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Dear Readers,
We hope you enjoy today's "holiday version" of your Observer Newspaper. It offers a wider view of the area's news, sports and features. Look for these special editions on Dec. 31 and Jan. 3. Your hometown Observer returns Sunday, Jan. 6. I welcome your comments. Happy New Year,
Susan M. Rosiek,
Executive Editor
srosiek@hometownlife.com

Store makes special delivery of husband's final gift

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

A Livonia woman whose husband passed away just hours after ordering her Christmas gift received that final expression of his love courtesy of the store that took the order. The owners and staff of Showroom of Elegance Fine

Jewelry, 6018 Canton Center, Canton, gave a pendant to Lisa Beyer of Livonia that her husband, Michael McCluskey, had ordered before his death. McCluskey died unexpectedly Dec. 13, 2007. He was 43 years old. Rick Denman, manager of the jewelry store, said the pendant was delivered to the store

and they called to tell Mr. Beyer it was ready for pickup. It was then they learned he had passed away. "We found out he had died on the day he ordered the pendant," he said. "We called on the day of his funeral." Lisa Beyer had been home from her husband's funeral for about two hours when she

picked up his cell phone. "The person on the phone said, 'Oh no, you're the wife, aren't you?' and I had to explain what had happened," she said. After the call, Denman said he and the other store employees started talking about what to do. After some debate, they wrapped the piece and delivered it.

"We decided to do the right thing," Denman said. "We all felt really bad, they (the Beyers) had both been customers for years, so the store decided to pay for it." This was a surprise to Beyer, who had planned to go to the store and purchase the pendant anyway, if only to have his final gift.

"I was speechless when I saw the man in the driveway," she said. "It was so generous and kind." Besides Christmas, the couple would have celebrated their first anniversary Dec. 28. "He was a wonderful man," Beyer said. "I have a developmentally disabled son and he'd taken responsibility for him."

Canton teen killed in tragic skiing accident

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

The day after 13-year-old Clare Dougherty died, the atmosphere at Shanty Creek Resorts was somber. "This was a very tragic, freak accident that just tears your heart out," said Jack Eslick, Shanty Creek chief operating officer and general manager. "It's been a hard day."

Clare, a Canton Township girl, was vacationing with family on Christmas Day when she decided to hit the slopes once more before leaving the Custer Township resort in the northern Lower Peninsula. She was killed when she went off a slope and struck a retaining wall.

Her inexperience, coupled with a lack of a helmet, contributed to her death, according to Antrim County Sheriff Terry Johnson.

Plymouth-Canton Schools spokesman Frank Ruggierello confirmed Wednesday that Dougherty was an eighth-grader at Pioneer Middle School. He spoke to Pioneer Principal Phil Freeman, who personally knew the girl and her family.

"Mr. Freeman knew Clare and her family very well. He's feeling very bad for the family. He said she was a wonderful student, and a great kid," he said.

Ruggierello said once the students return from winter break on Jan. 7, the district will have its support team available for students. "Mr. Freeman has already contacted counselors at the school," he said. "They will be available to help students grieve."

Eslick, who had met with Clare's father, said the family had been vacationing at the resort with a host of other family members.

"You could tell his heart was broken," he said. "The good thing was that he had the support of all of his family right there."

It's unclear whether Clare, who was discovered by a group of snowboarders, was alone on the slopes or with her brother.

"I've heard different stories but no one saw the accident," Eslick said. "She was out there having fun and trying to do some more skiing before her family left."

Eslick said this was the first fatality at the resort.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The mother/daughter power shopping team of Canton residents Christine and Olivia Wofford found plenty of deals at Westland Mall on Wednesday.

Holiday hang over?

Stores not crowded with day-after Christmas shoppers

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER



Merchant Rebecca Johnson of Stockings To Stuf, a kiosk store in Westland Mall, thought that sales were off for the day after Christmas. She lives in Westland.

Wednesday was no Black Friday. "This is totally amazing," said Rebecca Johnson of Stockings To Stuf. "I've been here since 7 a.m. and haven't had a customer yet."

As a covering of fog hovered over metro Detroit Wednesday morning, only a sprinkle of vehicles occupied the parking lot at Westland Shopping Center. The same was true for the Target, Burlington Coat Factory and TJ Maxx stores that sit opposite the mall. In Canton, Wal-Mart had a sparse crowd for its 6 a.m. opening.

Johnson, who sells Christmas stockings and hats from a kiosk in Westland mall, said shopper turnout for the day after Christmas was a stark contrast to the day after Thanksgiving.

"On Black Friday, I got here at 6:20 a.m. to open at 7 a.m. and spent 20 minutes in the parking lot trying to find a space. Today, I parked right in the front. It seems like either everyone got gift cards or exactly what they wanted," she said, while leaning in front of a

Please see **SHOPPING, A4**



PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Michigan Speaker of the House Andy Dillon visits with constituents Frank Wiecha and Jim Nagy during a coffee hour visit at Leo's Coney Island in Dearborn Heights.

House Speaker Dillon keeping focused on Michigan's future

BY MATT JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Andy Dillon is bullish on Michigan.

Despite another year of bad economic news and a messy state budget process that he says overshadowed Lansing's accomplishments, Dillon, the speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, sees a better future.

Getting there, he adds, will require overcoming a negative state image and restoring faith in state government.

"If we don't change that perception of our state, it's going to be harder for us to turn it around," Dillon said last week as he began a two-week holiday break.

Dillon, 46, a nearly lifelong Redford Township resident, was catapulted to statewide prominence 13 months ago, when House Democrats named him their leader after he was elected to a second full term.

Low-key and unassuming, he became one of three players — the other two being Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, the Senate majority leader — in the spotlight as efforts to patch a \$1.8 billion hole in the state's budget dragged into the fall, finally resulting in a mixture of new taxes and spending reforms.

ANDY DILLON

Background: Redford Township native, Catholic Central graduate, accounting and law degrees from the University of Notre Dame, high school and college track star, former corporate attorney and financial analyst.

Family: wife Carol; sons Matthew, Jack and Austin; daughter Teagan.

Hobbies: "I used to golf."
Current books: "Profiles in Courage," by John F. Kennedy, and "The Second Civil War: How Extreme Partisanship Has Paralyzed Washington" and "Polarized America," by Ronald Brownstein. "It parallels very well what I just went through," Dillon said.

Dillon is blunt about what Michigan was up against.

"The state was facing insolvency in February if we didn't deal with the solution in September," he said.

But the crisis atmosphere, Dillon said, allowed for reforms that wouldn't have gotten done otherwise.

"It's a very challenging job, and as bad as it was ... it's a good time to be there," he

Please see **DILLON, A6**



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Livonia native's roles grow, from TV ads to 'Charlie Wilson's War'

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Livonia native Michael Spellman plays CIA Agent Patrick in *Charlie Wilson's War*, which opened Friday.

"I give out information to move the story along," said Spellman, who shot scenes opposite Philip Seymour Hoffman and Tom Hanks.

Spellman's first major motion picture was directed by Mike Nichols.

"Here's this kid from Livonia, Mich., in that company. I was speechless," Spellman said in an interview at his parents' house. "I couldn't ask for a better experience and a better group of people to learn from."

Spellman, a 1997 graduate of Churchill High School, joined the Creative and Performing Arts program as a junior there and went on to study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in L.A.

He returned home in time to see *Charlie Wilson's War* with his family.

Though disappointed that he didn't get to go to his first premiere (the invitation came after the fact), he said, "How appropriate would it be for me to see my first film (back home)."

The good thing about being at home is nobody really cares how many of his scenes got cut, he said.

To them, it's just important that he's in it.

He also played a doctor, Jim Babinski, for three episodes in the 2005 season of "ER."



Michael Spellman's resume includes stage, TV and now, a major film, "Charlie Wilson's War."

He recalls that, perhaps as a joke, stars Mekhi Phifer (Dr. Gregory Pratt) and Shane West (Dr. Ray Barnett) took him out for drinks the evening before his first trauma on the show. He found it hard to deliver the lines of medical terminology the next morning.

Spellman, 29, moved to Los Angeles nine years ago and has appeared in a number of national TV commercials. He just shot a Budweiser ad that will air during the Super Bowl.

In commercials, he's the "every man ... who ends up getting the girl in the end," Spellman said.

In a long-running spot for Edge shave gel, he played Frank, who won over his roommate's hot Italian girlfriend after shaving. ("Ciao,

Francesco," she purrs, nuzzling him).

Commercials can be quite lucrative, he's found. But the paychecks are unpredictable.

Sometimes at auditions you hear "thank you" and that's it.

He's read for Clint Eastwood four times.

"I'm on his radar," Spellman said.

Persistence is the main key in the business, he said. "You have to be willing to weather the storm and be smart with your money."

Spellman also has been working as a producer's assistant for a '50s pop musical "The Marvelous Wonderettes" in L.A.

A Detroit Tigers fan, Spellman misses things about Michigan — Faygo, Bettermaid potato chips, and especially Senate Coney Island chili dogs, with chili and cheese only, and lemon rice soup.

Spellman said he's friends with most of the CAPA alumni out there.

Whenever any of them from the L.A. area comes home, they're required to bring back either a Crave Case from White Castle or a frozen Buddy's Pizza, he said.

In an interview with director Nichols, before being offered the role in *Charlie Wilson's War*, Nichols asked Spellman to sum up how his career is going.

"It's coming along," he said. "It seems like I'm making progress."

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Actors Russell Edge, Livonia native Michael Spellman and Academy Award winner Philip Seymour Hoffman worked together in "Charlie Wilson's War."

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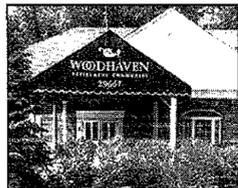
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SHOPPING

FROM PAGE A1

sign that advertised all of her items as 50 percent off.

As small groups of shoppers paced the mall, Ron Brandenburg of Westland said it was obvious that apparel, video games or toys weren't flying off the shelves in spite of discounts and slashed prices.

"We went to Target at 7 a.m. and we walked in and checked right out," he said. "We spent so much money there we almost went broke, but there weren't a lot of people at all."

With the mall as his second destination of the morning, Brandenburg said he was shocked by the modest number of shoppers.

"I used to work retail in this mall and back in the early '70s you could barely move through here the day after Christmas," he said.

Irene Moran and Sherri Havlik, both of



Ron Brandenburg of Westland thought the crowds were lighter than usual for the day after Christmas.

Livonia, made their way to Cornwell Pool & Patio early Wednesday and said they were shocked there wasn't a long line of eager shoppers waiting outside the Plymouth store.

"I'm not sure if the weather kept people away, but it was not like it usually is," Moran said. "Normally, we have to wait."

Jerry Visel of Cornwell, which sells Christmas

decorations, said he had not anticipated a large shopping crowd.

"We've been around more than 25 years and this is the first season we saw a decrease in our Christmas sales, so we didn't think we would gain (Wednesday)," he said. "We had customers in here all day, but we are doing about half of what we traditionally do."

Scott Krugman, a spokesperson for the National Retail Federation in Washington D.C., said after-Christmas sales make up a significant chunk of retail profits for the season.

"The whole week after is crucial," he said, while offering a possible reason for half-empty parking lots Wednesday morning. "A lot of people still had to go to work, so I would look for the crowds on Saturday and Sunday."

tlparks@hometownlife.com

Man faces prison in theft of trust funds

A Henderson, Nev., man will find out on Jan. 24 how much time he will spend in prison after being found guilty of his role in the embezzlement of cemetery trust funds from 28 Michigan cemeteries, including sites in Westland, Livonia and Plymouth.

Wayne County Circuit Judge Brian R. Sullivan found Carter Green, 67, guilty of aiding co-defendant Clayton Smart in embezzling some \$61 million in cemetery trust monies from the cemeteries owned by Smart's Las Vegas-based company Indian Nation.

Green was found guilty of one count of racketeering, a 20-year felony, and three counts of uttering and publishing, a 14-year felony.

"The defendants in this case were quite literally robbing from the dead," said Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox in announcing the conviction.

The charges against Green stem series of written statements he made to state auditors that either he or his companies were holding up to \$25 million in trust money on behalf of Smart or businesses associated with him, statements the attorney general's investigation determined were false.

Smart is accused of pil-

fering the cemetery trust funds to invest \$31 million in Oklahoma-based Quest Minerals and Exploration Inc. in the form of unsecured promissory notes and a loan backed by highly speculative Quest oil and gas leases. He also is accused of investing \$25 million in high-risk mutual funds.

Smart is awaiting trial in Tennessee where he is charged with theft of property, conspiracy to commit theft, and money laundering involving the Forest Hill Cemeteries and Funeral Homes. Once that case is concluded, he will be brought to Michigan to face 39 counts of racketeering, embezzlement and larceny.

"We look forward to prosecuting the remaining defendant in this case," Cox said.

The cemeteries, which include Cadillac Memorial Gardens in Westland, Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens in Livonia and United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth, have been under the control of a state conservator since last December. Their sale for \$32 million to David Shipper of Ewing, N.J., is pending. Shipper is a third-generation cemetery owner who operates 12 cemeteries in Indiana and two in New York.

Sue Mason

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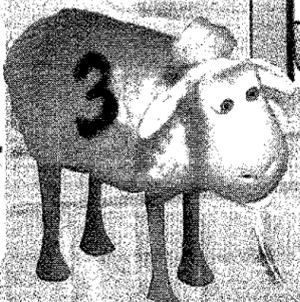
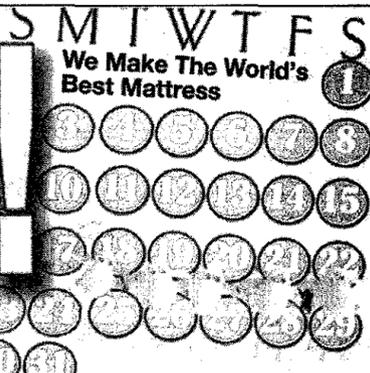
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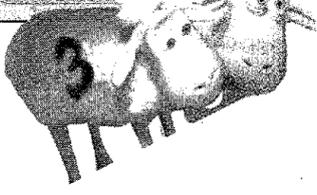
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DILLON

FROM PAGE A1

and professional resume. He is from a prominent Redford family — his father, John, was a justice of the peace and later a district court judge — and graduated from Catholic Central High School, where two of his track records still stand.

BEYOND FRUSTRATION

Andy Dillon admits to frustration with the political partisanship he says was displayed during the budget talks.

"I thought when you had a crisis of that magnitude you would see people put that aside," he said.

His brother put Dillon's feelings in stronger terms: "He was really disillusioned with the whole process."

Dillon came to state government with a hefty personal

degree from the University of Notre Dame, where he was a track and cross country runner. He captained both teams during his senior year, and was Notre Dame's athlete of the year in 1984.

Dillon's law degree is also from Notre Dame. He's worked as a financial analyst, an assistant to former Sen. Bill Bradley, D-New Jersey, and as a litigation attorney and corporate lawyer.

But Dillon doesn't wear his success on his sleeve, said Redford Township Supervisor R. Miles Handy II, a longtime friend and political ally. It was Handy, Dillon said, who convinced him to run for the House in 2004.

"Intellectually, he excels.

He's one of the smartest guys I've ever met, but he's very humble," Handy said. "He's more comfortable in blue jeans and a sweater than a nice suit."

Politics is in Dillon's blood, his brother said. "It's something he was always interested in from the time he was a little kid," John Dillon said. "We just grew up with politics."

They also grew up with parents who set an example of service, said a sister, Marybeth Dillon Butler.

"My parents' entire lives have always been about serving others, but they do it under the radar, not for recognition," Butler said.

DEMANDING TIME

The commitment required by the speaker's job has been tough on Dillon's family, his sister said. "We just feel like his life belongs to the state of Michigan," Butler said.

Dillon said his four children were patient about him spending time away from home during the budget crisis. "They understood how serious the problem was," he said.

It's been tough to find time to spend in his district, too, he said. "People want to see you around," he said.

Dillon, who faces a recall effort over his support of increased taxes, said he plans to seek a third full House term next year. As far as running for another office, he said, he'll think about that in 2008.

He expects significant legislation to come from the House next year, including energy reforms designed to spur power plant construction, measures to deal with the waste from factory farms, and protections against predatory lending. He also expects the House to address a projected \$24 billion bill for the future health-care costs of retired state and public school employees.

Dillon said he's been impressed with how the Legislature can affect people's lives for the better.

"You can actually have a significant impact up there quickly," he said.

Michigan, Dillon said, has a window of five to seven years in which the economy must diversify and the state must invest in education, infrastructure, the environment and other quality-of-life areas in order to attract new businesses and keep a skilled work force.

Falling short, he said, means



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andy Dillon speaks with constituent James Gullett, of Dearborn Heights.

heading in "a very negative direction."

Dillon is staying upbeat. "The future's bright, and

that's kind of the one thing that keeps me going," he said.

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Parents need medical legal form to help adult children

At a recent seminar, I was approached by an older couple who told me their 19-year-old granddaughter had become ill when she was away at college. The young woman



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

was taken to a hospital where she was treated. When the parents were notified, they rushed to the hospital but unfortunately discovered doctors would not discuss their daughter's situation nor consult with them about treatment.

The issue for doctors was legal — the patient was an adult and the parents did not have the proper legal documentation to be consulted with regards to their daughter's situation.

The parents retained the services of an attorney and eventually did gain the rights to be consulted and to make decisions with regards to their

daughter's treatment.

The grandparents said the emotional stress that it caused the parents was the worst part of the ordeal.

The good part of this story is that the daughter recovered and returned to school. However, the important lesson here is to make sure you have the proper estate planning documents for yourself and your loved ones.

It's not unusual for most parents not to have any sort of legal documentation when it comes to their children. However, when children reach the age of majority, 18, he/she is a legal adult and parental rights as well as obligations extinguish. If your child is an adult and if you will have to make medical and other decisions for your adult child, appropriate documentation is important. After all, no one wants to incur legal fees and go to court over family issues.

In this case, a Medical Durable Power of Attorney with the proper HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) provi-

sions, the parents would have had the legal right to discuss their daughter's situation with the doctors and make decisions.

This is an extremely important document that every adult needs to obtain. In simple terms, the document allows someone to sit in your shoes and make medical decisions for you if you are unable to make them yourself. Don't assume that your spouse or your parents would have some rights to make decisions. That is not the case. Husbands and wives who do not have these documents could be forced to go through the same process as the parents in this case.

Many people avoid doing any form of estate planning because they don't want to think of the inevitable or they assume it's too expensive.

Most people are surprised to learn not everyone needs to use an attorney for estate planning purposes. The state of Michigan offers a free fill-in-the-blank Will and a Medical Durable Power of Attorney (Michigan Patient Advocate

Form). These documents are available in many locations, including public libraries, the State of Michigan's Web site (www.michigan.gov/sos) and my Web site (www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

Parents of adult children need, if nothing more, to have a Medical Durable Power of Attorney.

If your college-age son or daughter is home for the holidays, download a copy of the Michigan Patient Advocate Form, complete it and have them sign it in front of the appropriate witnesses. Hopefully, you can put the document in a drawer and never worry about it again. You will have a sense of comfort in knowing that not only did you do the right thing, but that you did the responsible thing.

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

CRIME WATCH

Caught with drugs

GARDEN CITY - A student at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt was arrested Dec. 20 for drug possession after he was stopped by school staff for taking food he hadn't purchased in the cafeteria. When an administrator called him over, she noticed the student had placed something in a plastic tub used to collect dirty silverware. A baggy containing 31 white pills was recovered and police were called. The student, 17, told police his grandmother used the pills for headaches. The officer had a pharmacist look at the pills which were identified as Xanax.

Driver flees police

GARDEN CITY - A Garden City police officer spotted a suspect wanted for stealing a vehicle in Dearborn Heights Dec. 24 and ended up pursuing the suspect until the stolen car crashed in Inkster.

The officer heard a radio call about a Volvo station wagon that had just been stolen. He tried to stop the vehicle, which he said was speeding on Cherry Hill, but the car took off at a high rate

of speed running stop signs on Garden City side streets and then crossed into Inkster, the officer said. Eventually, the suspect drove onto an unpaved icy path along the Rouge River. When the vehicle suddenly braked, the officer said he had to stop quickly and the patrol car slide into the rear of the stolen vehicle which then side-swiped the patrol car.

The suspect then drove the vehicle down a 40-foot embankment towards the river and crashed into trees at the bottom, the officer said. The suspect, an Inkster man, ran from the car and was caught as he tried to hide under a fallen tree, said the officer. The vehicle owner said his cell phone and some Christmas presents had also been in the car.

Home break-in

REDFORD TOWNSHIP - A laptop computer, cash and credit cards were among the things reported stolen from a house on Lennane Street north of Six Mile after a break-in early Sunday.

The burglar or burglars had used an unlocked window to get into the house, a police report said. The victim later learned that stolen credit and automatic teller machine cards had been used.

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OUR VIEWS

Annual Auto Show vital to economy

Economic predictions for the coming year are not optimistic for the metro Detroit area. A slowdown in the national economy is only adding to Michigan's troubled situation.

For anything good to happen for Detroit, the auto industry has to do well. Though it has been clear for a long time that southeast Michigan has been too dependent on the auto industry, the Big Three and their support businesses remain the heart of our economy.

Even as government leaders try to find ways to attract other, more cutting edge businesses, the auto industry will continue to be at the center of our economy for many years to come.

That's why Detroit's annual auto showcase, the North American International Auto Show, is so crucial to our future, as well as a highly entertaining way to spend an afternoon or evening.

This year's Auto Show opens to the public at Cobo Hall on Jan. 19 and runs through Jan. 27. It is here that Detroit's automakers and part suppliers will go head to head with auto companies from around the world. In the week before the public opening, they will introduce new models, fanciful concept cars and almost ready for prime time vehicles. They will offer their solutions to dwindling, expensive and polluting gasoline. They will offer the latest in safety, as well as the latest in speed. And they will wait for the world's reaction and hope to launch the next Mustang, the next minivan, the next SUV revolution — anything to get the edge in a highly competitive and uncertain industry.

For visitors, it's a glittery show of bright lights, interactive displays and attractive models (human and automotive). For the city of Detroit, it's another opportunity to bring people downtown and prove that city life still has a future here and for the Detroit auto industry it's a do-or-die event where they put their best up against the world.

We wish the city and Detroit's automakers a very successful Auto Show.

Cobo expansion critical to keeping auto show

The city of Detroit and southeast Michigan will play host next month to the automotive world's movers and shakers at the annual North American International Auto Show.

The auto show helps solidify Detroit as the motor city and car capital of the world, and brings prestige — and plenty of money — to the region. But all of this is at risk if our political leaders cannot come together to either replace or seriously upgrade Cobo Hall, which hosts the auto show.

Most connected to the auto show agree Cobo is too small and too old to continue serving as the site for much longer. The auto companies want, and soon will demand, a better environment to showcase their vehicles, or will take the prestige of debuting new models and concept cars to other shows in Los Angeles, Frankfurt and elsewhere.

The problem, of course, is how to pay for a bigger and better Cobo, and who will have the responsibility of owning and operating a new expo center. And this is where the same old, tired political turf battles between city and suburbs, and Oakland and Wayne counties, threaten the loss of one of the few remaining success stories.

Predictably, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson demands the suburbs have a stake in the new facility, if the county is expected to continue funneling dollars in the form of hotel and liquor taxes into its operations, something that has taken place for years. Moreover, Patterson wants the state of Michigan and Detroit's new casinos to pony up a share of the costs as well.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano has floated a couple of plans for a new Cobo, and said he agrees "other players" should be involved in the project. Ficano also has scaled down his expectations for a new Cobo, which hopefully will address some of Patterson's concerns.

For his part, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick said he would at least consider having some type of regional authority play a role in operating the new Cobo, which now is owned and operated by the city. So there does appear to be some hope for compromise.

The auto show pumps tens of millions of dollars into the area economy every year. It is not unreasonable for the auto companies to want some return on their investment, and they certainly will be asking some tough questions next month about future plans for the auto show, and Cobo.

Hopefully, while Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the region's political leaders sip champagne at the charity preview that kicks off the auto show, they will be coming up with a positive response to those questions.



Support helped victim's family

On behalf of Maggie and our entire family, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Livonia community for its show of concern and support during this most difficult time.

We are blessed to have so many wonderful friends in Livonia who have gone out of their way to tell us how much they love Maggie and offer other words of comfort. We would also like to thank the von Maurs for all of their help and support during this difficult time. We are forever grateful to all of you. We will never forget your kindness and compassion. Thank you.

The Webb Family

Editor's note: Maggie Webb, a victim of the shooting at Von Maur's Omaha store, formerly worked at the Von Maur at Laurel Park Place.

Dogs deserve better

There is a real concern regarding the problem of the chained or tethered outside dog which is often forgotten and virtually ignored by the family. The U.S. Department of Agriculture agrees that continuous confinement of dogs 24/7 by a tether is inhumane.

Dogs are pack animals and when chained too long become extremely bored, lonely. Over time, frustration can lead to territorial aggression. Tethered dogs are more often neglected, left without adequate food, water or shelter. They lack adequate housing, enough room to exercise and the most basic veterinary care, including vaccinations required by law.

These dogs are more likely not to have a city license. Every winter such dogs are found frozen to death. At other times, they may be left to starve, suffer from embedded collars, bleeding from insect bites or are accidentally hung due their circumstances. Unfortunately, I have witnessed this type of abuse on several occasions in many cities.

Tethering dogs is cruel and dangerous for people, and over time creates anxious, frustrated and aggressive dogs. From October 2003 to September 1007, there were at least 175 children killed or seriously injured by chained dogs across the country. A recent attack in Texas in March 2007 left two-year-old Carolina Sotello dead from neck and head wounds. States and cities all over the country are passing laws against 24/7 chaining because the laws protect both dogs and people. There are at least 100 communities and counties in at least 35 states with limits on chaining. Austria is the latest nation to completely prohibit chaining.

It is now time for Michigan to also set an example for the rest of the nation to assure the safety of our children and to raise the standards of animal care. As a licensed veterinary technician and a representative of the non-profit international organization, Dogs Deserve Better Inc., I am urging all dog owners to take their dogs into the home and make them part of the family.

Dogs Deserve Better is opposed to the permanent chained, tethered or penned "outside dog." We offer education, fencing and training assistance, provide proper shelter and accept surrendered and relinquished dogs to find them a

home where they are a true part of the family.

I urge you to remedy this oversight which condemns dogs to lives of loneliness and deprivation. To learn more on how you can help chained dogs, go to www.dogsdeservebetter.org.

Barbara Mays

Wayne County representative,
Dogs Deserve Better

Time for Middle East humanity

The recent peace conference of Middle East nations in Annapolis, Md., championed the concepts of peace, negotiation and compromise, facilitated by American-led diplomacy. It rejected terrorism, incitement and extremism. The parties present there are now embracing a renewed opportunity, with U.S. help and with, for the first time, a moderate consensus among most Arab nations. The goals: Israeli security and a Palestinian state.

Several weeks ago, the *Observer* printed an opinion piece which was filled with falsehoods and bogus charges against Israel — everything from apartheid to ethnic cleansing to a brutal military. The writer claimed firsthand knowledge of the story of the Palestinian refugees, admittedly a sad story, but one which elicits these questions: Why are they the only refugee group, after 60 years, to not have been absorbed by their brothers (the other Arab nations), nor be taken out of their squalid camps, or to be given statehood when Jordan and Egypt controlled the West Bank and Gaza for 19 years (1948-1967)?

Now is the time for criticism, false charges, distorted history and adversarial relations to give way to forward-thinking, conflict resolution and humanity.

Wendy Sadler
Canton

Time to safeguard our state

Michigan cannot afford to continue smoking in workplaces. We must provide a safe, healthy environment for our workers and their customers in order to be competitive. All persons living in and visiting Michigan deserve to enjoy air that is not polluted both inside and outside.

Senate Majority Leader Bishop opposes legislation recently passed by the house to ban smoking in most workplaces. Senator Bishop assigned HB 4163 to an obscure committee with the intent of letting it die without a vote of the Senate. He says the government has no business legislating this. This would be the same as eliminating the health department's duties to inspect restaurants and enforce basic sanitation.

The Senate (and the rest of the government) are charged with safekeeping the citizens of this state. Any who shirk this responsibility have left Michigan citizens at risk for both health and economic disadvantage.

Shame on them. Shame on the voters who let them evade their responsibilities.

Patrick Collings
Westland

Doctor's role 'a blessing'

On a recent flight to Florida to see my parents, I settled in for what I thought was going to be a quick easy flight. Unfortunately, this was not the case, I unexpectedly took ill.

I awoke to the sounds of someone asking for a medical assistance and, after a moment of wondering who needed a doctor, realized it was me. Fortunately, Dr. Rosenbaum, who has his offices in Livonia, was on hand to help. He sat with me and made sure my condition didn't worsen. He saw me through the worst of it, staying with me until I was wheeled to my parent's car.

Needless to say, I was quite upset and frightened by the whole experience. Dr. Rosenbaum's calm, competent manner helped keep me from becoming a nervous wreck, and made a frightening situation a little easier to bear. I'd like to thank Dr. Rosenbaum for all his help. His kindness was a blessing to me.

Lisa Walker
Westland

Change the way we learn

I was skimming through the paper when I saw the article, "Michigan: What we once had is now gone." This article caught my eye because I was recently trying to find a job, but it is really hard because of the changed economy.

In the article, it talks about how many jobs have been cut, and how major job suppliers are not doing well anymore. From reading this article I also started to realize how much technology has influenced education.

Being a high school student I have learned how to work all the new gadgets, but that is not always a good thing. Knowing how to use all of the technology may not help me get a good education, which will make it even harder to find a job. Many schools in other countries are changing the way they learn, which will cause us to fall behind. "They are not waiting for us to catch up. They're gone!" wrote Tom Watkins. I agree with Tom that we need to change the way our society learns and lives into a newer and more efficient place.

Julia Sawecki
Livonia

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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

QUOTABLE

"The state was facing insolvency in February if we didn't deal with the solution in September."
- Speaker of the House Andy Dillon, discussing raising state taxes to help meet the state budget

CRC report helps to sort out state's employment picture

"We pay them too much," say the Republicans.

"There aren't enough of them to do the job properly," say the Democrats.

The Citizens Research Council of Michigan says they both may be right.

"Them" are Michigan's state and local government workers.

The facts-first CRC released a report Dec. 12 placing the seemingly endless debate into its proper context, comparing Michigan with all other states and with states with similar



Hugh Gallagher

population, geography and urbanization. It's a study that offers support for both positions, though it doesn't address the basic "less is more" vs. "less is just less" philosophies of the two major political parties.

The basic conclusion of the CRC's *State and Local Government Employment: A Comparative Analysis* is "The

State of Michigan has relatively fewer state and local employees than other states, but tends to compensate the state employees better than most other states."

Specifically Michigan ranked 45th of 50 states in the number of state and local employees per 10,000 residents and 39th of 50 when only state employees are considered. In addition, because of its extensive system of community colleges and public universities, Michigan has more public employees relative to population in higher education, but in other areas, including police and fire protection and corrections, Michigan is below the national average.

On the money side, average state employee base salary ranged from \$28,100 in (the state we're trying to emulate) Mississippi to \$69,100 in fashionable California. Michigan ranked sixth at \$49,700.

The report says average fringe benefits for Michigan state employees (mostly pension and health care benefits) were \$25,700, which ranked third behind Alaska and Nebraska. That issue was a major snare in the recent budget talks, forcing the Democrats to seek some wiggle room from the Michigan Education Association, one of the party's major contributors.

In absolute numbers, Michigan ranked 11th in full-time equivalent state and local employees with 486,697, with local employees accounting for 72.3 percent.

The report, on CRC's Web site at www.crcmich.org, breaks the Michigan numbers down by departments and offers comparisons with national figures. As always, CRC is careful to explain that comparing figures isn't always an easy task as circumstances and definitions differ across the country. The majority of states that come in ahead

Specifically Michigan ranked 45th of 50 states in the number of state and local employees per 10,000 residents and 39th of 50 when only state employees are considered. In addition, because of its extensive system of community colleges and public universities, Michigan has more public employees relative to population in higher education, but in other areas, including police and fire protection and corrections, Michigan is below the national average.

of Michigan in number of state and local employees per 10,000 residents includes sparsely populated Wyoming and Alaska at the top, but populous New York comes in at number 11. And while Nevada comes in last on this list, Pennsylvania is number 49. When considering state employees only, Hawaii and Alaska top the list, primarily because elementary and secondary school employees are state employees. At the bottom of that list is Illinois.

As we are pushing to have more of our children pursue a higher education, preferably in state, Michigan ranks fourth in absolute number of state higher education employees (out ranked by the larger states of California, Texas and Ohio), but only ranks 25th in employees relative to population. North Dakota and Utah top that list.

The report also shows that Michigan state employees stay on their jobs longer than in all but five other states with an average of 13.9 years.

All of these numbers are interesting and show how any set of statistics can be molded to make or break any argument.

A state senator said it best when discussing the debate over energy and renewable and alternative energy sources.

He said without a solid definition of what these terms mean, politicians are always talking past each other.

That often seems to be the case about almost every subject. Ultimately the issue is always the same. What do we as residents of this great state need and want from our state government, how much are we willing to pay for it and what methods can we agree on to raise the revenue we need.

On those issues politicians will toss statistics at each other forever.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of The Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by phone at (734)953-2149 or by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com.

Michigan only at beginning of dealing with difficulties

When the allies finally stopped the Germans in North Africa in November 1942, it was welcome news after three years of almost unbroken defeats. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill put it in perspective, saying, "Now, this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Turning to Michigan and our own economic wars, I'd like to take the liberty to modify Churchill to observe that 2008 might turn out to be the "beginning of the beginning" of Michigan's slow march back from disaster. The issues are both economic and political.

What's been going on hasn't been, as some claim, a "recession in one state." Instead, it is the consequence of the wrenching transformation of our dominant industry, automobiles.

The not-so-big three have been in transition, moving from an inefficient and costly system in which management and labor protected each other from their own failings to a smaller but far more efficient and globally competitive industry.

According to Sean McAlinden, the numbers genius at the Ann-Arbor based Center for Automotive Research, Michigan auto employment in Michigan dropped by around 316,000 in 1999 to 207,000 in 2007, a staggering decline of 43 percent.

He forecasts more small declines in auto jobs for the next few years. But this time, it won't be due to Michigan's economic woes. Instead, these job losses will come for the right reasons — a result of rapidly increasing productivity and cost reductions made possible by the new contracts with the United Auto Workers union.

Joan Crary, the economics whiz who heads the economic forecasting at the University of Michigan, estimates that the state lost 76,000 jobs during 2007, with another drop of 51,000 projected next year. But, she adds, "The rate of job loss becomes progressively smaller as we make our way through 2008, and by the spring of 2009, job growth pokes above zero."

She predicts a net job gain of 14,000 jobs in 2009, mostly in service industries such as health care and education.

These projections, of course, assume no national recession brought on by the subprime mortgage crunch, which has put southeast Michigan near the top of the nation for home foreclosures in recent months. "If we get a recession, we're very vulnerable because we don't have any resources to take up the shock," says Tom Clay, the respected and now-retired research director for the Citizens Research Council of Michigan.

Even without a recession, Clay says the state budget for the fiscal year that will end Sept.

30, 2008, will face (once again, thanks to the Legislature) a \$500 million deficit, split roughly equally between the general fund and the school aid fund.

Clay expects deteriorating home values to end consumers' recent habit of converting gains in home equity to TV sets and new gizmos. As a result, he thinks "sales tax income to the state might suffer, say, a \$200 million drop."

His two biggest worries at the state level: cash flow and political deadlock. "We had some trouble paying our bills on time last year," said Clay, who helped oversee state budgets for three decades, "and there's nothing about the new Michigan Business Tax and the new surcharge to that tax that make me believe there will be any material increase in cash flow."

Michigan cannot under its constitution borrow any more than it has, so a cash shortage means delayed bill payments, which in turn means the state will put off paying school districts and universities and local governments what they are expecting.

What this means to me is that the chronic structural budget deficits that we've seen for the last several years are certainly not going to go away because of what the Legislature did with taxes this fall. Gov. Jennifer Granholm, perhaps reflecting both fatigue and realism, said the other day that she wasn't about to go for any more tax increases. And you don't find many lawmakers in disagreement.

So that leaves structural changes in the organization and workings of state and local government, together with legacy costs of state employee pensions and health care. There are very large cost savings involved here, but they are very unpopular, especially with state employee unions. The governor and Legislature had a great chance to bundle them into a tax plan while they were working in crisis mode to save the state from going into default.

But they blew that opportunity. On the political front, however, what gives me some sense of hope is that legislators I talk with are beginning to get fed up with looking like a bunch of ineffective nincompoops. Most of them are good people who wanted to go to Lansing to do the right thing. But they found themselves being chivvied by their respective party leaders to do a bunch of things that looked a lot more like scoring political points than governing a state.

"It doesn't have to be like this!" one legislator said in exasperation. And if this feeling ever begins to spread through the ranks during the coming year, we just might have some real political change, and change for the better, in Lansing.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a centrist think-and-do tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are Power's and do not represent official views of The Center. Power welcomes reader comment at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

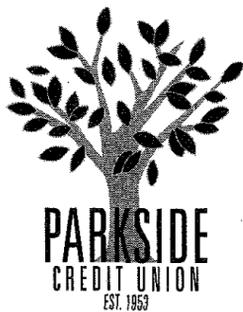
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 Muenster Cheese **\$4.99** lb.
 Krakus Polish **\$4.99** lb.

Dietz & Watson
 Homestyle Premium Turkey Lite **\$6.99** lb.
 Buffalo Chicken **\$5.99** lb.
 Black Forest Smoked Ham or Garlic Cheese **\$5.99** lb.

Dearborn
 Roasted Turkey **\$5.99** lb.
 Honey Turkey Cured Ham **\$4.99** lb.
 Bavarian Ham **\$4.99** lb.
 Hoffmans Hickory Salami **\$4.69** lb.
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Carando Hot Capicola, Carando Sweet Capicola, San Danielle Pancetta **\$6.99** lb.
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SPORTS

B

Thursday, December 27, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

MITCHELL WHITE, SR. QB, LIV. STEVENSON: The 6-foot-1, 170-pound senior, who guided the Spartans to the Division 1 state championship game, completed 77-of-147 passes for 1,433 yards and 18 touchdowns with only three interceptions.

White, an All-Western Lakes Activities Association pick, also could elude tacklers as he gained 290 yards on 64 attempts and three TDs.

"Mitchell managed to keep his playmaking spontaneity while really improving his command and control of the game," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said. "His low number of interceptions and his timely scrambles for first downs bears this out."

JESSE CARPENTER, SR. QB, LIV. FRANKLIN: The 5-11, 175-pound senior became the school's all-time season passing

leader (2,220 yards) while completing a school-record 133-of-250 (53 percent).

The All-Western Division selection threw a Patriot record 18 TD passes and averaged 16.6 yards per throw.

Carpenter also played free safety when called upon and was the team's punter and placekicker.

"Statistically Jess is the best quarterback in Franklin history," coach Chris Kelbert said. "His knowledge of the game made it easy to make an adjustment, and I was comfortable knowing he could handle any situation."

AUSTIN WHITE, SOPH. RB, LIV. STEVENSON: The 5-11, 180-pound sophomore was the area's leading rusher as he finished with 1,617 yards on 200 carries (8.0 average).

The All-WLAA pick also caught 19

passes for 194 yards and scored a total of 27 touchdowns. He tallied all three Stevenson TDs in the state championship game, including a kickoff return for 90 yards.

White also played defensive back when called upon.

"Austin is already a complete back," Gabel said. "He has speed and power, but also great vision. His running discipline improved throughout the season. In addition, he's an outstanding blocker."

YOURYE WILSON, SR. RB, REDFORD UNION: The durable, hard-to-tackle Wilson again was an offensive powerhouse for Redford Union, gaining 1,095 yards in 141 carries and tallying 12 rushing TDs. In addition, the 6-0, 190-pounder caught 12 passes for 268 yards and two TDs and made 37 unassisted tackles on the defensive side.

A four-year varsity player, Wilson earned team MVP honors and was named to the All-Mega White team for the second time.

"You're finished off an excellent career with his senior season," said Panthers head coach Miles Tomasaitis. "As I said all season long, if we got the ball in Yourye's hands something good would happen."

Wilson's on-field leadership also lifted RU to three straight wins at the end of the schedule to ensure another winning season, Tomasaitis added.

C.J. WOODFORD, SR. RB, WESTLAND GLENN: The 5-10, 173-pound senior finished with 1,007 yards rushing on 138 carries (7.3 average) and caught 11 passes out of the backfield for 322 yards (29.3 average).

Woodford rushed for 11 TDs (with a long of 71 yards) and caught four TD

passes (with a long of 86).

He also averaged 29.7 yards per kick return, including three for TDs and tied the school-record with a long of 90. Woodford also averaged 20 yards per punt return.

"C.J. turned out to be a hard worker with a great attitude," Glenn coach Todd DeLuca said. "His senior year he made things happen."

MYRON PURYEAR, SR. RB, PLYMOUTH: The 6-foot, 175-pound senior was a pivotal player in the Wildcats' run to the playoffs as he chalked over 900 yards rushing despite seeing limited duty the first two games. Puryear had several game-changing efforts, including a 63-yard, fourth-quarter sprint to pay dirt in the Wildcats' one-point win over Canton. His performance earned

Please see **FOOTBALL, B3**

Staplines

Ball hockey

Mens ball hockey leagues are forming at the TotalSports Complex in Wixom for the winter season.

Teams will play on Saturday nights in the roller rink at TotalSports. Ball hockey is similar to ice hockey, except it's played on a plastic floor by players wearing sneakers. Instead of a puck, players use an orange plastic ball.

"It's a great sport for the hockey lovers who aren't all that great on their skates," said Tran Longmoore, who has been playing ball hockey, or Dek Hockey, in southeast Michigan since 1999.

The cost to register is \$850 per team or \$80 per player. Teams play 10 games a year plus playoffs. Each game consists of three 14-minute periods.

In recent years, enrollment in the Michigan ball hockey league has dwindled. The league formed at MichiganDekHockey in Canton. When MiDek closed down, the team moved over to High Velocity Sports in Canton. High Velocity removed its hockey rink in 2006. Since then, the hockey league has played at the Livonia Rec Center and at TotalSports in Wixom, where the league has played since January.

The league is open for men aged 16 and older. Anyone under the age of 18 is required to wear a helmet. For more information, e-mail michiganballhockey@comcast.net.

Roach signs

Former Canton resident Nicole Roach recently signed a National Letter of Intent to participate in women's gymnastics at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. Roach will receive a full athletic scholarship at the school beginning next fall.

A senior at South Lyon High School, Roach lived in Canton for 12 years, attending Hoben Elementary School and Discovery Middle School. She moved to South Lyon prior to her ninth-grade year due her father's job transfer.

Nicole is the daughter of Greg and Wendy Roach.

FAN FAVORITE



WALT DMOCH

Plymouth left wing A.J. Jenks, pictured above during a game earlier this season, has become a fan favorite during his one-plus years with the Whalers. The 6-foot-2, 210-pound Jenks grew up in Wolverine Lake.

Whalers' Jenks brings team's backers to their feet

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

There are countless reasons why the Compuware Arena's Applause-O-Meter nearly short circuits from overwork when A.J. Jenks is introduced before each Plymouth Whalers home game, but three stand out.

Reason No. 1: the 6-foot-2, 210-pound fan favorite plays every second of every shift like it's his last — and everyone knows fans appreciate high-intensity effort.

Secondly, Jenks' effort is matched by a high level of talent that has NHL draft scholars predicting he'll be selected somewhere in the first two rounds this coming summer.

Thirdly: Jenks grew up less than a 30-minute drive from the Whalers' home ice, so many games double as mini-family reunions.

"It's nice playing so close to home because I get a lot of support from my family and

THE BOOK ON JENKS

Age: 17;
Hometown: Wolverine Lake;
Size: 6-foot-2, 210 pounds;
Position: left wing;
What does A.J. stand for?: Arthur Jenks;
Favorite NHL player growing up: Brendan Shanahan;
Draft status: Selected by Whalers in the 7th round of the 2006 OHL Draft (132nd overall); he is projected to go in the first two rounds of the 2008 NHL Entry Draft;
Academics: A senior, Jenks has compiled a 3.5 grade-point average at Plymouth High School; he was named the Whalers' 2006-07 'Academic Player of the Year'.

friends," said the 17-year-old Jenks. "One of the reasons I get so many loud cheers is that I know a lot of people in the stands every game."

ALL-AROUND CONTRIBUTOR

Even those Whaler backers who have never met Jenks in person stand and salute his coast-to-coast hustle and grit. Jenks has been one of the

primary reasons the Whalers have sustained excellence one season after capturing their first Ontario Hockey League championship since 1995.

The high-energy left winger has chalked up 18 goals, nine assists and 41 penalty minutes in 29 games during a season in which more than one OHL expert expected a Whaler decline following the departure

of several key players.

Heading into Thursday's 2 p.m. home game against Saginaw, the Whalers own a 19-9-2-2 record, which is good for third place in the highly competitive OHL West Conference's West Division.

"It's hard to pinpoint one thing," said Jenks, when asked to reveal the team's secret to success so far this year. "We have good coaching and our team's chemistry is outstanding."

Jenks was caught off guard earlier this month when Greg Stefan replaced former head coach Mike Vellucci, who stepped down to focus more on his general manager responsibilities.

"I was surprised; I didn't see it coming," he said. "I like Mike Vellucci a lot, but I don't think we're going to go downhill now that Greg Stefan's the coach."

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Like many of his teammates,

Please see **JENKS, B2**

Ignition weathers Storm, 25-7

The Detroit Ignition tied the Chicago Storm for first place in the Major Indoor Soccer League with a 25-7 victory Saturday night at Sears Centre Arena.

Both teams now stand at 7-3 heading into this weekend's contests.

The Storm scored the first points of the night as defender Branko Savic booted a two-point score past Ignition keeper Danny Waltman at 4:46 of the first quarter. Worteh Sampson and Ryan Mack responded with goals of their own to notch four points for the Ignition. Storm midfielder John Ball scored an unassisted three-point goal at 8:45 to give Chicago a one-point advantage at the end of the first period.

The Ignition scored eight unanswered points in the second quarter with two-point goals from Ricardinho, Hewerton Moreira and Jamar Beasley. Midfielder Kyt Selaidopoulos scored his 100th MISL career point with a two-point goal at 5:28 in the second period. The Ignition owned a 12-5 advantage at the half.

Doug Rice ignited things for Detroit in the third quarter with a two-point goal off an assist from Mack at 8:03. The Storm's Ian Bennett responded with a two-point score of his own at 9:23 in the third period. Ricardinho closed out the quarter for the Ignition with his second two-point goal of the night at 12:07 to bring the score to 16-7.

Less than two minutes into the game's final stanza, Moreira booted a two-point goal past Storm keeper Jeff Richey. Mack tallied another three points for Detroit at 7:05 with an assist from Rice. Selaidopoulos scored his second two-point goal of the match at 7:29 with an assist from defender Josh Rife.

Mack would finish the night with a hat trick, as the midfielder scored his third goal of the night at 12:11.

Pat Milliken

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Report: Change of seasons results in fewer participants

Participation in girls high school cross country in the state of Michigan increased 15.18 percent during the 2007 season compared to 2006, and it appears to be the major beneficiary of sports seasons changes being implemented this school year as a result of Federal court action. The

increase in girls cross country — 1,054 participants — more than offsets the losses in girls volleyball and girls golf at Michigan High School Athletic Association member senior high schools. All three sports whose seasons were changed to the fall experienced drops in participa-

tion. Girls volleyball was down 3.08 percent (658 participants), girls Lower Peninsula golf down 8.97 percent (291 participants), and boys Lower Peninsula tennis was down 11.43 percent (931 participants). The MHSAA routinely collects participation data from member schools to report to the National Federation of State High School Associations. The fourth fall sport for girls, Lower Peninsula swimming and diving, increased 0.94 per-

cent (60 participants) versus last school year. Among the other fall boys sports, football participation was up 2.45 percent (1,109 participants), boys cross country was up 5.05 percent (403 participants), and boys Lower Peninsula soccer increased 2.32 percent (338 participants). Overall participation for the fall for boys and girls was up 0.89 percent (1,015) over last year. These results are based

reports from all 766 MHSAA member senior high schools, comparing actual figures at the same schools between the current school year and the 2006-07 school year. The school's responses to the MHSAA also included this information: ■61 fewer schools made cuts in their girls volleyball programs; ■21 schools dropped freshman girls volleyball; and no programs were added;

■four schools added junior varsity girls volleyball; and none dropped the program; ■five fewer schools made cuts in their girls Lower Peninsula golf programs; and ■22 fewer schools made cuts in their boys Lower Peninsula tennis programs. This information indicates that not only is participation down in these sports this year, but the number of students trying out for these teams in these sports is down as well.

SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1,598TH REGULAR MEETING LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL - DECEMBER 5, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Present: Don Knapp, Brian Meakin, Terry Godfroid-Marecki, Tom Robinson, Gerald Taylor, and James McCann. Absent: Joe Laura.

#584-07 Resolution by Taylor and Knapp, unanimously adopted, approving the minutes of the 1,597th Regular Meeting of the Council held November 26, 2007, as submitted.

Council President McCann congratulated his daughter Katie and son-in-law Jay on the birth of their first baby, Kaiden James Davis (named after his grandfather James McCann) on December 4, 2007. He wished a happy life for all of them.

Council President McCann announced that a **Public Hearing** for the following item will be held on **Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Auditorium of the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI:

Sam Shamie, Managing Member, S & N Development Company, LLC, requests the establishment of an Industrial Development District for property located at 37640 Seven Mile Road, in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 6.

Council President McCann announced that there will be an X-item added to the agenda at the end of the meeting regarding a proposed tax incentive resolution voicing opposition to the Governor's use of offering tax incentives in an effort to move a business from one Michigan City to another.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None.

The following item was received and filed:

An email communication from Kim Naccashian, dated November 20, 2007, regarding the subject of local businesses' drive-thru speakers and their affect on nearby residential property owners. (CR 503-07)

A communication from the Office of the Mayor, dated November 20, 2007, regarding the subject of establishing procedures to notify residents before a stop sign is removed in their neighborhood. (CR 126-07)

The following resolutions were offered by Knapp and Meakin:

#585-07 Determining that the City of Livonia recognize the Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan (LYPM) orchestra as a non-profit organization operating in the community and granting a request for the City to become a co-sponsor to enable the LYPM to advertise in City bulletins, hang flyers on City property, and perform in the "Music Under the Stars" program.

#586-07 Approving a request submitted by David Marhofer, 33201 Kathryn Street, Garden City, MI 48135, for a massage apprentice permit in accordance with Chapter 5.49 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended.

#587-07 Reappointing Margaret Gray as a Republican member of the Board of Canvassers of the City of Livonia for another four-year term, expiring December 31, 2011.

#588-07 Authorizing the execution of an amendment to the Specialized Services Vehicle Agreement between the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) and the City of Livonia to cover the use of two (2) 2007 Ford lift-equipped vans for the Livonia Community Transit Program which have been approved through a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) 5310 Grant without charge to the City.

#589-07 Approving a one-year extension of the current contract, at the unit prices submitted in February 2007, through December 31, 2008, with Vanguard Utility Service, Inc., 1421 West 9th Street, Owensboro, KY 42301, to test, repair, and calibrate large commercial water meters, at various locations in the City; FURTHER, approving unit prices for all meter sizes at the estimated total cost of \$26,720.00 plus an additional \$8,000.00 for the purchase of repair parts, from budgeted funds; FURTHER, authorizing the purchase without competitive bidding in accordance with Section 3.04.140D4 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolutions:
AYES: Knapp, Meakin, Godfroid-Marecki, Robinson, Taylor, and McCann.
NAYS: None.

#590-07 Resolution by Robinson and Taylor, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action regarding the subject of business drive-thru speakers. (CR 503-07)

#591-07 Resolution by Robinson and Meakin, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action regarding the subject of the establishment of procedures to notify residents before a stop sign is removed in their neighborhood. (CR 126-07)

#592-07 Resolution by Taylor and Knapp, unanimously adopted, approving the Project Plan in connection with an application from Madonna University and the issuance of tax exempt bonds by the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) not to exceed \$20,000,000.00 for the construction of a new Science and Media Building on the campus of Madonna University located on the northwest corner of Schoolcraft Road and Levan Road.

#593-07 Resolution by Knapp and Taylor, unanimously adopted, accepting various gifts and cash donations in the amount of \$66,995.00 to the Livonia Public Library from various contributors to be used for purposes designated by the donors.

#594-07 Resolution by Knapp and Robinson, unanimously adopted, suspending the rules for procedure as outlined in Council Resolution 574-82 in order to permit consideration of items that do not appear on the agenda.

#595-07 Resolution by Robinson and Godfroid-Marecki, unanimously adopted, opposing Governor Jennifer Granholm's use of offering tax incentives to move a business from one Michigan City to another and working to craft legislative enhancements to all current State tax incentive tools available to the Governor, limiting the Governor's use to only attracting NEW businesses to the State of Michigan and/or the retention of existing Michigan businesses in their CURRENT Michigan City and/or offering equal Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) incentives to competing Michigan Cities; FURTHER, forwarding a copy of the resolution to Governor Jennifer Granholm, State Senator Glenn Anderson, State Representative Andy Dillon, State Representative John Pastor, and the MEDC.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None.

By Knapp and Meakin, unanimously adopted, adjourning this 1,598th Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia at 8:15 p.m. on December 5, 2007.

VAL VANDERSLOOT, CITY CLERK

*The foregoing is a summary of the Council's proceedings in synopsis form as authorized by CR 1158-68. The full text of the official minutes of this meeting is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and is available to the public upon request.

Publish: December 27, 2007

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
 Thursday, Dec. 27
 Salem at Allen Park Tourney, 7 p.m.
 Canton Agape at Immaculate Conception Christmas Tournament, TBA
 John Glenn vs. Detroit Denby at Detroit Renaissance, 3:30 p.m.
 (L'Anse Creuse North Invitational)
 Franklin vs. S.C. Shores South Lake, 6 p.m.
 L'Anse Creuse North vs. Pl. Huron, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 28
 L'Anse Creuse North Inv., 6 & 7:30 p.m.
 Salem at Allen Park Tourney, TBA
Saturday, Dec. 29
 John Glenn at Det. Renaissance, 7 p.m.
 (Roundball Classic at Oakland Univ.)

Clarenceville vs. Det. Univ. Prep, 12:40 p.m.
 Canton Agape at Immaculate Conception Christmas Tournament, TBA
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 28
 (Kalamazoo Loy Norrix Holiday Hoops)
 Ladywood vs. Benton Harbor, 3 p.m.
 Monroe vs. Loy Norrix, 6 p.m.
 Detroit Community at Salem, 7 p.m.
 Okemos at Canton, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29
 Loy Norrix Holiday Hoops, 3 & 6 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 28
 Franklin vs. Churchill at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 29
 Plymouth at Ottawa at Bell Knapp Ice Arena, 5 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Friday, Dec. 28
 Trenton Team Dual Meet, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29
 Salem Holiday Tournament, TBA.
PREP BOWLING
Saturday, Dec. 29
 Bangor John Glenn Tourney at Monitor Lanes, 9 a.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 27
 (Warner Southern, Fla. Tournament)
 Madonna vs. Warner Southern (Fla.), 1 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 28
 (Warner Southern, Fla. Tournament)
 Madonna vs. Ind. Wesleyan Emmanuel, 1 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29
 Warner Southern (Fla.) Tournament, TBA.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 27
 Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29
 Whalers at Saginaw Spirit, 7:11 p.m.
MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE
Monday, Dec. 31
 Ignition at Milwaukee Wave, 7:35 p.m.
 TBA-time to be announced.

Part of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Get on the ball. Read today's **SPORTS** coverage!

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

The City of Westland will hold its public accuracy test on the ES&S M-100 voting equipment for the January 15, 2008 Presidential Primary Election on Tuesday, January 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan.

The public accuracy test is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the ballot results count the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Eileen DeHart
 Westland City Clerk

Publish: December 27, 2007

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **January 10, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

Conference Modifications

Any questions can be directed to Deputy Chief Alan Ramsden from the Police Department at (734) 722-9600. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith
 Controller/Purchasing Agent

Publish: December 27, 2007

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE TO THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS CITY OF WESTLAND PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION JANUARY 15, 2008

Absent voter ballots are available through the Westland City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan for those persons that are physically unable to attend the polls or are 60 years of age or older. The voter, before the issuance of a ballot, must complete an application for ballot.

There will be ADA compliant equipment for use at every polling place.

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Saturday, January 12, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Persons qualified to vote absentee may vote in person in the City Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 14, 2008.

Eileen DeHart, Westland City Clerk

Publish: December 27, 2007

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

Notice is hereby given that of pursuant to State Law 257.252, the following vehicles (s) will be sold at public sale at Mayflower Towing, 1179 Starkweather Rd., Plymouth, Michigan, on the date and time listed below:

Wednesday, January 2nd, 2008 8:00 a.m.

VEHICLES:

Year	Make	Style	Model	VIN Number	Case Number
1997	Ford	2D	Thunderbird	1FALP62WXXVH118004	07-2453
1986	Pontiac	2D	Firebird	1G2FW87H8GN207742	07-2453
1985	Porsche	2D	944	WP0AA0941FN475272	07-3939
1995	Ford	4D	Taurus	1FALP52U9SG187527	07-4608
1975	Jeep	SW	Wagoner	J5A15MP048368	07-4712

Inquiries regarding these vehicles should be directed to Officer Koval, City of Plymouth Police Department, at 734-453-1234 Ext. 536

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
 City Clerk

Publish: December 27, 2007

JENKS
 FROM PAGE B1

Jenks lives during the season with a billet family not far from Compuware Arena. What's unique about Jenks' situation is that his billets are his grandparents.

"They live in Plymouth, so it works out well," he said. "I probably could have lived at home (Wolverine Lake is near Walled Lake), but it would have been tough with school getting out at 2 p.m. and practice starting right after that."

Jenks attends Plymouth High School, where he's earned a solid 3.5 grade-point average. "I like the school a lot," he said. "The teachers work with my schedule and the students there who know I play for the Whalers support me."

Juggling act

Jenks said the toughest part about life in the OHL is juggling the responsibilities that come with playing a high-caliber sport while attending high school and maintaining a social life.

"Definitely balancing my time is difficult sometimes," said Jenks. "I definitely need time-management skills with school, practice, games and a social life."

Jenks didn't hesitate when asked about the best part of life in the OHL.

"It's the people I've had a chance to meet," he said. "I've made a lot of great friends."

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 23, 27 & 30, 2007

Simply Self Storage

Notice is hereby given that on January 15th, 2008 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E Michigan Ave. Wayne MI 48184. 734-728-8204.

Keyanna Jackson	B102	glass table, tv's, leather sofa, mattress, boxes
Letrice Freshley	E156	washer, dryer
Robert Bagley	D102	clothes, carpet, vhs tapes
John Cheney	A402	totes, appliances, boxes
Dona Cunningham	A203	mattresses, tables, tv
Eddie Toplin	D105	mattress, exercise equip., sofa
Latesha Davis	C191	mattress, sofa, electronics
Ronald Alexander	D113	tv, furnace, water heater

Publish: December 27 & 30, 2007

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 East Middle School**. Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335; (248)-427-8400; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; and the Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Division descriptions include: 103:Selective Demolition / 106:Masonry / 107:Steel / 108:Carpentry/General Trades / 109:Roofing / 114:Aluminum Windows/Entrances/Glass & Glazing / 115:Metal Studs, Drywall IFS / 116:Hard Tile / 117:Acoustical Treatments / 118:Carpet & VCT Flooring / 120:Painting / 128:Pre-Manufactured Casework / 129:Science Casework / 130:Window Treatments / 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 Thursday, January 10, 2008 at East Middle School located at 1042 S. Mill Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Bidders are STRONGLY encouraged to attend. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 2 bid copies (1 original, 1 copy) and a valid familial disclosure statement. **Bids are due to the PCCS E.J. McClendon Educational Center on or before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 22, 2008** 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
STEVEN SNEIDEMAN, Secretary

Publish: December 30, 2007 & January 6, 2008

All-Area Football Team

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB: Mitchell White, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
 RB: Jesse Carpenter, Sr., Liv. Franklin
 RB: Austin White, Soph., Liv. Stevenson
 RB: Yourye Wilson, Sr., Redford Union
 RB: C.J. Woodford, Sr., Westland Glenn
 RB: Myron Puryear, Sr., Plymouth
 WR: Israel Woolfork, Sr., Liv. Franklin
 WR: Jamonne Chester, Jr., Red. Covenant
 WR: Myles White, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
 TE: Jeff McCullough, Sr., Liv. Franklin
 OL: Matt Broome, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
 OL: Matt Ganzak, Sr., Canton
 OL: Duane Najarian, Sr., Liv. Churchill
 OL: Mike Davis, Sr., Wayne Memorial
 C: Ricky Bell, Sr., Liv. Stevenson

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE
 DL: Elliott Sylvester, Sr., Liv. Churchill
 DL: Trent Judis, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
 DE: Kevin Tabone, Sr., Liv. Churchill
 DE: Pat Cecile, Sr., Liv. Franklin
 DE: Jason Bajas, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
 LB: Dan Wanshon, Sr., Canton
 LB: Brad Bond, Jr., Garden City
 LB: Devin Moynihan, Sr., Liv. Churchill
 DB: Ryan Whittum, Sr., Liv. Churchill
 DB: Keshawn Martin, Sr., Westland Glenn
 DB: Pat York, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
 DB: Ryan Dolan, Sr., Liv. Churchill
 All-Purpose: C.J. Freeman, Sr., Wayne

COACH OF THE YEAR
 Tim Gabel, Liv. Stevenson

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB: Tony Harrison, Sr., Red. Covenant
 QB: Adam Powers, Sr., Canton
 RB: Wade Stahl, Jr., Liv. Stevenson
 RB: Wayne Nichols, Sr., Red. Covenant
 RB: Paul Cole, Sr., Garden City
 RB: Levonte Brooks, Sr., Clarenceville
 RB: Matt Kowalski, Jr., Liv. Churchill
 RB: Kyle Crockett, Sr., Red. Thurston
 WR: Brian Humenay, Sr., Liv. Franklin
 WR: Mike Hanchett, Sr., Plymouth
 TE: Ronnie Goble, Jr., Plymouth
 OL: Mike Bratcher, Sr., Redford Union
 OL: Tim Curry, Sr., Redford Union
 OL: Dan Abbott, Sr., Luth. Westland

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL: Mark Tucker, Sr., Red. Thurston
 DL: Zak Kyle, Sr., Wayne Memorial
 DE: Senaj O'Banion, Sr., Garden City
 DE: Ryan Lopez, Sr., Westland Glenn
 LB: John Saaman, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
 LB: Jarrel Bloodsaw, Sr., Red. Thurston
 LB: Sam Ahlersmeyer, Jr., Luth. Westland
 LB: Brant Thomas, Sr., Salem
 LB: Jordan Short, Sr., Liv. Franklin
 DB: Jeremy Gainer, Jr., Clarenceville
 DB: Gerald Sturdivant, Sr., Red. Covenant
 DB: Kyle Wallath, Sr., Plymouth
 DB: Corey Campbell, Sr., Wayne

HONORABLE MENTION

Stevenson: Wyatt Stahl, Emanuel Onwuemena, Chris Golonka, Joey Cantrell, Joey Doulette, Mark Grisa, Travis Austin, Mike Flynn; Franklin: Dan Robinson, Mike Birney, David Fortin, Austin Meiser; Churchill: Mark Parrist, Daran Carey, Darus Miller-Weiss, Max DiCicco; John Glenn: Zach Bozigan, Adam Sonak, John Abraham, Greg Bevel, Joey Kowitzko; Wayne: Nate Mosely, Jordan Dattor, Alan Freeman, Anthony Baskin, Alex Blascoe; Clarenceville: Terry Line; Lutheran Westland: Ryan Richter, Eric Shoats, Ethan Haller, Troy Gozke, Billy Meier; Redford Union: David Caloja, Zeke Urban, Derek Favaro, Tony Iltis; Garden City: Michael Pack, Anthony Glass; Thurston: Michael Hines, Jose McNeal; Red. Covenant: Gary Coe II, Anthony Davis, Dominique Williams; Canton: William Tidwell, Dakota Dark-Bird, Rodger Kropp, Ryan Neu, Cam Phelps, Jerome Scales, Justin Scott, Nick Sweda, Todd Furie, Robby Walker, Sam Kokoszka, Justin Sneddon, Jordan Raiford, Matt Barylski; Plymouth: Steven Betis, Eric Barrera, Terrance Guthridge, Anthony Pomerson, Michael Rose, Spencer Tobin, Rico Tyus, Jackson Vaughn, Aaron Uiler, Corey Gomoll; Salem: Jeremy Epley, Justin Burke, Anthony Mullins, Eddie Merkl, Rob Olson.



FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE B1
 him an All-WLAA first team nod. "Myron is the type of running back that could take over a game when he wanted to," said Plymouth coach Mike Sawchuk. "He has been a blessing to coach and is a great kid on and off the field."

ISRAEL WOOLFORK, SR. WR, LIV. FRANKLIN: The 6-4, 175-pound senior caught 44 passes for 828 yards and seven TDs en route to All-WLAA honors. He averaged 18.8 yards per catch and rushed 11 times for 127 yards and one TD.

Defensively, Woolfork ended up with 87 tackles, three interceptions and three fumble recoveries. "He was our go-to guy all year," Kelbert said. "Whenever we needed a big play on either side of the ball, Israel would step up and make the play."

JAMONNE CHESTER, JR. WR, RED. COVENANT: Spectacular plays became a weekly thing this season when it came to the junior wide-out, who grabbed 32 passes for 576 yards and scored 12 touchdowns for the Spartans. Chester was a big reason Covenant went 8-3, advanced to the D8 district championship game and scored 286 points this season.

"Jamonne has real good size (6-2, 190) and he has the work ethic," said Spartans assistant coach Dewuane Jones. "And we're extremely proud of him."

Among many honors for Chester were first-team all conference and all-state honorable mention for D8. Chester also will participate Jan. 3-5 at the Reebok-hosted U.S. Army National Combine in Texas.

MYLES WHITE, SR. WR, LIV. STEVENSON: The 6-1, 165-pound senior caught 26 passes for 651 yards and 10 touchdowns (including a long of 81) on his way to All-Western Lakes honors. White, committed to Michigan State, also played in the secondary.

"Myles worked extremely hard to improve both his hands and his route running," Gabel said. "And it made him the impact player he was. He also gave up only a handful of reception to his side of the field on defense."

JEFF MCCULLOUGH, SR. TE, LIV. FRANKLIN: The 6-5, 235-pound senior played both tight end and linebacker for the Division 1 district champions. Offensively, the two-year starter and captain caught 27 passes for 285 yards and three TDs. He also finished with a total of 98 tackles (66 solo) with five tackles for loss, four sacks and one interception. "Jeff was 'Mr. Everything' in my opinion," Kelbert said.

The All-Western Division pick had two INTs, including a touchdown return, along with a pair of sacks in a 20-8 playoff win over Dearborn Fordson.

"He is the most versatile player in the area. This season we lined him up at tight end, wide receiver and he was the backup QB on offense. On defense, he played inside linebacker, outside back, defensive end and we also used him in our of our pass coverages."

MATT BROOME, SR. OL, LIV. STEVENSON: The 6-3, 235-pound senior earned Division 1 All-State honors as well as All-Western Lakes recognition while playing on both sides of the ball. He finished 61 tackles, including 12 for loss, along with eight sacks. "Matt was as technically sound a player as we had," Gabel said of the three-year starter. "His athleticism and conditioning allowed him to be effective on both sides of the ball with very few breaks."

MAC GANZAK, SR. OL, CANTON: The 6-3, 230-pound senior anchored the Chiefs' senior-dominated offensive line with a powerful performance in his final season of prep football. Ganzak's standout work in the trenches was recognized by the WLAA's coaches, who voted him onto the All-Conference first team.

"Mac was a first-year starter who worked extremely hard during the off-season to get ready for his senior year," said Canton coach Tim Baechler. "We ran right a lot — especially on fourth down — because of Mac and Will Tidwell. They dominated that side of the line at times."

DUANE NAJARIAN, SR. OL, LIV. CHURCHILL: The 6-foot, 325-pound senior earned All-WLAA honors for the 7-3 Chargers.

"Duane was the anchor on our offensive line," Churchill coach John Filiatraut said. "He overcame a fairly severe leg injury and played many games at less than 100 percent. He is a tremendous run blocker and is surprising nimble for a guy his size."

MIKE DAVIS, SR. OL, WAYNE: A three-year starter for the Zebras, the 6-3, 270-pound senior earned All-WLAA honors with a total of 52 "pancakes" on the year.

Davis also played on the defensive line where he six tackles for loss and two sacks. "He's the best lineman I've ever coached," Wayne coach Craig Hnatuk said. "And because of his versatility, he played four out of five offensive line positions."

RICKY BELL, SR. C, LIV. STEVENSON: The 6-foot, 245-pound senior played the Spartans' final two playoff games with a torn knee ligament. Bell earned All-Western Lakes recognition.

"Ricky is the most determined blocker we've ever had," Gabel said, "and he really accepted nothing less than total efficiency from himself and the rest of the line. An unmatched leader who will be dearly missed."

D.J. FREEMAN, SR. ALL-PURPOSE, WAYNE: The 5-9, 185-pound senior quarterback rushed for 770 yards on seven TDs and three 2 points, while hitting 55-of-109 passes for 1,110 yards and 12 TDs and five INTs. The three-year starter and All-WLAA pick also played as a defensive back.

"D.J. dedicated himself so much in the off-season, whether it was watching film or going to a speed training camp, or being a weight room rat," Hnatuk said. "Imagine a quarterback squatting 440 pounds and dead-lifting over 500 pounds. He's a tremendous player, and better yet, a better person."

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE
ELLIOTT SYLVESTER, SR. DL, LIV. CHURCHILL: The 5-10, 225-pound senior, a two-year starter, earned All-WLAA honors as a senior. "His quickness and strength made him one of the top defensive linemen in our conference," Filiatraut said. "He was a load to block every game. Elliott plays with great technique and is extremely quick off the ball. He's a guy who loves to play football. He dominated our practices and gave our offense fits every day."

TRENT JUDIS, SR. DL, LIV. STEVENSON: The 5-11, 250-pound senior was an All-Conference player who helped anchor the Spartans' interior line as he finished with 71 tackles, including 18 for loss. "Trent is one of our top kids academically," Gabel said. "Trent also has a throwback work ethic and mindset. He played every snap in practice as hard as a game, and improved every game."

KEVIN TABONE, SR. DE, LIV. CHURCHILL: The 6-4, 235-pound senior, a three-year starter played both ways. Defensively, Tabone finished with 32 tackles, two sacks, one fumble recovery and one forced fumble. Offensively, the All-WLAA tight end had 12 catches for 191 yards and one TD.

"Like several others, Kevin suffered through our 1-8 season two years ago and helped to get us back into the playoffs," Filiatraut said. "He's a great player on both sides of the ball and could play either positions (tight end or defensive line) in college. He's a terrific blocker and a solid pass catcher. Kevin is also a great defensive end. He has a great motor and loves to play the game of football."

PAT CECILE, SR. DE, LIV. FRANKLIN: The three-year starter and captain finished with 95 total tackles, including 55 solo (nine for loss) along with three sacks. During the season he moved from linebacker to defensive end and from center to guard.

"Pat is the hardest working player we had in our program," Kelbert said of the All-WLAA pick. "Pat's leadership and work ethic was a big reason we were able to turn our season around."

JASON BAJAS, SR. DE, LIV. STEVENSON: The 6-0, 215-pound senior defensive end earned All-Conference honors for the 13-1 Spartans. He finished with 69 total tackles, including seven for loss and three sacks. "Jason was our best conditioned player, and he combined that with an iron will to make himself invaluable



Brad Bond Garden City
 Devin Moynihan Churchill

on both sides of the ball," Gabel said. "He lined up at multiple spots on defense, while taking every meaningful snap as an offensive tackle."

DAN WANSHON, SR. LB, CANTON: The 5-11, 205-pound senior was a sideline-to-sideline force for the Chiefs as he led them in tackles. Wanshon was the lone Canton player who saw significant time in the team's 2005 state final showdown against Rockford. He also anchored the middle of the defense last year when the Chiefs advanced to the Division 1 semifinals. Wanshon was rewarded for his never-quit style by being named to the All-WLAA's first-team defense.

"Dan was our most physical player this season," said Baechler. "He led us in tackles and he made all the defensive calls and the checks. He was a great leader, too."

BRAD BOND, JR. LB, GARDEN CITY: The 6-0, 205-pound junior averaged 7.33 tackles and 5.55 assists per contest, tops in both categories for Garden City. His all-out play provided stability to the Cougars' defense and earned him team defensive MVP honors as well as selection to the All-Mega Blue first team.

"Brad is great at finding the ball and getting there to make the play," said Garden City head coach Mike Salter. "He plays sideline-to-sideline."

DEVIN MOYNIHAN, SR. LB, LIV. CHURCHILL: The 5-11, 205-pound senior had a team-high 141 tackles in 10 games, including four games with 20 or more. He also added one interception and one fumble recovery. "Devin turned into one of the best linebackers in the WLAA," Filiatraut said of the All-Conference pick. "He started at Mike's linebacker and was an anchor for our defense. He has good size and speed, and is a solid tackler and a great hitter. He is all you want in a linebacker. He added toughness and durability to our defense."

RYAN WHITTUM, SR. DB, LIV. CHURCHILL: The 6-2, 195-pound senior earned both Division 1 All-State and All-WLAA honors. He finished with 49 tackles and five interceptions (one returned for a touchdown). As a wide receiver, Whittum caught 15 passes for 297 yards and two TDs. He was also the team's placekicker and punter. "Ryan is a great person of character," Filiatraut said. "He has a tremendous drive to be the best he can be. He is a very focused player who rarely loses concentration. He has tremendous athletic ability and ball skills. Early in the year, Ryan made many of the plays that helped define our season. He is the kind of player that makes big plays in big games."

KESHAWN MARTIN, SR. DB, WESTLAND GLENN: The 6-foot, 176-pound senior, committed to Michigan State, did it all for the 5-4 Rockets. As a quarterback, Martin rushed for 866 yards in 11 attempts and 13 TDs, while hitting 28-of-62 passes for 685 yards and seven TDs. His longest run was 90 yards. As a defensive back, he had a pair of interceptions, both for TDs. "When defenses keyed on Keshawn, he took advantage," DeLuca said. "And he always covered the best receiver the opponent had."

PAT YORK, SR. DB, LIV. STEVENSON: The only repeat All-Observer first-team performer, the crafty 5-11, 155-pound York was the defensive signal caller for the Spartans. He had 106 total tackles and finished with nine interceptions for 141 yards in returns (15.7 average) and one TD (52 yards). "Pat took over our defense by making a point to understand everyone's role against every formation and play," Gabel said. "He's the best practice player we've ever had, and he made everyone else better around him."

RYAN DOLAN, SR. DB, LIV. CHURCHILL: The 5-9, 165-pound senior finished with 64 tackles (two sacks), two interceptions (one for a TD) and one fumble recovery (for a TD) while scoring 14 points.



Jason Bajas Stevenson
 Ryan Whittum Churchill

undefeated season since 1968 and captured its first-ever Western Lakes Activities Association crown to go along with district and region titles. Gabel's 13-year record is 82-47 with eight postseason playoff appearances.



Keshawn Martin John Glenn
 Pat York Stevensons

COACH OF THE YEAR
TIM GABEL, LIV. STEVENSON: Guided the Spartans to their finest football season in school history with a 13-1 record and a berth in the Division 1 state championship game at Detroit's Ford Field. Stevenson also capped its first



Ryan Dolan Churchill
 David Freeman Wayne

CITY OF WESTLAND PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION JANUARY 15, 2008

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND, County of Wayne: Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Primary Election will be held in the City of Westland on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at which time candidates of the following offices will be voted upon: President of the United States of America to determine the number of delegates to the Democratic National Convention and the Republican National Convention based on the vote tallies for candidates under the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Voters will be required to request either a Democratic Ballot or a Republican Ballot. Names on the ballot under the Democratic Party will be: Hillary Clinton, Chris Dodd, Mike Gavel, Dennis Kucinich or Uncommitted. Names on the ballot under the Republican Party will be: Sam Brownback, Rudy Gulliani, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, John McCain, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, Tom Tancredo, Fred Thompson or Uncommitted. Also on the ballot for those City of Westland voters in the Taylor School District (part of precinct 28) will be a Millage Renewal Proposition: Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes that may be levied by the Taylor School District, Wayne County, Michigan, against all property in the school district, except principal residence and qualified agricultural property as defined by law, be increased by 18 mills (which is equal to \$18 per \$1,000 of taxable value of real and tangible personal property), for a period of five (5) years, from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2013, for the purpose of paying part of the operating expenses of the school district? The estimated amount of revenue that the school district will collect in the year 2008 if the millage is authorized and levied will be \$16,000,000. The proposed millage is a renewal of a previously authorized millage

STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT 278 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964 Amending the Property Tax Limitation Act

I, RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of August 13, 2007 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

Wayne County and City of Westland Westland (Wayne County), Michigan	Taxing Authorities	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Year Increase Effective
County of Wayne		August 8, 2000	1 mill	2009
Wayne County Jail		August 6, 2002	1 mill	2010
Wayne County Parks		August 2, 2005	0.25 mills	2010
Wayne County		November 3, 1998	1 mill	Indefinitely
Community College		November 6, 2001	1.5 mills	2010
Inkster School District		May, 2006	21 mills	2015 (non homestead)
		May, 2006	6 mills	2015
Taylor School District		March, 2003	18 mills	2008 (non homestead)
Wayne-Westland		June, 1995	18 mills	2009 (non homestead)
Community Schools		February, 2003	1 mill	2012
City of Westland				
Library			0.9477 mill	Indefinitely
Operating			6.4834 mill	Indefinitely
Promotion			0.0215 mill	Indefinitely
Police & Fire Ret.			3.35 mill	Indefinitely
Rubbish Collection			2.15 mill	Indefinitely
Drain Debt			0.2554 mill	Indefinitely

Signed: RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ /s/ Wayne County Treasurer

The places of voting for the Presidential Primary Election to be held on January 15, 2008 will be as follows:

Precincts	Locations
1 & 19	Madison School, 1075 S. Carlson
2 & 32	Kettering School, 1200 Hubbard
3 & 7	Stottlemeyer School, 34801 Marquette
4 & 8	Patchin School, 6420 Newburgh
5 & 29	Edison School, 34505 Hunter
6	Adams Middle School, 33475 Palmer
9	Jefferson School, 32150 Dorsey
10	Lincoln School, 33800 Grand Traverse
11 & 23	Elliott School, 30800 Bennington
12 & 25 & 35	Cooper School, 28550 Ann Arbor Trail
13 & 18	Schweitzer School, 2601 Treadwell
14	Marshall Middle School, 35100 Bayview
15	Greenwood Villa, 7600 Nankin Ct
16	Holiday Park Club House, 34850 Fountain Blvd.
17 & 37	P. D. Graham School, 1255 S. John Hix
20	Wildwood School, 500 N. Wildwood
21 & 42	Johnson School, 8400 Hix
22	Westland Meadows Club House, 30600 Van Born
24	Lutheran High School Westland, 33300 Cowan
26 & 33	Hamilton School, 1031 Schuman
27	Ferrinville School, 33344 Ann Arbor Trail
28	Church of Christ - Annapolis Park, 30355 Annapolis
30 & 31	Hayes School, 30600 Louise St.
34 & 38	Dyer Social Service Center, Senior Wing - 36745 Marquette
36	Western Wayne Skill Center, 8075 Ritz
39	Landings Apartment Club House, 7000 Lakeview
40 & 41	Hellenic Cultural Center at St. Constantine Church, 36375 Joy

The polls for said election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on said day of election. Every qualified elector present and in line at the hour prescribed for the closing thereof shall be allowed to vote. Voting sites are ADA compliant.

Eileen DeHart Westland City Clerk

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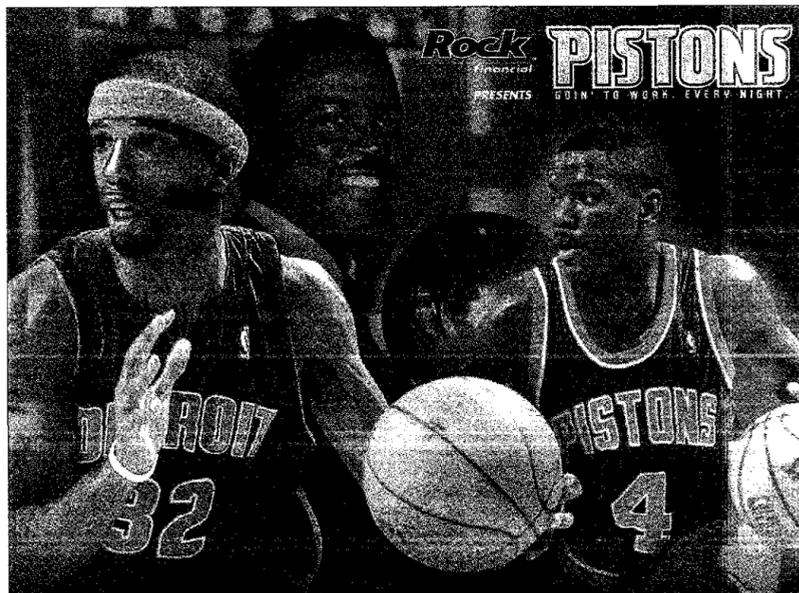
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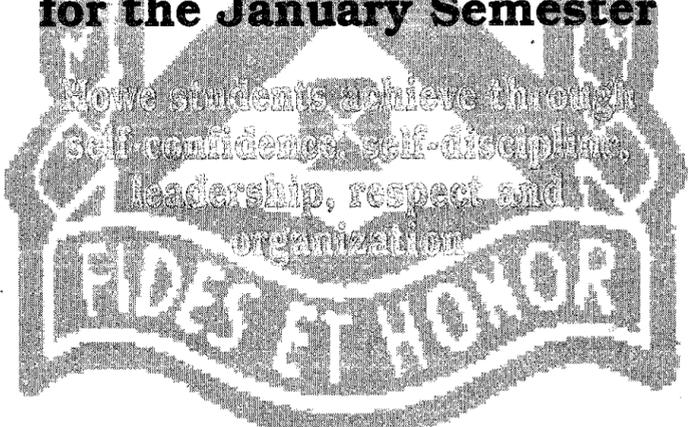
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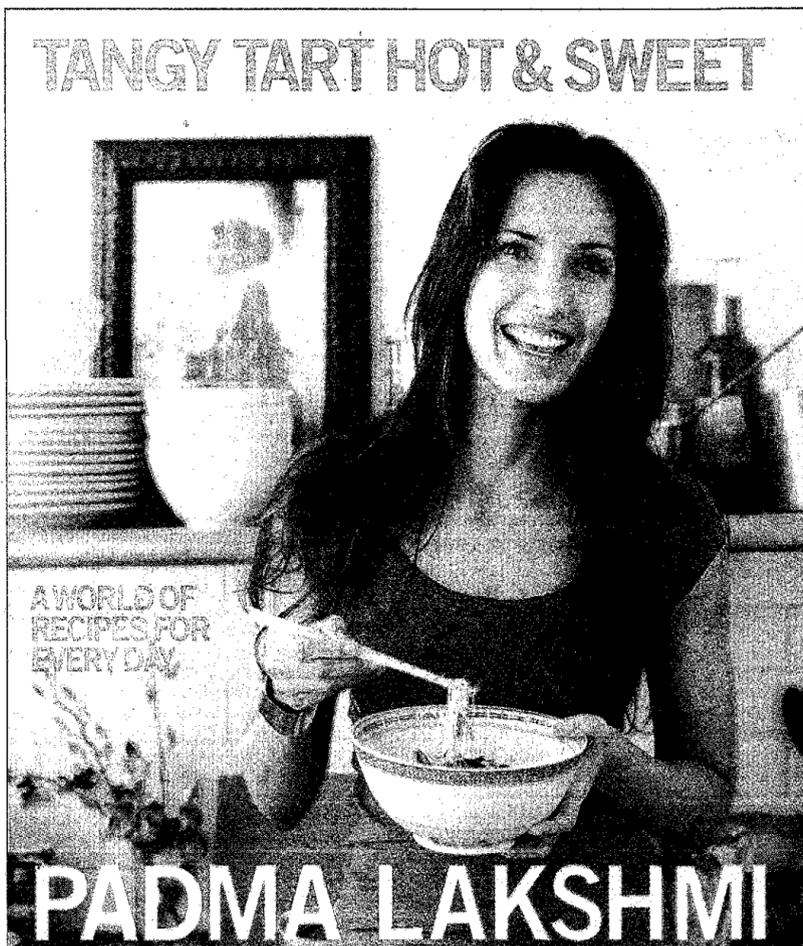


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Padma's Party



Have a Tangy Tart Hot Sweet New Year

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
STAFF WRITER

Padma Lakshmi is so stylish she elevates grilled cheese to an art form.

The model, author, cook and host of Bravo's hit series *Top Chef* shares secrets for making meals magical in her new cookbook *Tangy Tart Hot & Sweet: A World of Recipes for Every Day* (Weinstein Books, \$34.95).

Experimental cooks can take pages from the book's appetizer section to throw a New Year's Eve party with global flavor.

"What I do a lot of times is take simple classic recipes that we're all familiar with and add two or three ingredients that give them a varnish of personality and international flair," Lakshmi said during a recent interview. "Once you get the ingredients they're easy."

Lakshmi was born in India and raised in America. Growing up, her palate was influenced by a Peruvian babysitter, her mother's Caribbean boyfriend, a playmate from the Philippines and culinary field trips to ethnic neighborhoods like Chinatown and Spanish Harlem. Her career has since taken her to Singapore, Spain, Paris and beyond.

With ease, Lakshmi has melded tastes from around the world into her home cooking, and guests to the fabulous dinner parties she used to host with former husband, author Salman Rushdie, took notice. She was soon tapped to write her first cookbook, *Easy Exotic*, and host her first show on the Food Network, *Padma's Passport*.

In her new book, she continues to play with fresh takes on traditional dishes.

Macaroni and cheese is punched up with pickled jalapenos and Mexican oregano. Crab cakes go South Indian with shredded coconut and mango powder.

Saffron, tamarind and sumac make frequent appearances, but not without explanation. Padma starts each recipe by detailing its unique flavors, and the book is interspersed with instructions on how to work with ingredients like pomegranate seeds, Za'atar powder and chutneys. The book also contains beautiful photos and essays about Padma's colorful life and the people who have influenced her cooking.

Many of Lakshmi's recipes are perfect for parties, including an array of tiny sandwiches that are a snap to prepare.

"A few years ago, I started seeing what looked like bite-size grilled cheese sandwiches being passed around at parties that were very fashionably catered," she writes.

"It occurred to me that if these high-end types could steal such a homemade specialty and turn it into a party food, then I could steal it back for parties at home."

Eric Schilbe, a Livonia resident and sous chef at Steve & Rocky's in Novi, got a chance to test some of Lakshmi's recipes firsthand when she visited Detroit during her book tour.

Lakshmi read passages from *Tangy Tart Hot & Sweet* and signed copies during the Toll Brothers' Tastes of Autumn event in November. For the party, Schilbe prepared Mexican Cornbread with Jalapeno and Chorizo; Grilled Cheese Toasties with Portobello and Bacon; Deviled Eggs with Serrano Chiles; and Tea Sandwiches with Lemon, Honey and Ginger.

"I liked her cookbook," Schilbe said. "It's definitely accessible to the general public, especially since nowadays a lot of the Indian products and Mexican products she uses are available at specialty grocery stores like Hiller's and Busch's."

Hosting a New Year's Eve soiree? Make it exotic with Padma Lakshmi's take on traditional party foods.

TEA SANDWICHES WITH LEMON, HONEY AND GINGER

"These graceful little triangles ... can be made so easily and are perfect for whipping up whenever guests descend unexpectedly."

10 slices of good white bread, toasted on both sides
2 preserved lemon halves (sold in specialty stores)
2 teaspoons honey

1 teaspoon crushed dried red peppers
1 tablespoon freshly minced ginger
10 thin slices of a hard Italian cheese like pecorino or caciotta

Arrange the toast on a platter. Chop the preserved lemons, being sure to remove any seeds first. Place them in a processor or blender with the honey, red pepper, and ginger; make a smooth paste. Spread the paste on the toast and top with a slice of cheese. Diagonally cut each slice to make equal triangles from each slice. You can serve as is or heat in a 350 degree oven for a few minutes, just until cheese is melted and toasted. Either way, these are wonderful with tea, or, even better, a glass of sherry. Serves 6-8.

DEVILED EGGS WITH SERRANO CHILES

"I started making these very retro appetizers for cocktail parties because many of my guests were on high protein, low starch diets ... Green chiles and coriander give them a fresh spicy taste."

1/3 cup mayonnaise
1 serrano chile, seeded and minced
3 grape tomatoes, seeded and diced finely with skin
2 tablespoons minced fresh cilantro
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
salt
A squirt of fresh lemon juice, about a teaspoon
6 hard-boiled eggs

Combine all the ingredients, except the eggs, in a bowl. Set aside.

Carefully peel the eggs, without scratching the whites. Slice each egg lengthwise and toss the yolks into the bowl with all the other ingredients.

Arrange the whites on a platter. Mix the contents of the bowl well by mashing them together with a fork; add salt to taste. Using a spoon, put a bit of the yolk mixture back into each of the whites and serve them on a platter at room temperature. Serves 4-6.

Please see **RECIPES, D5**



Tea Sandwiches with Lemon, Honey and Ginger make perfect party passers. Also pictured are tea sandwiches with cucumber and pomegranate seeds.

ACCENTS

Caring for critters

Christmas is over, but don't stop giving when it comes to backyard critters.

The Humane Society of the United States reports that raccoons, squirrels, skunks and birds benefit from human help throughout the season.

According to Laura Simon, field director of urban wildlife for HSUS, "Although wild animals are able to adapt to survive cold winter temperatures and food limitations, there are small things that people can do to help them this time of year. We suggest several 'gifts of the season' that can give our backyard neighbors a warm boost during the holidays."

■ Keep bird feeders full in the winter since food availability is very limited for non-migratory birds.

■ Fill large pinecones with peanut butter and roll them in sunflower seeds. Attach a string to the top and hang from trees for birds.

■ Invest in a heated birdbath and keep it filled all winter long. Birds need the water at this time of year when most natural sources may be frozen.

■ Put decorative snowflakes 4 inches apart on any windows where birds might hit, or have hit in the past.

■ Put a cover over any window wells around your house to prevent animals from becoming stuck. Animals, such as skunks, who have poor climbing abilities commonly fall into window wells.

■ Use only environmentally-friendly sidewalk salt for melting ice such as Safe Paws Ice Melter. Regular sidewalk salts pollute the environment and can irritate cats' and dogs' paws.

■ Get to know your backyard wild neighbors by going on an adventure around your own yard in the snow. Try to identify different species by looking at tracks and other signs they leave behind, such as partial remains of food like cracked nuts or twigs. Buy a good wildlife tracking guide - or give one as a gift - to learn more and to better appreciate these animals.

■ The HSUS Wild Neighbors Program promotes non-lethal means for resolving conflicts between people and wildlife and cultivates understanding and appreciation for wild animals commonly found in cities and towns.

For more information www.humanesociety.org/wild-neighbors.

Celebrate year's end with Italian wines

As the largest import segment, Italian wines scored in 2007. End the year by seeking out some of Italy's world-famous wines, such as Barolo and Barbaresco from regions with the same name. Both are located in northwest Italy (Piedmont region) around the city of Alba and both wines are made from the nebbiolo grape, a name derived from 'nebbia', the Piedmontese word for fog. Others to discover are Dolcetto d'Alba and Barbera d'Alba, produced from grapes of the same names, that also originate from this area. Asti is located about 20 miles northeast of Alba and home to Barbera d'Asti.



Focus on Wine
Ray & Eleanor Heald

then life in the Piedmont has been stable, allowing its viticulture to evolve and winemaking to improve. Identification of suitable areas for growing each grape variety and the techniques for vinification and aging made early progress. The present Marchese is Alberto di Gresy who was born

family has owned land in the Piedmont since 1797. Napoleon won a battle in nearby Alessandria in June of 1800, which caused the retreat of the Austrians from northern Italy. Since

in Milan in 1952, and today, armed with a degree in business administration, smartly leads the winery bearing the di Gresy name. Unwilling to sell grapes to wine producers who took all of the credit for wine made from his premium grapes, di Gresy began to supervise vineyard operations on the family's estates and in 1973 started making his own wine. His objective was to produce the very best wine from his own grapes using modern technology, while continuing to respect the Piedmont tradition. It is di Gresy's intention to capture the personality of each vineyard estate in the bottle.

VINEYARD ESTATES

The Martinenga Estate is located in the heart of

Barbaresco where di Gresy grows nebbiolo, barbera and cabernet sauvignon on hillside locations with ideal sun exposure at elevations of 700 to 950 feet. Newer vineyards of sauvignon blanc and chardonnay are grown at lower elevations. Three vineyard-designated Barbarescos are produced from this property, Martinenga, Camp Gros and Gaiani.

The Monte Aribaldo Estate, located just over one mile from Martinenga, has a splendid view of the Piedmont, framed by the Italian Alps. The vineyard extends along a ridge that has mixed volcanic and chalk soils. Here di Gresy grows Dolcetto d'Alba, chardonnay and sauvignon blanc.

Please see **HEALDS, D5**

WINE PICKS

Although Italian wines are the number one imports, CABERNET SAUVIGNON remains the top-selling varietal red wine. The following from California offer some fine drinking in a broad range of prices.

Outstanding

2003 Arrowood Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon \$100

Excellent

2004 Stags' Leap Napa Valley \$48

2003 PreVail West Face \$50

2004 Sbragia Monte Rosso \$50

2004 Arrowood Sonoma County \$50

2003 Dry Creek Vineyards

Endeavour \$55

2005 Parallel Napa Valley \$55

2004 Duckhorn Napa Valley \$60

2004 Flora Springs Napa Valley

Trilogy \$65

2003 Kenwood Vineyards Artist

Series \$70

2004 Sbragia Wall Vineyard \$75 --

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2004 Sbragia Rancho Del Oso

(Howell Mountain) \$75

2003 Gallo Family Estate Northern

Sonoma \$80

2003 PreVail Back Forty \$95

2001 Mc William's '1877' Cabernet/

Shiraz \$100

2004 Beringer Napa Valley Private

Reserve \$116

2004 Pillar Rock Stags Leap District

\$125 (available online at www.pillar-rockvineyard.com)

Very Good

2005 Gallo Family Sonoma Reserve

\$15

2004 Summers Andriana's Cuvee

Napa Valley \$25

2004 Valley of the Moon Sonoma

County Cuvee de la Luna \$30

Please see **PICKS, D5**

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

DECEMBER

Single Place Ministry

Old Fashioned Hootenanny concert with Bob Allwine Thursday, Dec. 27, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 East Main Street, Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org.

Single Place meets Thursdays at the church, 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program. Cost is \$5 per person.

Special services

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 30, at Friendship Church which meets at Michigan Theological Seminary, 41550 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. For information, call (734) 710-9370 or visit www.CantonFriendship.org. Sundays in January focus is on how life would be different if you only had 30 days to live.

Grief support

Living with the loss of a spouse, a six-week program dealing with grief, loneliness and related issues, conducted by Widowed Friends, a peer support group, begins 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6, at Our Lady of Loretto Parish, Six Mile near Beech Daly. \$20 fee covers all materials. Call Joan at (248) 478-1084 by Dec. 30 to register.

Day of service

Beginning in January, a Day of Service and Spirituality will be made available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, to meet, and to have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For more information, send e-mail to ccrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

UPCOMING

Thursday fellowship dinner

Resume Jan. 3, all are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners are catered by The

Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$6. Call (313) 534-7730.

Couple prayer series

St. Colette Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia, is offering a life-changing Couple Prayer Series (www.coupleprayer.org) for married or engaged couple, beginning 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, in the Activity Center Hall. Couples who pray together daily have a divorce rate of less than 1 divorce in every 1000 marriages. For registration information, call Mary Ellen at (734) 464-4435.

Reformed Protestant services

Weekly Sunday services begin Jan. 6. The doctrines and teachings of Reformed Protestantism will be preached every Sunday at 3:30 p.m. worship services of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing). A new preaching station has been established and the services will be held at Cherry Hills School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge Rd., Canton. Rev. Sean Humby will preach each Sunday. For more information, call Margaret Waldecker at (313) 530-6170, visit www.westminsterconfession.org, or e-mail Humby at sean.humby@fuse.net.

Concert rescheduled

The Victory Voices Choir for grades 4-6 was scheduled to perform The Mystery of the Manger Dec. 16, but due to snow had to be cancelled. The concert has been rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722.

Thrift store

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

Living Water series

Mark McGilvrey leads a 10-week video series called H2O starting 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722. The group is open to men and women who would like to review the basic teachings of Jesus who claimed to be living water. It is also intended for those who have never made a commitment to Jesus.

ENDOW

Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women sessions 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 17 to March 6, (explores Pope John Paul II's Mulleris Dignitatem-On the Dignity and Vocation of Women), in Bixmal Hall church building at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Second session begins 7-9 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 14, to March 3, (explores Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women), in conference room in parish office. Registration required for both sessions. \$60 for materials for each session. Contact Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or send e-

mail to mtschmidt@sbcglobal.net.

Women's retreat

Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 19-20, at St. John's Retreat Center of Plymouth. Cost is \$85, includes Saturday lunch, dinner, snacks and Sunday breakfast. Rooms are single occupancy. For more information, call Kathy Weinberg at (734) 464-0211, Ext. 202.

Christian comedian

Ed Thompson (www.edthompsonlive.com), 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Rd., north of I-96 (Schoolcraft service drive), Livonia. Call (734) 522-6830.

ONGOING

New schedule

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

Worship service

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Worship

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Sunday worship

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

Worship service

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

Upper Room Ministries

Meets 6 p.m. Sundays, in Room 111 in Our Lady of Loretto School on Beech Daly and Six Mile in Redford. Upper Room Ministries is a spirit-filled, charismatic ministry sponsored by Living Water Church in Livonia. All faiths welcome to attend. For information, call Pastor Luke Willis at (734) 425-6360, or Bishop Dan Strength at (734) 812-1099.

F.I.R.E. ministries

With theme scripture, He shall bap-

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

New worship schedule

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

Sunday worship

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

Worship services

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

Singers wanted

Riverside Park Church of God is looking for voices to join their choir. For more information, call (734) 464-0990.

Pancake breakfasts

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continue their 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The breakfasts are served in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. Adults, \$5; children ages 4-11, \$3; children under age 3, free; and family (2 adults and all children), \$15. Everyone is welcome.

Men's breakfast

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

MOPS meetings

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

Bible studies

Regular Bible Study program continues at 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month, focus is on St. Paul's Letters to the Romans, at St. Michael's Catholic Church on the corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

MOPS groups

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

LOGOS Youth Club

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

Heartcry

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

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbwomen.

Bible study

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

Fellowship Dinners

6 p.m. Thursdays. Dinner catered by

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

Thrift Shop

9:30-11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford.

Registration

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now taking registrations for the fall program at 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. It is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Loving and caring programs are offered for toddler, preschool, pre-K, and child care. Call (734) 513-8413.

Morning prayers

7:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, corner of Puritan, Redford. Please join in as participants start day with prayer. Call (313) 255-6330.

J.O.Y. meeting

The J.O.Y. Builders (Just Older Youth, ages 50 plus) meet 11:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch, fellowship and fun, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. All are welcome to join in. There is no charge, although organizers ask that you bring a luncheon dish to share.

Higher Rock Cafe

Second and fourth Friday of the month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland, 2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer. For information, call (734) 722-3660 or visit www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com.

Uplifting church services

Want a unique church experience? Join in Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. for a service that will lift your entire family, but be prepared for what will happen after just one service. An open discussion 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Classes available for all ages, child to adult. Riverside Park Church of God is at 11771 Newburgh (corner of Plymouth Road), Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

Worship service

10 a.m. Sundays, at The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Sunday School for children. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Youth wanted

Twins and teens age 12 and up are invited to join in various youth activities held at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road (corner of Plymouth), Livonia. Come to one of the regular classes on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or Wednesdays at 7 p.m. For details, call (734) 464-0990.

Sunday worship

10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Sunday services

Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster Road on Plymouth Road. Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call (734) 425-6360.

Farmington Women Aglow

Meets the second Monday of each month 7-9:30 p.m. at the Longacre House on Farmington road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call Vikki for more information at (248) 497-7755. Farmington Aglow is a Christian women's groups.

Worship services

Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For more information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait.

Worship services

Praise and worship 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 6500 Wayne Road and Hunter, Westland. Contemporary music and casual dress. Children church and nursery. Call (734) 254-0093. Doughnuts and coffee served.

Celebrate Recovery

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville launches Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from their hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday evening for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts). Child care during Celebrate Recovery is free and available by calling (248) 374-7400. For information, visit www.celebrater-recovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate.

Sunday service

All are welcome to attend worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Worship service

At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New

Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from 1 Peter. Call (313) 255-6330.

Adult literacy classes

Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those wishing to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you.

Personal ministry

Due Season Christian Church is a nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org.

Scripture studies

From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

TOPS

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weight-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

Learner's Bible study

At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Church service

Loving God by loving people, meets at 10 a.m. Sunday at Westwood Community Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. Doughnuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093 for information.

Eucharistic adoration

The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. followed by Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

Senior activities

Gathering for seniors 50 years and older at 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and come out and meet other seniors. Lunch is served followed by fellowship with some games and stories.

St. James Presbyterian Church offers a Thursday dinner at 6 p.m. for \$5 prepared by Susan Navarro, The Cookie Lady, followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal at 8 p.m.; Thrift store open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday; 10 a.m. women's study group second Saturday of the month, and Sunday worship at 10 a.m. (nursery available) and children's class at 10:15 a.m. at 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Unity of Livonia

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.

Shabbat services

The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Bet Chaverim

Services open to all in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 or visit www.betchaverim.com.

Detroit World Outreach

A nondenominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high-tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, for college students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study at 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner, child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat Rocks

A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit www.adatshalom.org.

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232

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Elizabeth "Betty" Mallon

Elizabeth "Betty" Mallon, age 88, formerly of Farmington Hills, MI most recently of Pemberville, OH passed away Friday, December 21, 2007 at Otterbein Portage Valley Retirement Village, Pemberville, OH. On August 15, 1919 she was born to Albert and Hattie (Carter) Ruettinger in Detroit, MI. Betty married Raymond Mallon on February 8, 1941 in Detroit, MI and he preceded her in death in 1994. She was a homemaker and in her spare time enjoyed sewing and needlework. Survivors include her daughters: Arlene Mallon of Gibsonburg, OH; Corrine (Bill) Vance of Montgomery, TX; Joyce (Terry) Davis of Bradner, OH; son: Richard (Beth) Mallon of Barnett, VT; nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Raymond, and infant son Raymond Wade. Family and friends will be received on Thursday, December 27, 2007 from 4-8 PM at the Marsh Funeral Home, 4094 State Route 105 Pemberville, OH where funeral services will be conducted on Friday December 28, 2007 at 10:00 AM. Interment will be at 2:30 PM in Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia, MI. Those giving a memorial contribution may wish to consider Otterbein Portage Valley Retirement Village or Hospice of Northwest Ohio. On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.marshfuneralhome.com

SHIRLEY M. GRIFFIS

Age 85, of Livonia. Died 12-18-2007. Sister of Alice (Bill) Wilkinson & Janet (Dennis) Gibbish.

May You
Find
Comfort in
Family &
Friends

REV. WILLIAM C. HILLEGONDS

Passed away quietly in his home according to his wishes on December 23 after a long and blessed life. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Elizabeth (Libby) nee Romaine, his sons and families, Paul and wife Nancy (Phillips), Timothy and wife Lynn (Klaasen) and grandchildren, Rachel and Michael Meyers, Rebecca and Justin Stellema, Thomas, Sarah and Michael. Bill was born in 1922 in Roseland (Chicago) to Anna and William J. Hillegonds. He served in the European Theater of WWII and being called to the ministry came home to Hope College and Western Seminary. While in seminary he was minister at the Hudsonville Congregational Church. Upon graduation he served Reformed churches in Chatham and Rochester, New York, Hope Reformed in Holland and later Second Reformed in Pella, Iowa. Much of his ministry was among young people as Chaplain at Hope College (1967-1978) and as Senior minister at First Presbyterian in Ann Arbor set among college students (1980-1990). In his retirement he was Parish Associate at Brighton Presbyterian in Michigan and later had two Interims in Terre Haute, Indiana and Alma, Michigan before moving to Breton Woods Retirement Home in Grand Rapids. He exhibited a strong dependence on God's Grace and Guidance in his life of faithful and vigorous ministry. He was loved by his family and extended families at the college and in the churches he served, being remembered for his forthright and thoughtful sermons. If wished, memorials may be sent to the Hillegonds "49 Endowed Scholarship Fund" at Hope College or to the John Knox Presbyterian Church Building Fund, 4105 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Memorial services will be held Saturday, December 29 at 11:00am at John Knox Presbyterian Church. The family will receive friends and relatives Friday 6-8pm at the Ofield Funeral Home, 4500 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Kentwood and from 10-11am Saturday at the church.



OBITUARY POLICY

Astrophysicist says Bethlehem star probably appeared in April

BY TOM COYNE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — It's long been a puzzle for Christian astronomers, and now a professor from the University of Notre Dame thinks he has it figured out — almost, anyway.

His quest: discovering just what "the star in the East" was that led wise men to travel to Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

As a theoretical astrophysicist, Grant Mathews had hoped the answer would be spectacular, something like a supernova. But two years of research have led him to a more ordinary conclusion. The heavenly sign around the time of the birth of Jesus Christ was likely an unusual alignment of planets, the sun and the moon.

And it most likely occurred in April, 6 B.C.

Not a lot was written about the star in the Bible. In the Gospel of Matthew it says: "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."

The star, though, has long been immortalized in songs, plays and movies. Astronomers, theologians and historians for hundreds of years have been trying to determine exactly which star might have inspired the biblical writing. German astronomer Johannes Kepler proposed in 1604 that the star was a conjunction of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C.

The advantage Mathews has

over Kepler and others who have pondered the question is that he had access to the databases of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"In principle, we can see any star that was ever made from the beginning of time if we knew where to look. So the question is, could we find a star that could be a good candidate for what showed up then?" he said.

Mathews found several possibilities. He began by posing three questions he would ask when trying to find the answer to any astronomical event: When did it occur? What were its characteristics? Did anyone else see it?

The Gospel of Matthew indicates Jesus was born in Bethlehem when Herod was

king. Roman historian Flavius Josephus wrote that Herod died after an eclipse of the moon before the Passover. Mathews said among the possibilities are 6 B.C., 5 B.C., 1 B.C. or 1 A.D. The star could have appeared up to two years before the wise men arrived in Jerusalem, he said.

Mathews believes that means the Christmas star could have appeared anywhere from 8 to 4 B.C. — fitting in with some scholars' views on when Jesus was born.

Among the characteristics written about the star was that it appeared before sunrise and that it appeared to "rest in the sky." Mathews also found writings from Korean and Chinese astronomers of an event about 4 B.C. which described a comet with no tail

that didn't move.

Using that set of facts, Mathews found several possibilities, including supernovas, novae and planetary alignments.

Mathews found two possible supernovas in the right period, but said one was probably too low on the horizon to be seen. The other supernova is known as Kes 75. But it was 60,000 light years away and may not have been particularly spectacular.

"There's no real convincing evidence this happened right at 2000 years ago, but it could be in the range of being right because it's in the right location," he said.

He also found a number of nova that also could have been the Christmas star. The one he thinks is the most likely candi-

date is known as Nova Aquilae V603. The problem with novae and comets, though, is that they were believed in ancient times to be a sign of disaster, not a portent of good things to come.

For that reason, Mathews believes the Christmas star is most likely an alignment of planets. He said there are three likely times for this:

- Feb. 20, 6 B.C., when Mars, Jupiter and Saturn aligned in the constellation Pisces.
- April 17, 6 B.C., when the sun, Jupiter, the moon and Saturn aligned in the constellation Aries while Venus and Mars were in neighboring constellations.
- June 17, 2 B.C., when Jupiter and Venus were closely aligned in Leo.

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FOOD CALENDAR

If you have an item for the food calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, e-mail

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Mama Cooking with Kids, 4:30 p.m. Jan. 29, to register for Chef Mama classes, call (248) 652-2100, 1404 Walton Blvd. Rochester Hills; Soups for the Soul, 1-4 p.m. Jan. 6, Health and Wellness Fair, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 19, Big Game Preview Tasting, noon to 4 p.m. Jan. 26 and Feb. 2: 2880 W. Maple, Troy (248) 649-9600.

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PICKS FROM PAGE D1

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Having a professional bring new life to home improvement projects, fix-it jobs, and the occasional 'honey-do' tasks is the main appeal of Handy Pro Handyman Services, Inc. of Plymouth. Owner Keith Paul has made customer satisfaction his number one priority in his 11 years since first opening his business with his wife Debra in 1996.

He said he was inspired to start the business by a contractor who ripped off Debra's grandmother. Keith knew that homeowners deserved to have work done on their homes by honest, experienced, and reputable people. That's why it is important to gain the trust and respect from every customer. After all, Handy Pro contractors are invited guests into people's homes and they take that responsibility very seriously.

"Homeowners are letting us into their homes -- it is a very personal thing," Keith said. "We take it as an honor that people would trust us in their homes."

For that and many other reasons, Handy Pro employees are carefully screened and go through an intense training session, including hands-on and classroom training. Keith and the other franchised Handy Pro Handyman Services in Minneapolis, Honolulu, and Dallas are licensed builders and everyone who works for them are approved by the states they work in. All franchisees are fully bonded and insured.

The Plymouth location currently employs 13 technicians who specialize in all types of home improvement projects such as drywall repairs, painting, caulking, and gutter repairs. Keith said that his company's specialty "is completing a homeowner's 'to-do' list."

The success of Handy Pro Handyman Services is shown in the recent sales figures. July 2007 was the company's best month in their history. That's an interesting statistic considering the slumping Michigan economy. But Keith said that a down economy is often good for his business.

"People are not selling their homes in this economy; they are upgrading them," he said. "They are putting in new doors, shelving, shutters, shower tiling, etc."

But if customers plan to sell their homes, Handy Pro Handyman Services is also the place to turn to. Keith said that cosmetic fixes to a home are "the best thing you can do. Painting is usually the best return on your investment. New fixtures, ceiling fans, updated lighting, and even ensuring that every door opens and closes can be very important, too. In Michigan you have to make your house stand out."

He added that his same customers will call 2-3 times each year with requests for something as simple as hanging a picture to remodeling a bathroom. Handy Pro Handyman Services' customers are given a one-year guarantee with every job, too.

With that fall season approaching, Keith's technicians will be busy repairing gutters, making them ready for the winter months. He hopes that customers keep the phones ringing because he wants to keep his crew busy. "If we take good care of our staff they, in turn, take good care of our customers," he added. "And we have a great staff."

Handy Pro Handyman Services is located at 995 South Main Street. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nights and weekend hours are available upon request. For more information call 734-254-9160 or visit www.handypro.com.

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RECIPES

FROM PAGE D5

KERALAN CRAB CAKES

"Who doesn't love crab cakes? I know of no one. I made this recipe to meld a classic American dish with the hot and tangy flavors of my native Kerala... If you don't have the amchoor, don't despair. Add some lemon juice to the mixture instead."



Padma Lakshmi's Kerala Crab Cakes, flavored with serrano chilies and shredded coconut, are sure to be a hit at any soiree.

- 1 pound crab meat, shredded
- 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup flour
- 8 serrano chilies, minced
- 1 cup chopped chives
- 1 cup shredded unsweetened coconut
- 1/2 cup shredded carrot
- 1/2 cup finely diced celery
- 1 teaspoon amchoor (mango powder)
- 1 cup sweet corn, fresh, canned or frozen, drained
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups (approximately) canola oil, for frying
- 1/4 cup milk
- Fresh Mint Chutney

except the oil, milk, and chutney.

Add the milk a bit at a time; you may need a bit more or less than 1/4 cup to adhere the ingredients into a thick cohesive mixture.

Form patties 3 inches in diameter and about 1 inch thick.

Fill a deep skillet with 1/2 inch of oil and place it over medium heat. Once the oil is hot and simmering (test for readiness by dropping a loose kernel of corn into it — if the oil sizzles and tiny bubbles form around the kernel, the oil is ready), gently fry the patties, turning them over to brown on each side. Do not crowd the pan, and use 2 spatulas to turn. Lay the fried patties on a few paper towels to absorb excess oil. Serve hot, with mint chutney on the side. Serves 6.

FRESH MINT CHUTNEY

"You will find a million uses for this simple dipping sauce, including whisking a bit into salad dressings and mixing it with yogurt for a thicker dip. It's best with anything fried. Even eggs get a grassy coat of glamour from this chutney."

- 2 1/2 cups fresh mint leaves
- 1 serrano or Thai chili
- 2 tablespoons fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- salt

Combine all the ingredients in a blender. A tablespoon of water or 2 can be added to help blend the ingredients, if needed. Pack the sauce in a jar, cover it with its lid, and store it in the refrigerator, where it will keep for 2-3 days. Makes about 3 cups. Source: "Tangy Tart Hot & Sweet: A World of Recipes for Every Day" by Padma Lakshmi

HEALDS

FROM PAGE D1

Two vineyards are located in the Asti region of Monferrato. They are named La Serra and Monte Colombo where di Gresy's Monferrato Rosso (merlot), Barbera d'Asti and Moscato d'Asti are grown.

WHAT TO BUY FROM MARCHESI DI GRESY

2005 Monte Aribaldo Dolcetto d'Alba \$17 is a young fresh red wine with violet and floral aromas and red berry and spice flavors. Grapes were grown at 1,200 feet elevation and vinified in stainless steel tanks.

Because the juice spent just a few days in contact with the skins, the wine shows little or no tannins and will easily

accompany a light New Year's lunch of antipasti, young cheeses and salami. Sounds like a good treat to eat during a New Year's Bowl Game!

Barberas from both Asti and Alba are wonderful, affordable wines to enjoy young. Barbera d'Asti 2005 \$18 boasts bright, fresh cherry and red berry aromas and flavors. It was vinified in stainless steel tanks and mature French oak barrels to yield an easy drinking and versatile red wine with the foods suggested above.

Martinenga Barbaresco 2003 \$42 was aged 18 months in French oak barrels and large Slovenian casks. "Aging in large oak casks brings back the vineyard character in the wine," said Jeff Chilcott, cellar master. Violets, dried fruits and fine tobacco highlight the aromas while the flavors include vanilla, roasted nuts

and dark berry fruits. "Pinot noir drinkers tend to appreciate barbaresco," Chilcott adds. This wine is especially good with fine aged cheese such as parmigiano-reggiano, alone or topping a bowl of hot pasta tossed with extra-virgin olive oil. La Serra Moscato d'Asti 2006 \$16 is the perfect wine to end a meal with fresh fruit or creme brulee. It shows a fresh, lightly sparkling texture with only 5.5 percent alcohol and 12 percent residual sugar. Honey, ripe pears and Fuji apples are dominant flavors. Recalling that "sweet beats heat," try it with Thai dishes.

The Healds are contributing editors for the internationally respected "Quarterly Review of Wines" and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the "Observer & Eccentric Newspapers." Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

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11:00, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:00, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R)
12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 11:55

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)
11:10, 1:20, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

I AM LEGEND (PG-13)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

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4:00, 9:10
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pink



Lipstick is back

Toss the gloss in favor of bolder hues

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

Ladies are once again loving their lipstick.

The shiny luster of lip gloss had tempted them away for a few years, but a creamier texture, long-lasting color and more refined fashions are behind a renewed interest in lipstick. It doesn't hurt that celebrities have taken to red lips on the red carpet and that beauty insiders are touting the old standby as the next big thing.

"I think everyone got tired of that really sticky stuff," says Allure editor in chief Linda Wells. "Some people realized it was a little too teenybopper, your hair gets caught and lip gloss disappears after a few fleeting moments."

Lipstick, however, will last through lunch.

But lipstick could be imposing, says Wells. "In the old days, you could see it coming a mile away," she says. "Now lipstick is sheer. You hear words like 'almost lipstick,' 'matte' and 'satin.'"

Manufacturers revamped their lipstick recipes to mimic what consumers liked best about lip gloss — including moisture, a fresh scent and even a more palatable taste — while amplifying the pros of lipstick.

"We were absolutely motivated that lip gloss usage surpassed lipstick sales worldwide," says Anne Carullo, senior vice president of corporate product innovations at Estee Lauder, which reintroduced its signature lipstick this year.

The lipstick category started this year stronger than the gloss category in terms of sales, reversing what had been the trend for the past few years, according to NPD Group Inc., a market research firm. However, summertime gloss sales outpaced lipstick. There's room, though, for lipstick to make up ground in the fourth quarter, especially with full color lips dominating holiday-season magazine pages and the spring fashion runways.

Reformulation wasn't an easy feat, Carullo says, because the attributes that women sought most — lightweight-yet-intense color projection, shine with coverage and moisture with staying power — are, more or less, in conflict with each other.

Carullo went back to the drawing board, abandoning the beeswax that had been at the heart of lipstick for years.

It had worked well because it was a hard wax that melted easily but it had a yellow tint and there was a variance in the depth of color between lots. A more vibrant lipstick required a clear wax.

Thus, a new synthetic wax became the new emollient and a new blend of esters and silicones were added for shine. And, says Carullo, perhaps the biggest change in the DNA of lipstick is that all the materials have been morphed into a single complex ingredient instead of adding each one individually, greatly improving consistency.

This all wouldn't have been possible just a few years ago, it's a direct result of improved technology, Carullo says.

Meanwhile, Lauder also changed the length and width of its lipstick, weighted its signature gold case and even adjusted the torque of the twist. "We wanted to make it more of an accessory instead of a utilitarian object," Carullo says.

But while the look and feel might be new, it was important to maintain the emotional ties many women feel toward lipstick. Carullo herself recalls watching her own mother put the punctuation on her outfit each day with a twist of her lipstick tube.

"I think you're attracted to a lipstick for all different reasons," says Jean Godfrey-

June, Lucky's beauty director. "Chanel lipstick has that very satisfying click when you pull the tube out of this elegant gold case, Guerlain also clicks like a Mercedes door. Makeup products are like toys — you want them to be attractive and fun to look at."

Personally, she's a fan of Aveda's lipstick because of its soothing texture and pleasing peppermint smell. Allure's Wells is carrying both a Giorgio Armani lipstick tube and one from Shu Uemura in her handbag right now — there's never just one.

"There's something very glamorous about putting on lipstick. It's that snapping of the cap, swiveling it up and sensual movement of putting on," she says. "It's an old-fashioned sexy gesture."

Bright red lips, spotted on the likes of Heidi Klum and Katherine Heigl, have an old Hollywood vibe that further fuels the fantasy.

"You can put on a red lipstick and decide, 'Today, I'm going to be the bold person,'" says Godfrey-June.

For actress Kate Winslet, though, she simply feels undone without her lipstick. The spokesmodel for a Lancome fragrance, Winslet says her favorite lipstick at the moment is Lancome's Color Fever Shine in Rose Defile.

She finds a simple pleasure in the feel of a creamy lipstick, Winslet says, and it's an affordable luxury. "Lipstick reminds me of my mother methodically and meticulously putting on lipsticks for special occasions. It's still a treat for her to get a new lipstick — there was not a lot of money growing up," she says.

"This is the renaissance of lipsticks," declares Jean Ford, co-founder and co-creator of Benefit Cosmetics, which has seen sales of lipstick soar 82 percent over the last six months while gloss sales declined 19 percent.

"We had an inkling about a year ago that we'd see a renaissance for the traditional and the new lipstick. It's come true — and I think it's here to stay," she says. Right now, the trend is toward silky but she predicts there will be a matte lipstick craze in a few years.

"Women are abandoning their inhibitions and craving the perfect lipstick — there is a serious lust factor."

Plus, Ford says, searching for that perfect lipstick is fun.

She adds: "It's almost a hobby. It can transform a dull day into an exciting, treasureable moment. If you're adventure-some, you can go into the store and go up to the beauty artist and say, 'Find me the perfect lipstick.' You can't say, 'I'm in search of the perfect lip gloss.' It doesn't work that way, it's not authentic enough."

The turn in fashion toward a more lady-like style complements lipstick too.

"Women put away the peasant top and started wearing dresses. With that came the desire for a little more color on the lips," Wells says.

This also marks the first time Gen Yers have had their turn with lipstick — and they're enjoying it.

"The 'Gossip Girls' and the girls on 'Dirty Sexy Money,' those girls are groomed to the hilt and are wearing lipstick. You see Rachel Bilson and the (Mary-Kate and Ashley) Olsens — they're very done up and influencing younger women," Wells says.

But even if the runways helped usher in a lipstick moment, it's unlikely to become passe even if the next round of fashion shows emphasize a new makeup look.

"Beauty trends tend to last longer than fashion trends — they'll usually go a few years," Wells says. "The colors are more mercurial, but the look isn't. ... When you're dealing with your face, people are less willing to make changes."



Laura Mercier

Laura Mercier's lipstick tips

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

Lipstick is makeup artist Laura Mercier's essential tool.

"Lipstick is my favorite thing in the world," she says. "It's my favorite to work on in the lab and it's my favorite thing to wear."

In fact, she doesn't leave home without it. "It makes me feel alive. ... I love my lips to feel supple and nourished, and I feel awake and 'done' when it's on."

But she doesn't necessarily wear the same shade lipstick in the same way every day — a common rut for women.

Her tips for keeping lipstick looking fresh:

■ The purpose of using a lip pencil before applying lipstick is to create a barrier that keeps the oil from the lipstick on the lips instead of feathering above and below.

It's important to pick a shade of pencil that closely matches the shade of lipstick, Mercier says, or you end up with a cartoonish look. Follow the lip line from the inside with the pencil and then blend the color inward with your finger. This mutes the intensity of the border. "You don't want harsh contour," Mercier explains.

■ Her textbook application of lipstick is a three-step process, according to Mercier: Use your pencil, use a slanted-tip lipstick, blot with a tissue to absorb the oil. (Pigment will remain, she promises.)

An optional fourth step is to also use a tissue to spread a little bit of powder to set the color for many hours to come.

The result is a velvety, matte look that's particularly good for strong reds, Mercier says.

■ If the surface area of the lipstick tip is too wide, don't risk going outside the lines by applying directly from the tube. Instead, use a brush or your finger.

Using your finger also allows the lipstick to be used more as a stain, which will have the same color as the lipstick but not appear as thick. Dab on a very thin coat and then add a little lip balm in the center — it'll almost look like a "just-bitten lip," Mercier describes.

This technique works especially well with dark colors and is ideal for cocktail parties because the lip color isn't cakey and won't come off on a glass, says Mercier.

She adds: "You can kiss and it won't get all over everybody."

■ Another tip that will stay on: one drawn with a chestnut or brown-rose neutral pencil. You draw it, fill it in, blend and take off excess with a tissue. All-over application of a clear gloss is optional.

There's a lot of control in this method, says Mercier, because you're painting your lips on with an easy-to-use tool, and a brownish rose shade is the closest thing to a universal color she's found. "It's not too cool or too warm. It basically works on everyone."

pink picks

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Uncap the perfect color

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

Red might be the most dramatic — and trendy — lipstick color, but makeup insiders say a lipstick with at least a little pink is the easiest to wear.

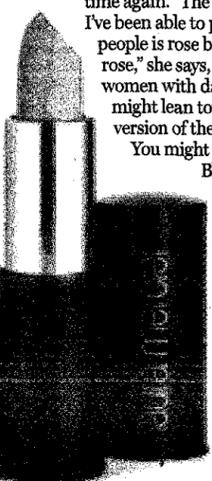
A beautiful shade is what draws someone to a lipstick, says Anne Carullo, senior vice president of corporate product innovations at Estee Lauder. For someone to buy it again, it also has to have excellent texture and perform well, but it's the color that makes that initial sale, she says.

The industry recognizes seven basic color categories: pink to rose, mauve to rose, lilac to violet, plum to wine, peach to coral, beige to brown, and red.

Almost any mass-produced lipstick will fall within those color categories, but inspiration for the exact shade can come from anywhere, she says, picking up a copy of *Wired* magazine and noting what a rich shade of red was used for the typeface on the cover. She's taken color cues from textiles, food and paint.

"I can spot a winning color," Carullo says.

However, she adds quickly, a winning color doesn't necessarily mean she'd wear it. "Every product has a personality ... There are shades I won't wear, like peach, but I love the rose-to-mauve colors and the burgundy to wine range."



Makeup artist Laura Mercier says she finds herself reaching for a brown-rose shade time and time again. "The universal color I've been able to put on a lot of people is rose brown or brown rose," she says, noting that women with darker skin tones might lean toward a shinier version of the color.

You might see Clinique's Black Honey (a light red shade with blue undertones) on Lucky beauty editor Jean Godfrey-June's lips, but at first it took some convincing from a saleswoman. "When someone suggests a color you'd never wear, it can be a great thing," she says.

Red has a lot of power, says Jean Ford, co-founder and co-creator of Benefit Cosmetics. Before her career in beauty, Ford was a student teacher of second graders. She recalls the principal of the school calling her into his office and asking why she always wore such bold lipstick.

"I would wear the brightest reddish-coral lipstick so students would pay attention. They'd have something to look at and see when I was talking," Ford says.

Mercier, a Frenchwoman, is getting a kick out of all the red lips she is seeing in the U.S. "Red is back on trend. I'm laughing — not meanly but gently — because I've been told for years that American women are not interested in wearing red lipstick, especially if the French are, but they're wearing it now!"

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