiday preparations your place may be more cluttered than normal.

Buyers realize this and are more forgiving of holiday clutter.

Michael Aldouby is a columnist and a Realtor with Real Estate One. He has an M.B.A. with a concentration in marketing. He is happy to answer any real estate questions you may have to provide more information about the survey or to receive any comments about the column. Please feel free to call him at (734) 748 9621 or e-mail him at michaelaldouby@hotmail.com

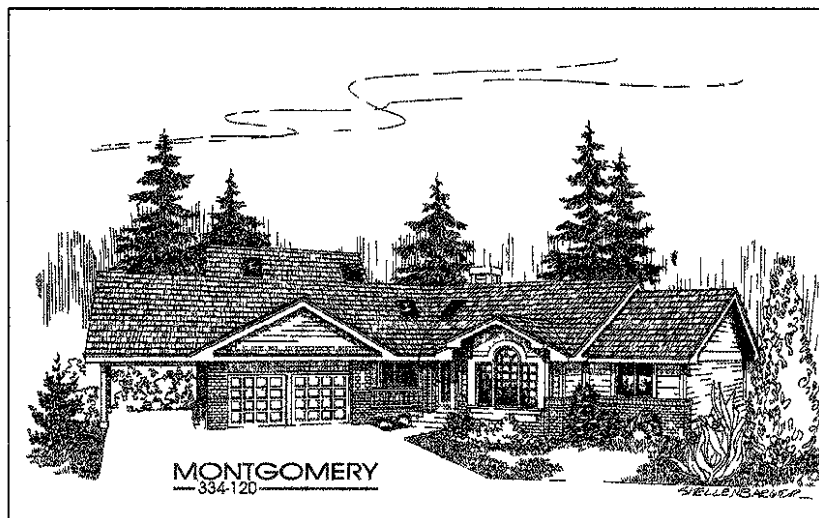
Older couples would enjoy this 'full Monty' with its spaciousness

Brick detailing, along with attractive lap siding and a wood shake roof give the 2,264 square foot Montgomery (334-120) a rich exterior. This home is perfect for a retired couple that have frequent overnight visitors, or perhaps a family that includes an elderly parent. Whatever the makeup of the household, there is plenty of room here to accommodate.

The vaulted front porch leads you into the sky lit entry of this spacious first floor design. To the left is the vaulted formal dining room, where you and your guests can dine in sky lit comfort.

A large window brings in more light while providing a view of the front landscape. Opposite from the dining room is a generous living room, where after dinner coffee and good conversation is in order. A wide front window admits the sunshine when the weather is nice.

Angled to the right of the living room is a small bedroom that could serve as a home office or den. Adjacent to this room is a luxurious guest suite. Here your visitors are sure to have a comfortable stay. Sky lit and roomy, this suite features a walk-in closet, huge bathroom with separate shower, toilet and vanity, skylight and oversized tub with glass wall enclosure. There is also private access to a small back deck, perfect for soaking up the sun on



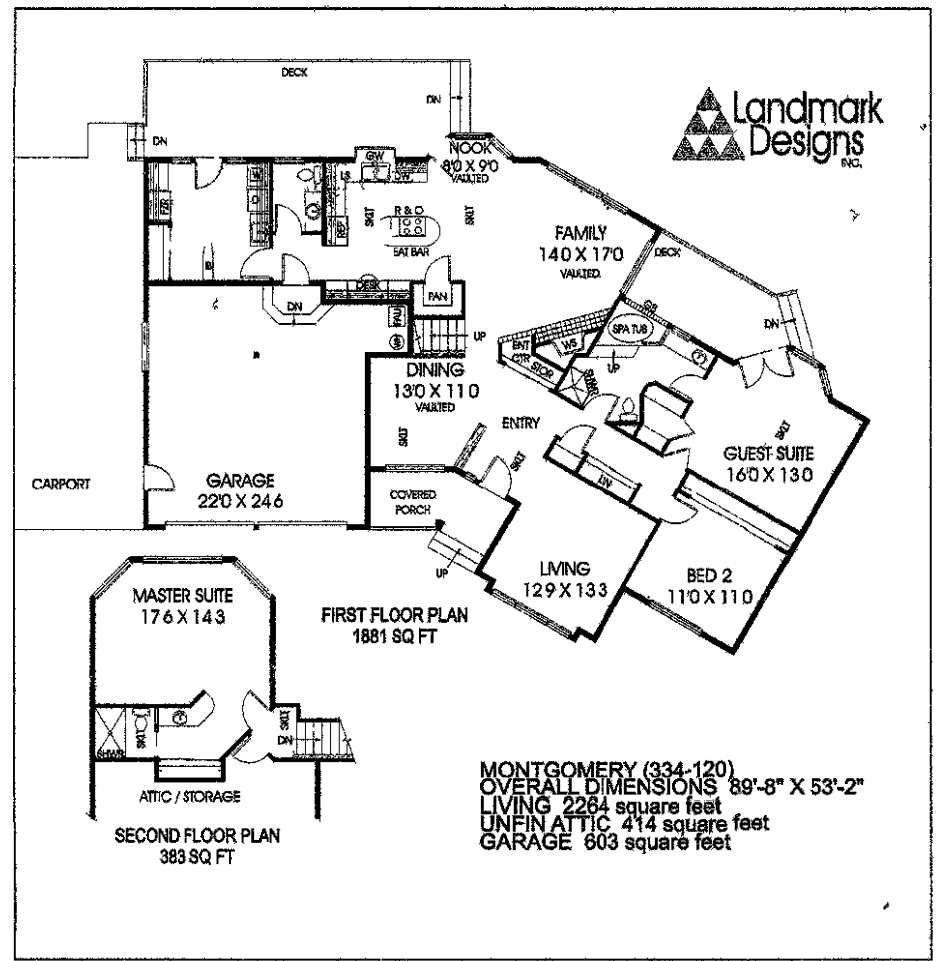
warm summer days.

The large, sky lit family room is the place for everyone to gather in front of the television or play board games while the built-in fireplace warms the festivities. Lots of shelf and storage space is available. The walk-through kitchen is situated so that the cook can easily prepare and serve meals. Vaulted ceiling, skylight, walk-in pantry, eating bar, and handy desk are some of the features. A half-bath and large utility room, with freezer, ironing board and storage complete the first floor plan.

The upper floor is given over to the master suite. Facing the rear

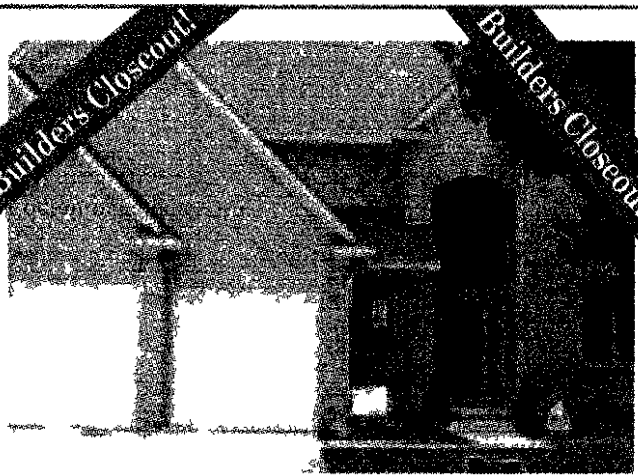
and isolated for privacy, the entire back wall is windowed to present a broad view of the surrounding terrain. An attic provides extra storage space.

For a study plan of the MONTGOMERY (334-120), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, Inc., 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com



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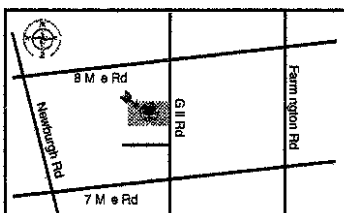
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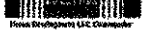
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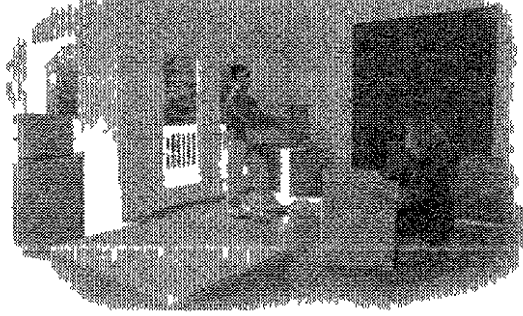
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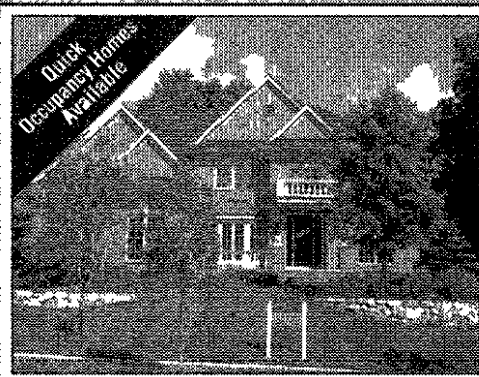
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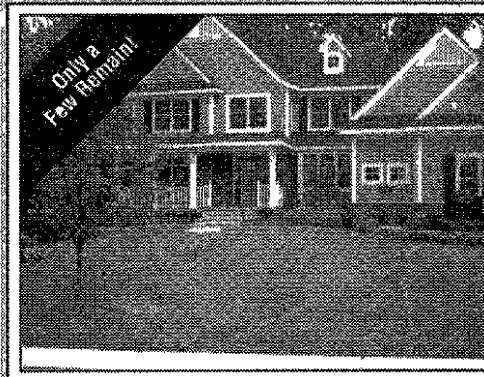
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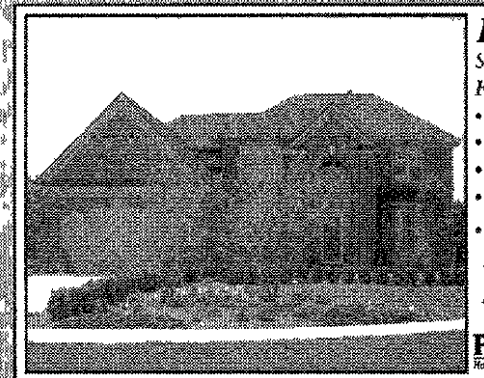
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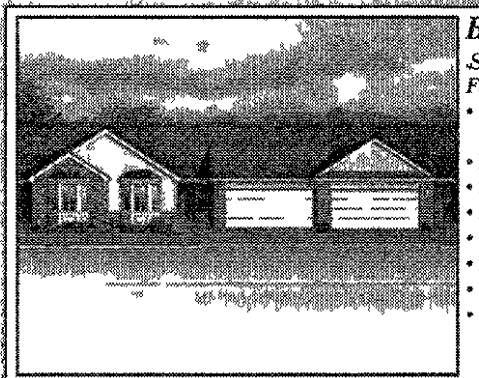
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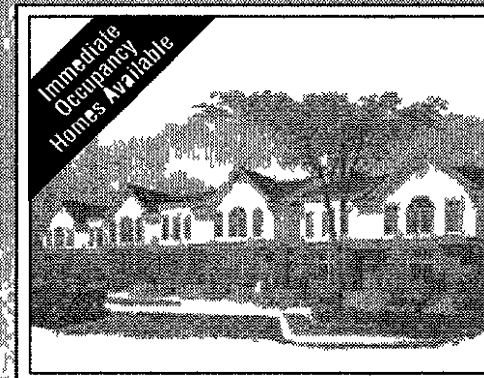
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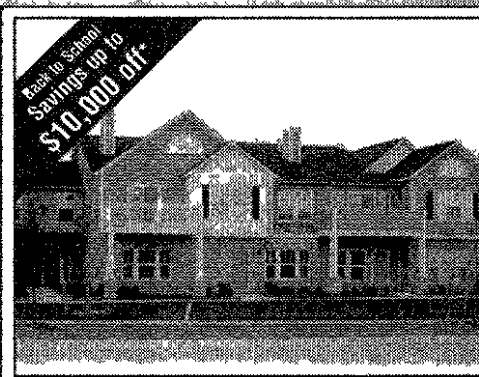
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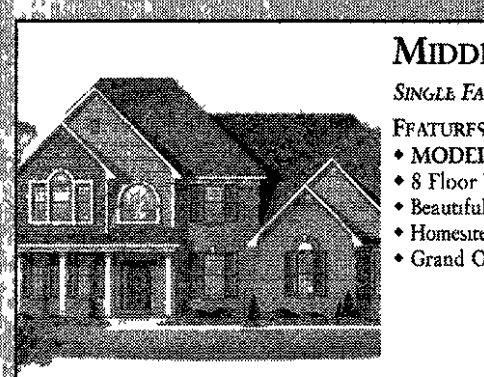
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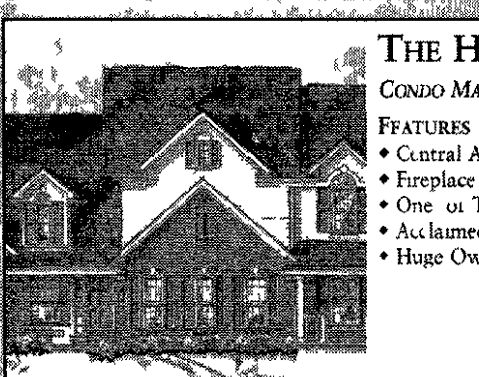
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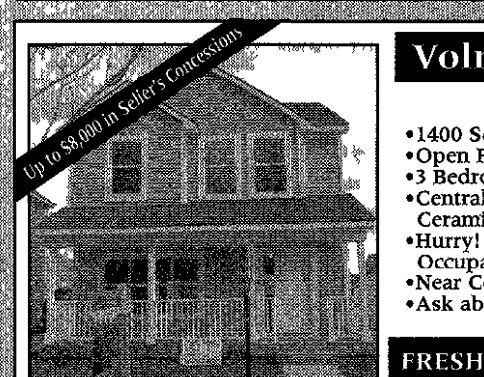
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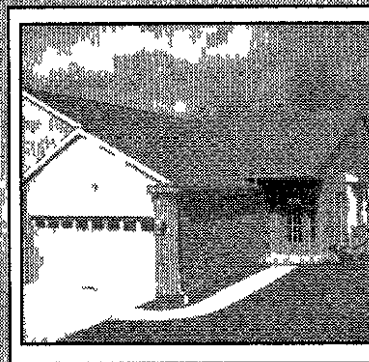
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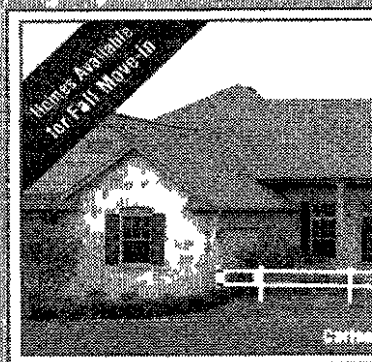
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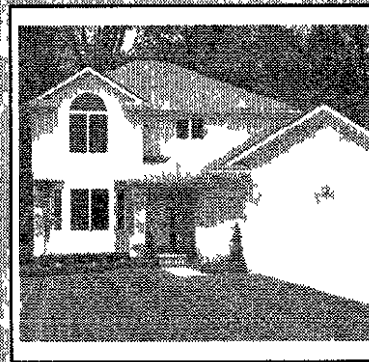
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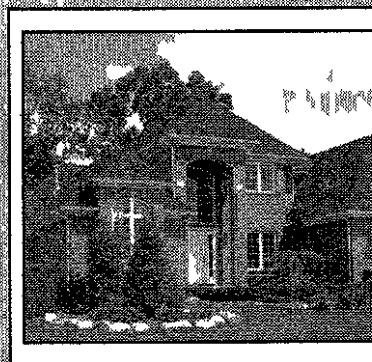
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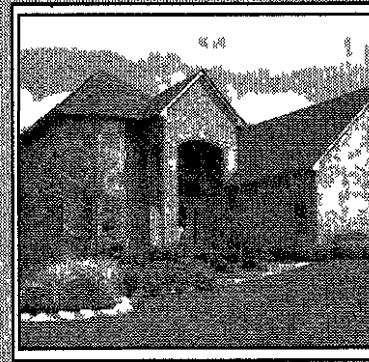
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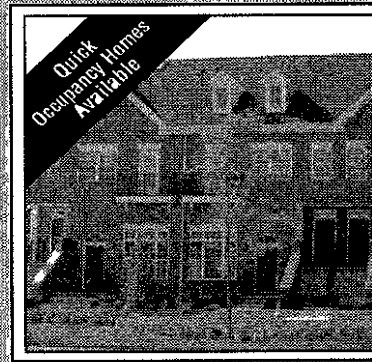
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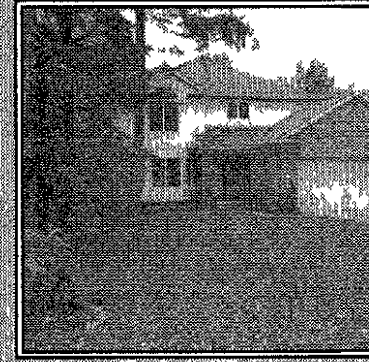
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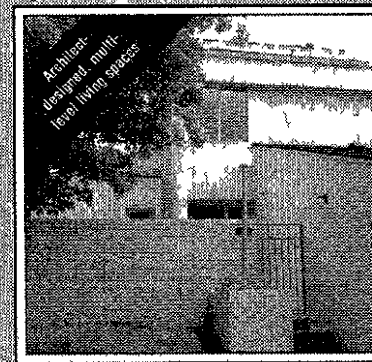
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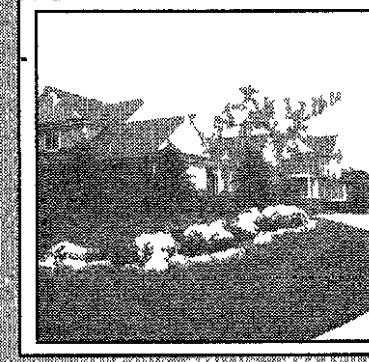
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Throaty 2006 Ford Mustang GT Convertible Premium is a True Delight

Advertising Feature

CAReport



Anne Fracassa

By Dave Menard
Avanti NewsFeatures

When it comes to car design these days, two concepts come to mind -- retro is in, and "everything old is new again." The trend to look back into car history for new models really started with Chrysler's PT Cruiser and is now spreading like wildfire. In addition to Chrysler, Dodge, Chevrolet, and Pontiac, to name a few, have gone the retro route. Ford, looking not to miss out on the trend, debuted a redesigned retro Thunderbird model in 2002, and followed up with another new take on an automotive icon a few years later -- the Mustang GT. Yep, the original "pony car" is back, and driving the new 2006 Mustang GT Convertible Premium is an exercise in both fun and nostalgia.

The nostalgia starts when you take a look at the car. The design harkens back to the '67-'69 models, complete with C-scoops in the sides, three element tail lamps, and the galloping horse badge in the center of the grille. The GT version features large fog lamps in the grille, and the optional "pony package" gets you a custom grille with pony emblems and larger wheels. The GT actually comes with a choice of four different wheel and tire packages, including two packages that feature 18" wheels. You'll know right away it's a Mustang and you'll want to jump in and put this show horse through its paces.

Turn the key and you'll hear the throaty growl of the 4.6-liter V8 engine that comes with the GT Convertible Premium (a V6 is available on other models). The V8 is rated at 300 hp and 320 lb.-ft. of torque, and sounds like it. This car just begs to be driven with a five-speed manual transmission, alas, my test car had the five-speed automatic. Not that it didn't perform. On the contrary, the car jumped off the line and shifted smoothly. It just seems somehow "wrong" to put an automatic in there. At any rate,



2006 Ford Mustang GT Convertible Premium. Type: Subcompact. Where built: Flat Rock, Mich. EPA: 17/23 (regular fuel). Base price: \$31,145. Price as tested: \$36,410

the V8 gives you great performance and still gets a respectable 17/23 mpg. Another bonus -- unlike many cars in this segment, it runs on regular fuel. The steering and suspension are pretty good, too. There is some road feel (this is a sports car, after all), but the ride is comfortable and the Mustang handles curves very well. The front suspension features MacPherson struts with reverse 'L' lower control arms and stabilizer bar, Anti-lock brakes and traction control are standard, and the traction control can be deactivated on the dash panel.

Inside, the retro feel will hit you again. The cockpit and dash design are, again, based on the late-'60s Mustang models, complete with the dual round instrument cluster. Instrumentation is complete, including oil pressure, coolant temperature, and battery current gauges. The automatic transmission shift lever is a two stalk lever with a retro feel. The standard (on the GT Premium) leather-trimmed buckets provided good support. There's a good amount of leg room for the driver and front seat passenger, the rear seating area is not usable for seating anything except packages. One minor gripe -- the center console is just a hair too close to the driver's right leg. On long commutes you'll begin to feel a pressure point on your right calf as it leans on the

edge of the console. There isn't much in the way of trunk room, either, particularly on the convertible. To make matters worse in that regard, if you get the upgraded sound system on the Premium model, you'll find a huge speaker on the trunk which cuts the usable space even further.

Speaking of audio, the standard system on the GT Premium is an AM/FM/six-CD six-speaker Shaker 500 system, featuring 500 watts of peak power and about 250 watts of continuous power. You can upgrade to a Shaker 1000 nine-speaker system which will give you -- you guessed it -- 1000 watts of peak power and about 570 watts of continuous power. Lots of audio muscle for this muscle car.

The Mustang GT Premium comes with air conditioning, cruise control, power doors, windows and locks, and rear window defroster. The 2006 Mustang GT Convertible Premium starts at a little over \$31,000. Add the automatic transmission, pony package, upgraded audio system, anti-theft system and a few other odds and ends, and you'll hit about \$36,000. Compare that to the \$2360 base price of the first Mustang and ask yourself, "how much is that retro ride worth to me?" If you've got the dough, it's a trip that's fun to take. Write Dave Menard at avanti1054@aol.com

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Automatic!
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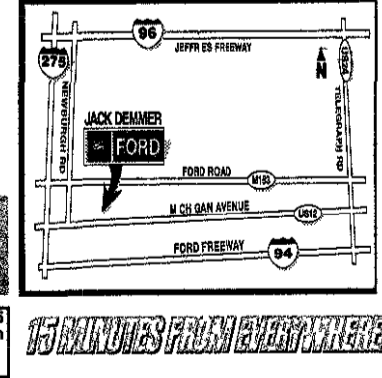
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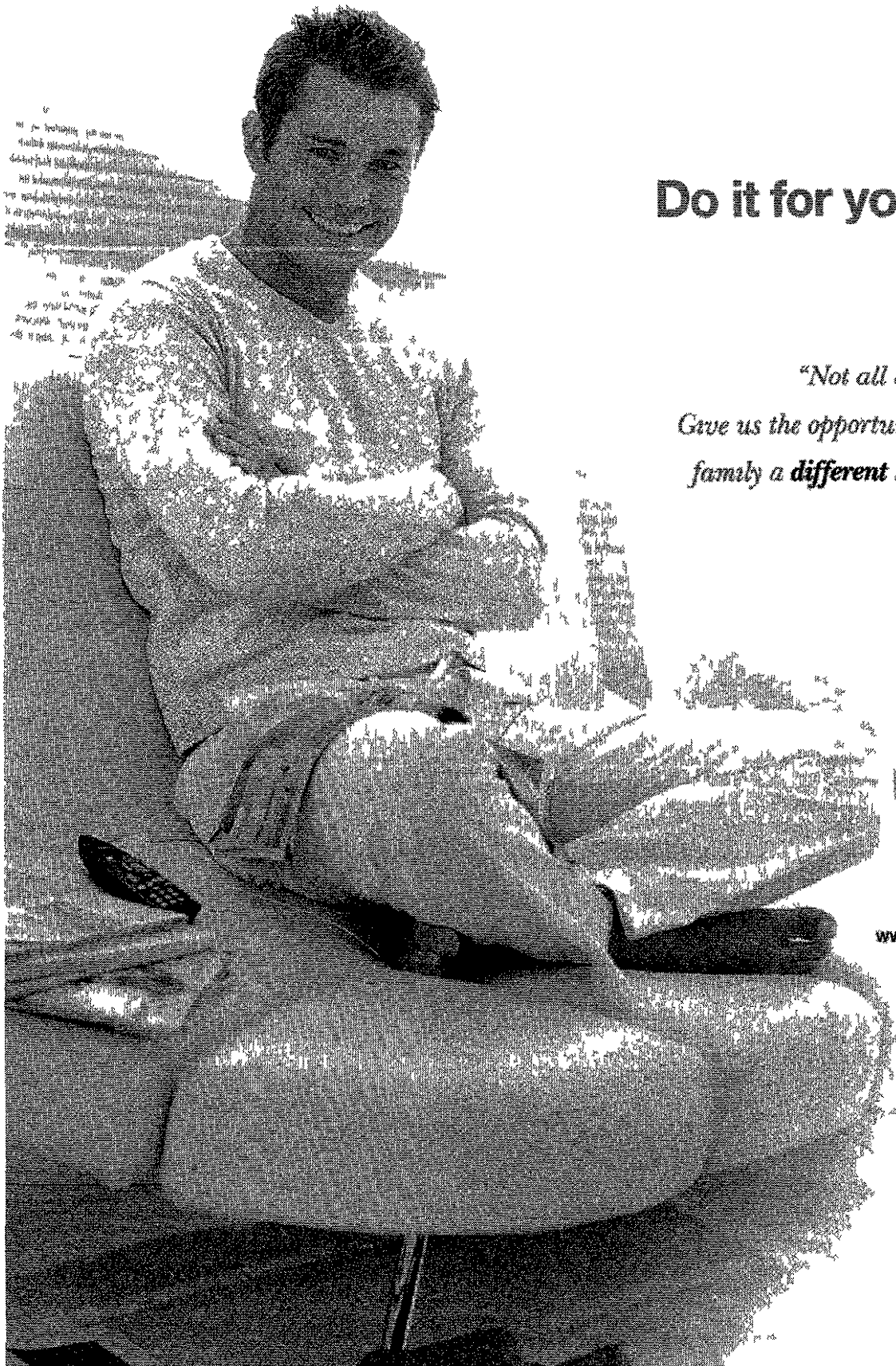
■ Sunday, December 18, 2005

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PINK Giveaway Winners:

Von Buskirk Silkscreens

Congratulations to **Susan Cujar** of Troy, the winner of our PINK art giveaway! Susan, 44, is an avid PINK reader and fashionista who works as an independent sales consultant for CAbi, **Carol Anderson By Invitation**. Susan hosts private parties to sell the comfy and stylish clothing by L.A.-based designer Carol Anderson. She'll be heading off to Hollywood soon to pick up the spring line. How PINK!



Anyway, Susan was delighted to win our three silk screen prints, created, signed and numbered by artist **Jeff Von Buskirk** of Northville. Von Buskirk is best known as the husband of PINK editor Wensdy White — oh yeah, and for single handedly painting murals like the 5-story flag in downtown Northville commemorating 9/11. He created the silkscreens to commemorate his first exhibit, held at Sherrus Gallery in October. Susan plans to share the artwork with her three girls, **Ana Cristina**, 13, **Lhana**, 12 and **Elena**, 5. Enjoy!

Roadside Survival Kit

Petite Maison in Northville offered us the cutest little Safety Girl Roadside Emergency Kit to keep a PINK gal prepared for just about anything that might come her way. We asked readers to tell us about their own roadside emergency in order to win it. **Amanda Chaborek**, 27, of Bloomfield Hills had the PINKest story.



In college, my girlfriend and I went shopping for our Snowball dresses in my two-seater coupe. We wore the stilettos we were planning on wearing at the Snowball to the mall so we could ensure perfect "fit" of our dresses. Wouldn't you know on the way home, with my pale pink strapless satin dress flapping in the breeze, I hit a pothole and not only blew my tire, but completely ruined my rim. Luckily, our heels must have attracted attention, because it was only a matter of minutes that someone stopped to help change the tire and rim — probably since it was a two-lane road with no shoulder during rush hour!

Amanda, tuck this little kit in the backseat in case you're sans stilettos the next time you're faced with a flat! **Petite Maison** is located at 103 East Main St. in Northville. Call (248) 348-9710 or visit www.petitemaison.com

Thanks to everyone who entered to win! Watch for more PINK giveaways in 2006!

So Many Soirees!

It's hard for a PINK gal to keep up with her social calendar during the holidays. Between family gatherings, office banquets and end-of-the-year blowouts, we're all kept crazy-busy chasing after holiday cheer. In the past month, PINK has been invited to **Liquid Salon's** grand opening party in Bloomfield Hills, **Traque Model Management's** annual holiday bash at the Bosco, and **Fashion Group International's** "Celebration of the Season" at Edisons in Birmingham.

Another event that made a splash fashion-wise was the **Maurice Malone Re-launch Party** held Thanksgiving Day at Elysium Lounge. The Detroit designer staged three fashion shows to re-launch his self-titled mens line, and showcase his new women's collection, **Moemos**. Congratulations Maurice!

Main Street Magic

Between all the festivities, we've had to find time to buy presents, of course. 'Tis the season when malls, e-tailers, boutiques and department stores vie for savvy shoppers' dollars. As you map out your gift list plan of attack, may we suggest penciling in a trip to your local downtown? If you can bundle up against the cold and score a decent parking spot, you're sure to find the holiday spirit alive and well on Michigan's Main Streets.

Lights strung in the trees, horse-drawn carriages trotting by, and coffee shops serving steaming hot chocolate combine to create an air of nostalgia and magic. Stores in many downtowns, including Rochester, Birmingham,

editor's column

Plymouth and Northville, stay open late throughout the season, and owners are always willing to personally help you find the perfect gifts. If your city doesn't have a traditional downtown, maybe there's an outdoor shopping center that has an eclectic mix of locally owned shops? We love the **Bloomfield Plaza** at Maple and Telegraph, and **The Village of Rochester Hills**.

Mall at Partridge Creek

Speaking of outdoor malls, PINK got the scoop on a huge new **Taubman Centers** development in Clinton Township. **Robert Taubman** himself recently helped break ground on **The Mall at Partridge Creek**, which promises to be a uniquely modern shopping experience — with a **Nordstrom**! Yes, the mall will be anchored by Metro Detroit's third Nordstrom (the second will open at **Twelve Oaks** in fall, 2007), as well as our third **Parisian**, and a 14-screen **MJR Theatre**. Along with 90 stores and restaurants, Partridge Creek will boast two bocce ball courts, an oversized chess board with two-foot tall game pieces, an outdoor children's play area, outdoor flat screen televisions and a central gathering place with a large stone fireplace. And, you can bring your pet pooch, because it promises to be dog-friendly! Watch for it in 2007, or visit www.shoppartridgecreek.com or www.taubman.com in the meantime.

Feliz Navidad!

— Wensdy White

in the
pink

4 Kelly's Klicks

Give thanks with couture notes

6 Fragrance Gift Guide

Wrap up one of the season's newest scents

10 PINK List

Your guide to style events and holiday shopping in Metro Detroit

12 Beautiful Books

2005's hottest fashion tomes (another great gift idea)

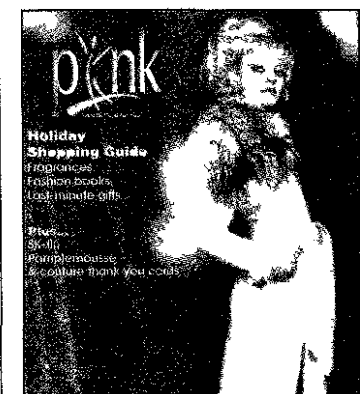
haute pink

Holiday Makeup Trends

According to National Make-Up Artist **Fatima Olive**, beauty editor for **Marshall Field's**, classic beauty takes the spotlight this holiday season. Think simple yet dramatic looks that feature a wash of shimmering color — including winter white, silver and champagne — coupled with full, dramatic lashes and rose-tinted cheeks.

Eyes: Shimmery silvers and winter whites on lids, with a perfectly groomed and filled-in brow that follows the contour of the eye. Lashes should be dramatic and defined. Finish with liquid liner or smudge of pencil.

Skin: Flawless and matte, but finished with the slightest touch of shimmer that's continued to the décolletage. For a natural flush, apply color to the apples of your cheeks, and avoid contouring. Lips should be the primary focus this season. Use anything from a berry stain to blood-red, and fry finishing it off with a plum gloss.



On the Cover

Choose a luxe coat with fur trim this season and you'll be in step with style. This flattering belted wool and cashmere coat in antique white is **Sean** by **Sean Combs** from **Marshall Field's**.

Photo courtesy of Marshall Field's
Cover designed by **Glenny Merrillat**

Plus

Best New Fashion
Special Section in
the U.S.A., 2004

— INLAND
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

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December 18, 2005

GANNETT

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Click on PINK at
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KELLY'S KLICKS



Thank Them with Posh Paper

With this being the holiday season, chances are you're about to (or have already) received some very thoughtful gifts —

hooray for prezzyes! Now it's time to start thinking about how to say thanks. My favorite way? Beautiful, fun and unique thank-you cards. Instead of picking up a mass-produced box at the grocery store or mall, try something new and fabulous that will surprise them! I've rounded up the best ones by up-and-coming paper designers, so you know your sentiment will be original, limited edition and treasured.

Jelly and Anchovy

My favorite thank-you cards by the fab papergoods designers Jelly and Anchovy are the 'You Rock' set. After all, there are more ways to express "thank you" than by saying the exact words. Eight handcut but-

tercream flats are paired with cotton candy-hued envelopes for an unexpected punch of sweetness. Available for \$11.95 at jellyandanchovy.com. The "moo chose grass see yas" set is a fun choice, too.

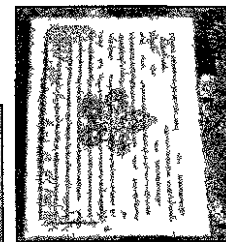
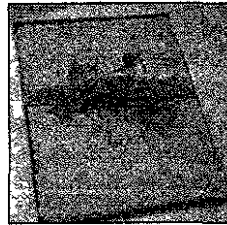
One Good Bumblebee

Next stop for thanking outside of the box? One Good Bumblebee serves up retro-inspired paper goodness that will make you think of your childhood — at least the good parts, anyway! The Unicorn Notes, bedecked with a unicorn and hearts, are a quirky choice, and since they're blank, you can express any sentiment you want. Pick up a set of five for \$10.50 at onegoodbumblebee.com. The Owl Trio Cards are also a hoot.

The Paper Princess

Also swoon-worthy? Vintage-inspired Bird Notecards, featuring hand-silkscreened sweet birds, at The Paper Princess. Delicate scalloped edging sends

Bird Note Cards,
5 for \$9.50 @
thepaperprincess.com

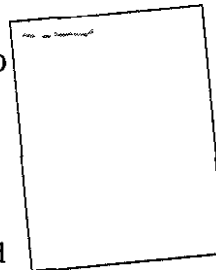


Blossoms, 10 for \$11 @
thepaperprincess.com

these cards off the adorable scale! Pick up a set of five for just \$9.50 at thepaperprincess.com. The Asian-inspired Blossoms Notecards are also irresistible.

Froy and Olo

If you'd like to literally personalize your cards without breaking the bank, shimmy on over to Froy and Olo. For just \$12, receive eight cards emblazoned with your name, "thank you" or whatever you can dream to say. For \$30, get 20 cards, plus coordinating address labels.

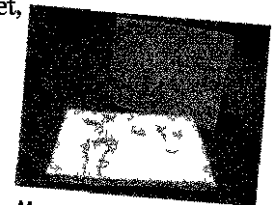


Autumn Lantern,
8 for \$12
@ froyandolo.com

I'm a fan of the simple Autumn Lantern cards, decorated with a flower-spotted Chinese lantern. See if you prefer birds, stripes or florals at froyandolo.com.

7twentyfour press

Another fab stationery designer is 7twentyfour press. The gracefully elegant Merci Beaucoup Set, featuring a simple flower illustration on blue cards with the words "merci beaucoup," comes in sets of five with matching blue envelopes for \$10. The bamboo-designed cards are also an original choice and are just \$2 each at 7twentyfourpress.com.



Merçi Beaucoup, 5 for \$10 @ 7twentyfour.com

Milkfed Press

If you're still not satiated, Milkfed Press will quench your thirst for couture stationery. Work with the designer to create the image and text you want to express.



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Pamplermousse Goes Global

Pamplermousse, the delectable bath and beauty boutique, has closed its doors and opened its browser window. After seven years in

downtown Northville, Pamplermousse has gone exclusively online. While we'll miss squeezing into the fragrant little shop on Center Street to smell and sample all the

goodies, the great new website continues the Pamplermousse tradition of carrying the finest quality natural products from France, Italy, Japan, and the US. It's easy

to navigate and find favorites brands like Burt's Bees, Cote Bastide,

to navigate and find favorites brands like Burt's Bees, Cote Bastide,



Davie's Gate
Cinnamon Powder
Sugar Bath Soak, \$21

Caswell-Massey and Dr. Hauschka. Now, if we get a craving for some Apricot Chamomile Body Wash or Starfruit Pear Bath

Salts we can shop their delectably edited selection of cosmetics, bath products and jewelry right from our desk! You can also sign up for e-mail updates or write product reviews. Pamplermousse offers free delivery to people within a 10 mile radius of downtown Northville, and custom gift baskets and wrapping. Shop online now and get a free mini heart soap from the south of France with orders over \$20. Visit www.pamplermousseonline.com

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Beaded Earrings,
\$46

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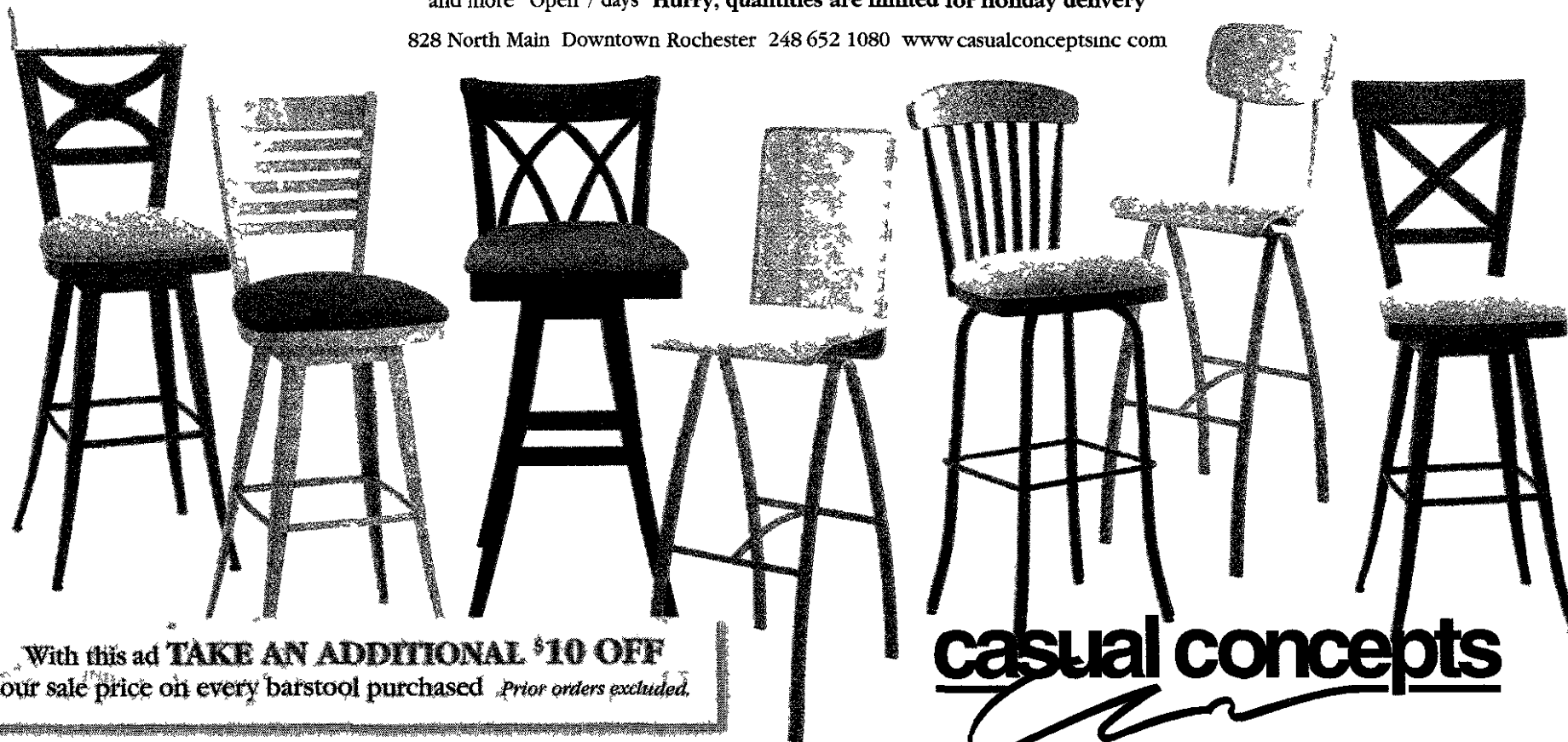
Plymouth
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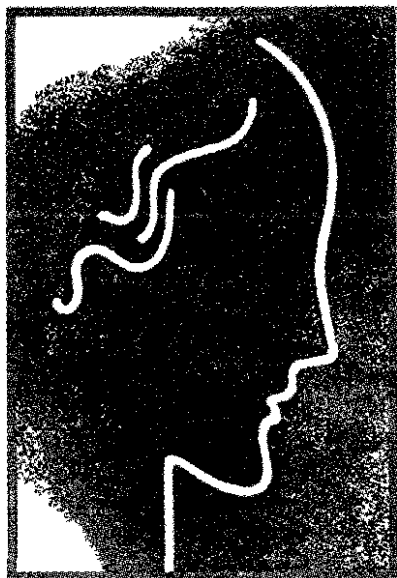
828 North Main, Downtown Rochester, 248 652 1080, www.casualconceptsinc.com



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Give the gift of scent
*New fragrances
for men and women*

By **Samantha Critchell** AP Fashion Writer

Many fragrances are built around a "note," a single scent that will stand out and linger, even when surrounded by a dozen other familiar smells

True Star Men by Tommy Hilfiger, however, is built around a man — and his mood



Enrique Iglesias is the male muse for the cologne, and he is someone who is easygoing and relaxed, says

Hilfiger, and so the scent had to be, too

"It had to be something that you don't have to worry about having too much or not enough on. It had to be cozy and comfortable. That got us thinking about a nap and the smell of corduroy pillows and a cool breeze," adds Ray Matts, vice president of corporate fragrance development worldwide for Estee Lauder Cos' Aramis and designer brands

The actual scent is a soft spiced wood with touches of pink grapefruit, black licorice, saffron and sandalwood

True Star Men is the companion to year-old True Star, which uses Beyonce as both its inspiration and spokesmodel

Hilfiger says he chose musicians instead of movie stars or other celebrities for the fragrance because his brand has a long association with music

"For True Star Men, I wanted a global superstar. A lot of women will buy this for their men. They'll say, 'If Enrique wears it, I want my man to be similar'"

For Iglesias' part, he knew he wanted the fragrance to be something he'd wear himself

"It's a cool thing because it's sweet with a little bit of kick."

He doesn't consider himself a fashion plate, though

"I know what I feel comfortable in. I don't want to feel like I'm in a costume

I wear something because I like it. I like stuff I could go to the movies in," says Iglesias

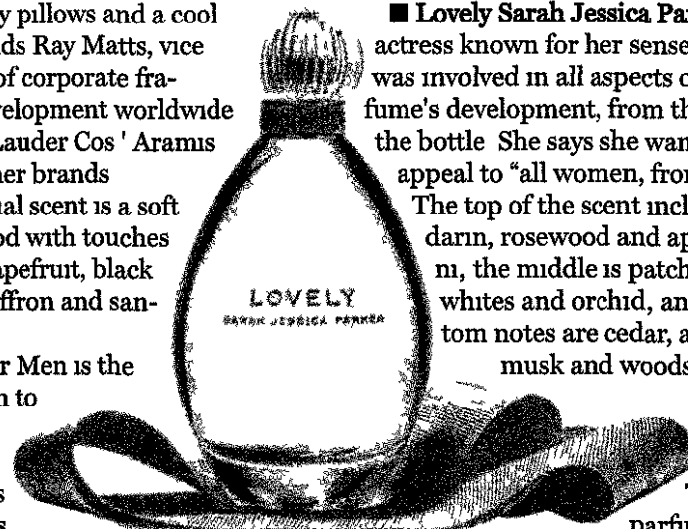
This season there are both men's and women's fragrances for all styles and tastes

■ **Live Jennifer Lopez.** It's called "choreography for the senses," with opening notes of Sicilian lemon, orange and pineapple. The heart is red currant with peony and violet, and the base is caramel with tonka beans and sandalwood

■ **Oscar Violet.** Oscar de la Renta's newest limited edition for women is lively, thanks to crisp Williams pear, mandarin orange and cinnamon, and sexy, with spicy musk and sandalwood. The heart of the fragrance, though, is the sweet floral violet

■ **Lovely Sarah Jessica Parker.** The actress known for her sense of style was involved in all aspects of the perfume's development, from the juice to the bottle. She says she wants it to appeal to "all women, from 17-107"

The top of the scent includes mandarin, rosewood and apple martini, the middle is patchouli, paper whites and orchid, and the bottom notes are cedar, amber, musk and woods



■ **Stella Rose Absolute.** This eau de

parfume from Stella McCartney is a more intense version of her signature scent. This one is all about the rose base (Bulgarian rose, Dades rose and Centifolia rose)

■ **Flowerbomb Extreme.** Another concentrated essence, this one from Viktor & Rolf features jasmine, vanilla, osmanthus and patchouli

■ **My Queen.** Alexander McQueen is an unpredictable designer and his new perfume reflects that. The notes range from Parma violet and almond, to heliotrope and Florentine iris. He describes it as a "kaleidoscope" of scents



this holiday season

■ **Euphoria by Calvin Klein.** This is an oriental floral fragrance aiming to contrast exotic fruits, including pomegranate and persimmon and florals, like lotus blossom and black orchid, but with a creamy signature

■ **Arpege Pour Homme.**

Lanvin launches its male counterpart 80 years after the classic women's Arpege. Perfumer Olivier Pescheux from Givaudan studied the women's perfume to come up with the complementary formula of pink peppercorns, bitter orange, iris, nutmeg, vanilla and rare woods, among other notes

■ **Very Irresistible Givenchy Sensual.**

Liv Tyler is the 'face' of the brand, which has gone so far to create — and name — a rose accord for her. The Liv Tyler rose is fruity and crisp. It's blended with star anise, vanilla and patchouli. Givenchy also introduces a companion cologne, Very Irresistible Givenchy for Men, which is green, sensual and woody using notes such as sesame seed, mocha, mint, hazelnut and cedar

■ **Polo Black.** Ralph Lauren's men's scent builds upon the designer's fall fashion collection that was inspired by antique racing cars. The aromatic wood fusion fragrance blends iced mango, silver armoire, an herb grown in France, and patchouli noir

■ **Burberry Brit Gold.** This limited-edition fragrance is a more amber-infused oriental with magnolia, black currant, vanilla and intense musks

■ **L'Occitane Eau de Recolte Bleue.** The lavender harvest remains a tradition in Haute Provence, France, and this fragrance aims to capture it in a bottle. There are notes of green leaves, lavender, freesia, marigold, frosted peach, and woody and musky aromas

■ **Paul Smith Floral.** This is a tribute to the 1970s' flower power, with citrus and ginger top notes, a heart of white magnolia, orchid and osmanthus blossom, and a base of amber, woods, musk and tonka beans

■ **Bijan Wicked.** Both a women's and men's version of this

fragrance is being offered. Wicked Woman is a floral scent that has a fruity top, floral mid-notes and a dry down of sandalwood, jasmine and blue lotus. Wicked Man includes notes of ozone, citrus, greens, carnation, Lily of the Valley, Kashmir sandalwood, velvet musk and blue amber

■ **Alien Thierry Mugler.** This women's perfume fuses amber, woody and floral notes. Part of the floral scent is created by a note of jasmine sambac, a flower that grows in the Indian sun that has both a hint of green and orange blossom

■ **Jean Paul Gaultier's Classique Parfum Haute Couture Corset.** This is a new treatment for Classique, bottling it in a hand-tailored corset-shaped bottle with a "bodice" of pink satin

■ **Jo Malone Pomegranate Noir Cologne.** This is a unisex fragrance that aims to capture the deep red fruit. Pomegranate notes are combined with raspberry, plum, rhubarb, watermelon, jasmine, pink peppercorn and musk, among other scents, to create something that's both spicy and sweet. Malone says the inspiration was actually the color of a friend's red dress

■ **Wonderful.** This perfume from Estee Lauder's American Beauty collection is a romantic floral with a base of Mackay orchid, a rich, feminine floral. Other accords are wild poppies, white gardenia, orange, wild honeysuckle, jasmine and California redwood

■ **Kenneth Cole Signature.** This is for "the man who's made it," according to a statement. It has a golden amber color and notes of grapefruit, pimento berries, marine essence, espresso bean, guaiac wood and patchouli

■ **Spirit Antonio Banderas for Women.** The 'date' for actor Banderas' men's cologne. It has a top of citrus, plum, red fruit and orange blossom flower accords, undertones of white flowers, and a finishing scent of woody orientals

■ **Precious Jewel by Ashanti.** The singer says she wanted to add a personal touch, so she worked with perfumers on the fruity floral scent. The fragrance opens with bergamot, crushed marigold buds, apple, peach, plum and raspberry, with middle notes of jasmine and ylang-ylang, among other flowers, and a sensual base of sandalwood and oak moss

Unique hospital gift shop boutique helps enliven patient's spirits in a bright way...

At Henry Ford Hospital in W Bloomfield, there is a true gem of a gift shop that sparkles like a mystical wonderland with custom made jewelry, imported velvet and silk dusters, beaded and leather purses and one of a kind natural stone creations at savings that could be likened to a medical breakthrough

However the best gift patients and visitors alike receive at Accessories by Stephanie, is neither on a shelf nor in a rack, but found behind the counter with the genuine warmth extended from the owner Stephanie Oram and her staff, who strive to make each person they greet feel valued and special — this is the truest of gifts, given from the heart...

So the next time you are in the market for a special trinket for yourself or someone you love — stop by the hospital boutique with a big heart affectionately known as Accessories by Stephanie, and you too will be touched by their warmth which will surely brighten your day!

Accessories by Stephanie is located at Henry Ford Hospital, W Bloomfield.

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BEYOND THE WINDOW

with Lainey

Gift ideas for the female spirit

Okay, by now you've probably seen every holiday shopping guide known to humankind. So, I'll just add my last minute two cents with gift ideas for the female spirit — from stocking stuffers to serious stuff? If you're still in an idea rut — stop spinning those wheels, and let's get moving beyond some windows! Here are a few of my favorite things and where to find them. (When you're finished reading this column, subtly place it in his pocket! Maybe he'll get the hint!)

iPods are fun, but so are the sounds of joy elicited by a soft cashmere sweater or sparkly top — especially in one of this season's hot shades!

Ruehl No. 925 (Twelve Oaks) rules for cashmere and fleece. How about a cute hoodie? Accompany it with jeans by Juicy Couture or Seven found at Marshall Field's, Nordstrom or Saks. (Somerset)

How did we ever live without day spas and beauty apothecaries? Pamper someone you love with a gift card. Some full-menu spas Margot's European Day Spa,

Avalon Salon & Spa and Orchid Day Spa (all in Birmingham), Spa Julianna (Plymouth) and La Dolce Vita (Rochester)

The latest scents, lotions, essences and cosmetics can be found at Sephora (area malls)

Todd's Room (Birmingham) brims with the latest products including Stephane Marais, Nars and Anastasia. Ruby's Balm (West Bloomfield) suggests the gold-plated Shu Uemura eyelash curler or the new "Memoirs of a Geisha" beauty line by Fresh

For sultry lingerie, venture to Harp's (Birmingham), La Corsetiere (Northville) or Victoria's Secret, with its "Pink" collection (how clever!) It boasts the Charm Me solid perfume heart bracelet, pom pom knee socks, pink chokers for pooch and more

Hand-written notes and scrap-books are back! The Marcel Schurman collection of lucky stationery and cards includes adorable stick-on trims called

"do-jiggies" at area Papyrus, Borders and other specialty stores

For mall shopping, BCBG, Bebe, Louis Vuitton and Guess (including great watches) are all lines that "wow" Or, say it with anything Swarovski (My personal "must have" is the annual snowflake ornament)

In Royal Oak, pick up fun jewelry, clothing and "blingy" key chains/purse charms at Incognito Or, check out Metals in Time and Charlotte for contemporary jewelry designs, and Paris for great vintage fashions and accents

A Birmingham spree takes you to Ann Taylor Loft for great styles, or Anthropologie, a one-stop shop with everything from unique clothing to garden accessories to interior design items Tender and Ariada bring couture fashions to a lucky someone, while David Wachler & Sons, Astren's, Grinstein's and Halina Fuchs are great bets for gorgeous upscale jewelry creations

And Mount-N-Repair (tucked away on Pierce Street) carries way cool moderately priced jewels. Also on Pierce, Gracie's is the spot for sizzling purses with labels such as Cocoblanco and Goldenbleu

Hit Caruso Caruso for True Religion jeans and tons of other lines, and This 's Me, a trendy new shop with friendly staff and inviting cushy couches. It's Optik for vintage accessories, and ask to see a colorful selection of sterling silver and Swarovski crystal heart necklaces — tres cute!

Dazzle the taste buds with the new Godiva Platinum line, Trader Joe's Truffles or Yogi Ginger Tea

Other winners gift cards from area Starbucks, Karma

Tea + Tonics (Ferndale) or the new Port City Java (West Bloomfield) And at Holiday Market (Royal Oak), find a split of Pommery Pink POP, a French rosé champagne packaged all in pink!

Spoil a sweets lover with hand-designed chocolates from Chocolat, Le Petit Prince or Kilwin's (all in Birmingham), or Gayle's (Royal Oak) And any Epicurean would appreciate a Rachael Ray cookbook from Barnes & Noble

Elaine "Lainey" Perlman Crossley is a freelance writer and marathon shopper based in West Bloomfield. She can be reached at (586) 612-7177

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Handcrafted Holidays

Find unique handcrafted gifts as Paint Creek Center for the Arts hosts its Holiday Gift Gallery through Jan 7. This annual event features original items by more than 50 Michigan artists and is the local outlet for Pewabic Pottery. Browse hand blown glass ornaments, hand knit scarves, mittens and hats, soy candles, goat milk soaps and lotions, unique jeweled pens, photo albums and gift cards. All sales benefit the center, located at 407 Pine St, Rochester. Look for a 20 percent off coupon in the Holiday Happenings Guide in the Eccentric Newspapers or at www.pccart.org.

The Chocolate Encounter

In conjunction with the love struck exhibition *Camille Claudel and Rodin. Fateful Encounter* at the DIA, Gayle's Chocolates of Royal Oak is producing a one of a kind chocolate bar for the holiday season. Each bar \$7 is elegantly wrapped with an image of Camille Claudel's *The Waltz*. Watch for golden tickets placed in 10 bars, sold at Gayle's and Detroit Metro Airport, to receive two VIP exhibition tickets, a Gayle's Chocolate gift certificate, the book *Camille Claudel: A Life*, a \$20 Cafe DIA gift certificate and free valet parking.



Sweet Santabear

Santabear 2005 is here! For every Santabear sold, Marshall Field's will make a donation to *Thanks and Giving*, the nationwide campaign benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, up to a total of \$150,000. Choose from Santabear Mrs. Santabear, Christopher Radko ornaments, stocking caps and throws. Or give a Marshall Field's gift card held by a mini Santabear.



A Plymouth Christmas
Find one of a kind gifts and enjoy an old fashioned downtown shopping experience this season in **Downtown Plymouth**. Enjoy the Walk of Trees in Kellogg Park, carols in the streets every Friday and extended hours at 50 retail shops and restaurants seven days a week through Christmas Eve. Visit www.plymouthmi.org.

Santa at Saks
Visit Old St. Nick in the Children's Shop on the third floor of **Saks Fifth Avenue**, Somerset every weekend through Christmas Eve. Santa will pose for photos and listen to wish lists noon-3 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Framed Polaroids are \$10 and buttons are \$20 with proceeds benefiting Make A Wish foundation of Michigan.

Unique (G)ifts
Check out **Rated (G)** for holiday deals on jewelry, needlepoint, canes and tons of baby and kids stuff from clothes and jean jackets (up to 4T) to growth

charts and blankets. **Rated (G)** is located in the Claymoor, 29260 Franklin Rd., Southfield (248) 352-7878.

Girly Girl Shopping Event

Girly Girl of Northville and **Fashion Divas** are hosting a Ladies Nite Out for last minute holiday shopping 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20. Find fabulous deals on gifts for all the Girly Girls on your shopping list! Fashion Divas will be offering their trendy handbags, high fashion accessories and beautiful costume jewelry of the season. Drawings for special prizes throughout the evening. **Girly Girl**, 125 E. Main Street, Northville. Call (248) 449-8890.

j e w e l r y

Shop Foland's for a Cause

Foland's Jewelry in Royal Oak is supporting the **Weinstein Theatre Enrichment Fund** with part of this holiday season's sales. Fellow jeweler Gary Weinstein founded the WTE Fund to honor the memory of his wife and two sons who were tragically killed in an auto accident this May. The ultimate goal of the charity is to build a theatre bearing the family's name. **Foland's Jewelry** will also donate proceeds from Weinstein Foundation wristbands and keychains to the cause. Visit www.wtefund.com for more information. Foland's is located at 630 East Eleven Mile in Royal Oak.

Jewelry Liquidation Sale

After 95 years as a family business, **Sidney Krandall & Sons** has announced it will close due to

the poor economic forecast, ending its reign as the oldest family owned jewelry store operating in Metro Detroit. Bid the Krandalls a fond farewell and browse going out of business sales of the entire \$21 million inventory at locations in Troy and Auburn Hills. Call (248) 855-6777.

Brighton Lovers Unite!

Catch an exclusive showing of Brighton jewelry's brand new holiday collection at **Parisian**, one day only. Designed by Brighton founder and owner Jerry Kohl, the collection features silver earrings, necklaces and bracelets made by hand, ranging from \$200-\$600. View and buy at **Village of Rochester Hills Parisian** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 22 and **Laurel Park Parisian** 3-7 p.m. Dec. 22. The success of the trunk shows will determine whether Brighton will continue to sell at Parisian in the new year. Partial proceeds from a woven chain necklace with a heart pendant and matching bracelet will be donated to breast cancer research.

f a s h i o n

Loop-d-Loop Trunk Show

Browse a beautiful collection of knitwear from **Teva Durham's** blockbuster book **Loop d Loop**, Dec. 27-Jan. 16, exclusive to **Hampton Mills** in Birmingham. Make your own Loop d Loop traveling cables sweater, corkscrew scarf, ballet top or braided neckpiece during special knitting classes. Call (248) 593-8559 or visit www.hamptonmills.com.



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style brief



Holiday window shopping

NEW YORK — It's a holiday parade that rivals the Macy's Thanksgiving Day version or the New Year's Rose Parade. The trek made by thousands of people each day to see the fanciful windows at Manhattan's most famous stores.

For many families, both locals and visitors, viewing the special displays is as much a holiday-time tradition as gift-giving itself. The stores know this, with many embracing a new theme and more elaborate decorations each year.

■ Lord & Taylor brings to life six fairy tales — "The Princess and the Pea," "Rumpelstiltskin," "The Twelve Dancing Princesses," "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "Cinderella" — with animated figures, detailed scenes and music.

When the retailer moved into its current location at 424 Fifth Ave. in 1914, it installed a unique hydraulic lift system that allows for complex work to be completed below street level and the whole

window is simply raised into place.

■ Macy's windows are dedicated to 'Christmastime in the City,' featuring famous New York scenes as an animated pop-up book. The store is located at the intersection of Broadway and 34th Street.

■ Saks Fifth Avenue takes a new direction with a story of universal love instead of a more traditional holiday tale. The idea is to promote the beauty of diversity and the rewards of global harmony.

Saks does, however, continue last year's snowflake theme, using brightly lit snowflakes in some windows at the store on Fifth Avenue between 49th and 50th streets, and using snowflakes as the seasonal symbol on bags and boxes.

■ Tiffany & Co.'s windows, on the corner of Fifth Avenue and 57th Street, will be wrapped in traditional tartan plaid, highlighting gems from the Schlumberger and Paloma Picasso collections in addition to Art Deco, Tiffany Legacy and Tiffany Lace pieces.

— Associated Press

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2005's best coffee table fashion

style-philes will love these books

By **Samantha Critchell**, AP Fashion Writer

The fashion world loves petite things, skinny things, colorful things — except when it comes to its books.

Among the season's fashion-themed, coffee-table, gift-worthy books the trends are big, thick, and black-and-white.

The mammoth "Louis Vuitton" (Abrams, \$125) by Paul-Gerard Pasols features a monogrammed leather handle on the cover, inviting readers to pull open the lid on the luxury brand's 151-year history.

The first image isn't a now-ubiquitous LV logo or a runway shot of toast-of-the-town designer Marc Jacobs' latest collection, it's a portrait of Louis Vuitton himself, a mustached Frenchman born in a mountainous region in 1821.

He had a yearning for adventure and he found it in the lively, gossipy city of Paris, even then he understood about the power of publicity.

While he'd taken a job as an apprentice to a box maker, he eventually elevated himself to a trunk maker. The rest is history — and the book does indeed devote many pages to explaining what life was like in France in the mid-19th century so readers will understand how special Vuitton's life story of luxury and success really is.

A more modern master of his craft is "shoemaker" Manolo Blahnik. Women covet his shoes like no others (though Jimmy Choo and Christian Louboutin are nipping at his heels). His shoes are status symbols. They're sex symbols. They're on the feet

of every celebrity and socialite worth noting.

However, "Blahnik by Boman. Shoes, Photographs, Conversations"

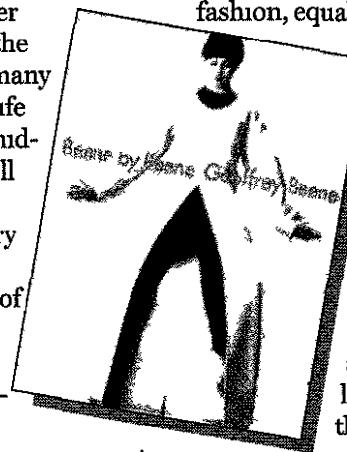
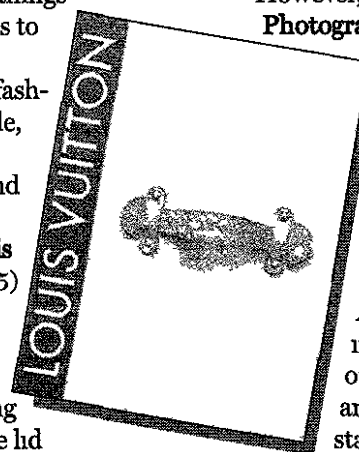
(Chronicle, \$85), a collaboration between Blahnik and photographer Eric Boman, focuses on the artistry and handcraft of the shoes themselves.

There's no Carrie Bradshaw from "Sex and the City," no Amazonian Brazilian model in a bikini and stilettos. The only sexy thing on these pages are the curvy heels that often stand four (or more) inches tall.

The cover photo is a white ankle-strap shoe with black trim with a color-coordinated measuring cup and porcelain plate. Inside, a rust-colored velvet mule fades into an autumnal tapestry and a high-heeled work boot takes its place next to a clamp, wrench, box of nuts and bolts, and a bottle of Corona.

"Beene by Beene" (Vendome, \$65) was indeed conceived by designer Geoffrey Beene but it was still in the works when he died last year. Marylou Luther, James Wolcott and Pamela A. Parmal are credited in the final version as contributors.

The book traces Beene's 40 years in fashion, equally through words and fashion photos. It's noteworthy that some of Beene's earliest creations — including a graphic black-and-white empire waist shift and a black turtleneck dress with a skirt made of feathers — were as identifiable as a "Beene" as much as a black-and-white curvilinear silk crepe dress from the spring 2004 collection and a gray wool jersey dress with draped and quilted hip bands from 2002.



Pierre Cardin claims even a longer fashion history in **'Pierre Cardin: Fifty Years of Fashion and Design'** (Vendome, \$55) by Elisabeth Langle. Langle is a personal friend of Cardin, one of the first couturiers to create a ready-to-wear collection, back in 1959.

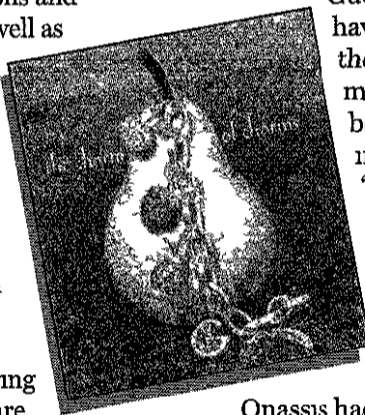
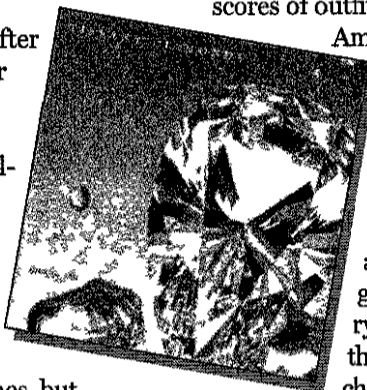
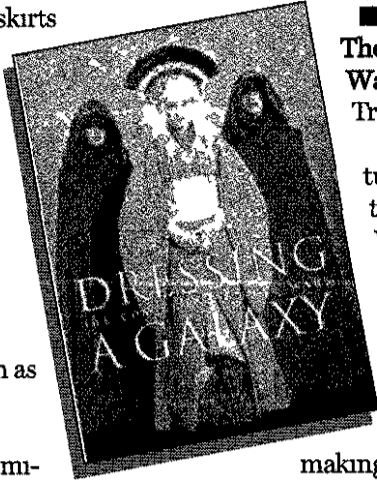
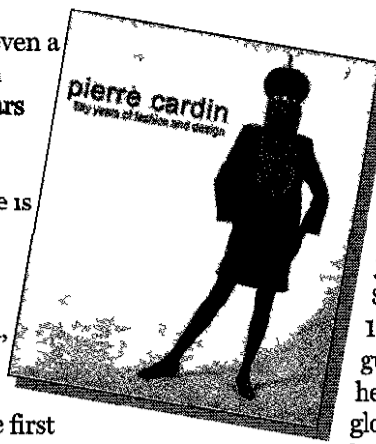
The book is arranged chronologically, with the first two-thirds resembling a newsreel, marking changes in style trends. In 1951, women wore long pleated skirts under belted suit jackets. Fast-forward to 1959 and they were wearing strapless cocktail dresses with voluminous draped skirts. In the 1960s, Cardin dressed the Beatles and "The Avengers." In 1996, Cardin's style had a sleek futurist tone.

But Cardin is also known as a restaurateur, furniture designer and sculptor, and those accomplishments dominate the last third of the book.

"Madeleine Vionnet" (Chronicle, \$100) by costume restorer Betty Kirke with a foreword by Issey Miyake is back in print after 14 years with a new cover photograph of her white crepe romane pajamas and short cape of rose velvet from 1931. Vionnet might not be as well known nowadays as her contemporaries Jeanne Lanvin or Coco Chanel, who both have lived on through their brand names, but Vionnet was equally influential and her stamp is still seen in modern styles such as the bias cut and double-sided fabrics. This book boasts photographs and Vionnet's own sketches as well as actual patterns dating back to a 1918 silk crepe dress that was rectangle-based, cut on the grain, finished with a jabot, cowl neck and rolled hem.

Several other books are sure to appeal to those with certain fashion fetishes.

■ **"Tiffany Diamonds"** (Abrams, \$50) by John Loring. Tiffany & Co. diamonds are famous around the globe for their quality, charisma and the tradition they reflect. Loring aims to include all those facets in the book.



There are pictures of sparkling diamonds in elaborate and creative settings, but some of the most interesting images are the sketches that became famous pieces of jewelry or the receipt of a \$50 diamond ring sold in 1896 with a money-back guarantee. A particularly helpful tool might be the glossary, which explains the four "Cs" of diamonds — cut, clarity, color and carat weight.

■ **"Dressing A Galaxy: The Costumes of Star Wars"** (Abrams, \$50) by Trisha Biggar.

Biggar served as costume designer on the three most recent Star Wars movies and she welcomes readers to our worlds. The wardrobe staff on the films ranged in numbers from 80 to 120, she explains, and

making head or body casts was one of the most time-consuming tasks.

The book highlights costumes from all the films, paying extra attention to the scores of outfits worn by Padme

Amidala, who, maybe not so coincidentally, was played by fashion plate Natalie Portman.

■ **"The Charm of Charms"** (Abrams, \$32.50) by Jade Albert and Ki Hackney. This elegant book details the history of charm bracelets and the meaning of different charms and symbols. It includes vivid photographs

and titillating stories from Betsey Johnson, Miuccia Prada and Cornelia Guest. Albert and Hackney have included a glossary in the back to check the meaning of common symbols and charms. These include entries such as "the red ladybug — a time-honored harbinger of good luck, or the pomegranate, which is "an ancient symbol of prosperity and fertility." Jackie Kennedy Onassis had a charm bracelet with a golden pomegranate in the center.

— Lindsey Patterson contributed to this report.

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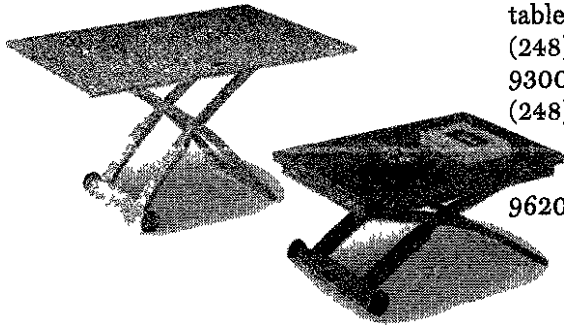
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Ho-ho-hold on: Here's a Last-minute gift guide

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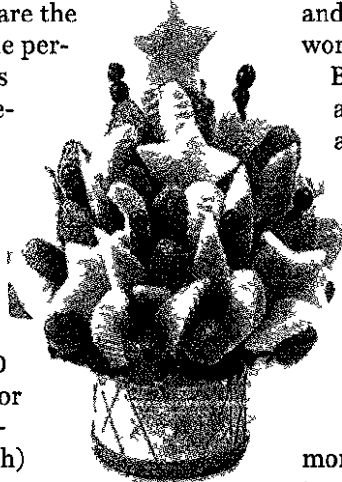
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Laura Kovalcik

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More women see real estate as viable investment option

(NAPSI)-According to a recent national survey, a growing number of women are getting into homeownership and real estate investing. The National Association of Realtors Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers reveals

- Approximately 21 percent of all home buyers are single women for a total of 1.7 million

- Single women purchase approximately one in five homes, while one in 10 are purchased by single men

- The single female segment of the home-buyer population accounts for 18 percent of all home buyers

- More women (15.5 million) than men (11.8 million) live alone. Among these, women are more likely than men to own their homes (56 percent vs. 47 percent)

- Almost one-quarter of the nation's nearly eight million single mothers spend more than half their incomes on housing,

compared with one-tenth of households headed by single fathers

- Between 1994 and 2002, the number of unmarried females owning homes climbed from 13.9 million to 17.5 million

"In today's climate, in which women are more career-driven, independent and financially savvy, they're recognizing what we discovered in our research—and that is, real estate is the most 'able' investment a person can make. It's appreciable, leveragable, improvable and stable," said Dave Jenks, co-author of *The Millionaire Real Estate Investor* (McGraw-Hill)

A recent best-seller on *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *BusinessWeek* lists, the book showcases one-on-one interviews with 120 millionaires who built personal wealth by making their money work for them, versus

working for their money

What's more, they did it all within the real estate market

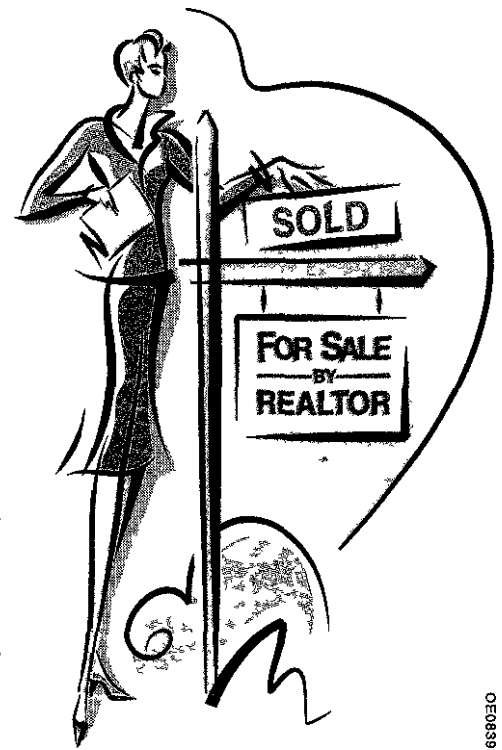
The book also takes a hard look at the money myths — or 'Myth Understandings' — that deter some people from investing. They include

- Investing is complicated
- The best investments require knowledge most people don't have
- Successful investors are able to time the market

- All of the good investments are taken

According to co-author Jay Papasan, most of the investors interviewed identified with at least one of these "Myth-Understandings" before buying their first investment properties

You can find the book at most bookstores and learn more at www.millionairesystems.com



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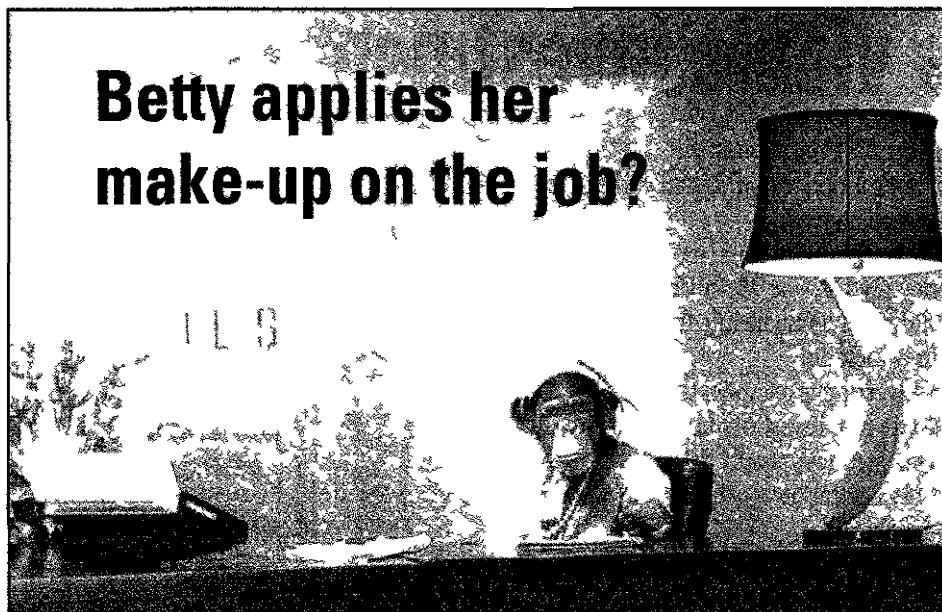
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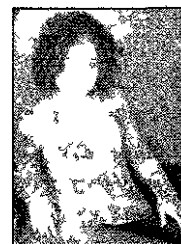
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Japanese skin care comes to town

By Wensdy White

Until recently, only well-traveled women knew about SK-II, and smuggled the coveted creams and lotions home in their luggage from overseas. Now, local women can get their hands on the secret ingredient that keeps Japanese women looking young and flawless. Saks Fifth Avenue Somerset just opened an SK-II counter, complete with digital skin analysis and a full line of products that promise "the miracle of rebirth for skin and soul."

The SK-II line is based on a component of sake discovered 25 years ago by a Japanese monk. The monk visited a sake brewery in Kobe and noticed that workers — even the oldest of them — had ageless hands. After study and research, he isolated a property of sake called Pitera, a clear, nutrient-rich liquid that nourishes the skin. Pitera is the key ingredient in the SK-II skincare line.

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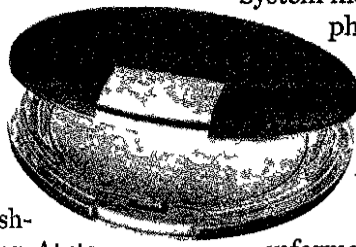


renewing All skin types merely splash this lightweight "holy water" all over their face after cleansing and toning, to prepare for moisturizing.

Other key products include a Whitening Source, which reduces visible spots, and Facial Treatment Repair C, a compound which hydrates the skin, helping to reduce fine lines and improve elasticity.

The SK-II counter at Saks treats customers to a complete state-of-the-art skin analysis. A skin moisture sensor measures whether your skin is hydrated enough (and we all know hydration is key to preventing wrinkles). Then, a Beauty Imaging

The simple, unscented system includes products for purifying, anti-aging, illuminating, refining, nourishing and boosting. At its core is the Facial Treatment Essence for



System machine snaps close-up photos of your profile, analyzing it for spots (due to sun damage), pores, texture, wrinkles and porphyrins, a by-product of bacteria. SK-II reps take all the information into account as they recommend a tailor-made skin care ritual — and ritual is the operative word. SK-II encourages women to make skin care meditative. Products come with instructions for a do-it-yourself Gen-Ki Energy Facial, and the line's simple, clean packaging reflects the company's Zen philosophy.

But this indulgence comes at a price. The SK-II line is definitely upscale skincare, with prices ranging from \$50 for Facial Treatment Cleanser to \$300 for Facial Treatment Concentrate.



If you splurge, start with the Facial Treatment Essence, \$85, and build your collection from there. Visit www.sk2.com

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style scope

By Kat

Aries (March 21 April 20)

Try a punch of color for inspiration and fend off those dull winter days. Think lilac yellows and shades of rich blues.

Celebrity Sign Mate: Sarah Jessica Parker

Taurus (April 21 May 20)

Glam it up as we ring in the New Year with a fabulous cocktail dress in lush red or classic black.

Celebrity Sign Mate: Uma Thurman

Gemini (May 21 June 22)

Organization is key. Invest in a stylish planner (think pretty color texture etc.) that you'll want to pull out and use daily.

Celebrity Sign Mate: Molly Sims

Cancer (June 23 July 22)

Get a manicure or buff away those winter blues with a facial while getting some much needed down time. Good skin is on every editor's list for spring! Why not start now?

Celebrity Sign Mate: Jessica Simpson

Leo (July 23 Aug 22)

Invest in a pair of shoes that will add spice to any outfit. Stacked heels are still hot for spring and will last longer for girls on the go during the holiday party season.

Celebrity Sign Mate: Debra Messing

Virgo (Aug 23 Sept 22)

Investing in stylish workout wear or a new pair of

sneakers will make working out a bit more enjoyable for fashion conscious Virgo.

Celebrity Sign Mate: Cameron Diaz

Libra (Sept 23 Oct 23)

Soft waves give your hair a soft romantic edge that will make you the belle of the ball or the beauty in all your family holiday pics.

Celebrity Sign Mate: Kelly Ripa

Scorpio (Oct 24 Nov 21)

Brighten your horizons (or at least your closet) with soft feminine touches such as bows and soft shades of pink. You'll feel elegant and pretty while channeling one of Spring's hottest trends.

Celebrity Sign Mate: Julia Roberts

Sagittarius (Nov 22 Dec 21)

Hit up vintage stores for romantic pieces for Spring. Think ruffles and high waist lines.

Celebrity Sign Mate: Katie Holmes

Capricorn (Dec 22 Jan 19)

Express your artistic style with a fun cocktail ring sure to draw some jealous glances at the gallery soirees you'll be attending soon enough!

Celebrity Sign Mate: Diane Keaton

Aquarius (Jan 20 Feb 18)

Stock up on resort wear: a cute bathing suit or two and head somewhere tropical! It's time you felt some warmth of your own.

Celebrity Sign Mate: Jennifer Aniston

Pisces (Feb 19 March 20)

A quilted jacket is the perfect piece to curl up in fire side while looking chic. Look for cropped versions for Spring.

Celebrity Sign Mate: Cindy Crawford

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