

Merry Christmas

THURSDAY
December 25, 2008

Observer

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McCotter: Auto loan buys time for 'viable plan'

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

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

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

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



McCotter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Oh, little town ...'

School transforms itself to celebrate Christmas season

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

Among Santa's visitors was



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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

9-year-old Bradley Zigulis of Westland.

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

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

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

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

Please see **BURGER, A6**

Young Livonia girl to perform in bowl games

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OSE STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please see **BOWLS, A2**



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

Woman who put baby in trash will stand trial

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Coming Sunday:
The year in photos

Man uses note, threatens teller in Redford bank holdup

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

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

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

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

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

Oil shop break-in

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

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

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

GARDEN CITY

Home invasions

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Christmas stolen

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

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

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

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

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

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

dent in the 31000 block of Pierce told police she had heard a loud noise at her back door. When she checked, the woman said, she saw a man whom she believed was trying to break into her home. He fled when she turned on a light and her dog began barking, she told police.

LIVONIA

Two arrests

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

BOWLS

FROM PAGE A1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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COMMUNITY ROUNDUP

Youth Hero of Year

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

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

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

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

The son of Sabrina and

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

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

Skating stars to perform

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

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

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

First Step moving shelter to Wayne

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

handicap access and the wiring is poor."

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

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

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

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

which serve nearly 10,000 families a year.

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

Bizoe said the administrative offices will remain in Plymouth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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OUR VIEWS

Ordinance on park funds alters intent of millage

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Many people scaled back their spending for this Christmas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LETTERS

Thanks for column

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maureen A. Latimer
Plymouth

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

Well, I certainly don't think it is fair.

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

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

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

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

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

Bud Somerville
Westland

Grateful to our mayor

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

Jim and Diane Policelli
Livonia

Good tidings from Social Security

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

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

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

This 5.8 percent increase is the largest since 1982.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Frances Heimes-Savickis
Social Security public affairs specialist

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 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

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

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

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Bakko knows the devastating toll the war has had on

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nativity collection celebrates the reason for the season

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

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

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

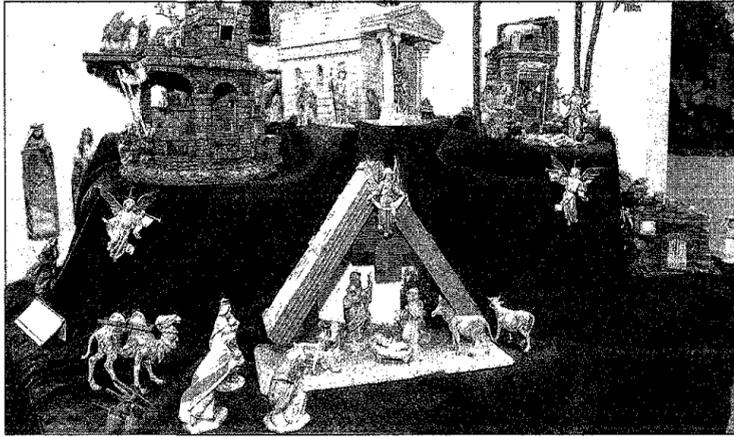
Marquette set up the displays at the museum when it had relocated to the Straight Farmhouse and decided to share her Nativity scene collection.

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

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

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

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

THE NATIVITY

What: A display of 250 Nativity scenes

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

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

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

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BURGER
FROM PAGE A1

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

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

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



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

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

around the school to get hot chocolate.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

ing over the decorations and activities.

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

The same is true for Jack Rousoo.

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

Each year the families are given gifts to show appreciation for what they do for the school. This year they received the keys to the village. "We have a lower level at



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

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

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

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

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

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

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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S. Claus had game before all the fame

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please see **WRIGHT, B2**



Ed Wright



GREGORY SHAMUS PHOTOGRAPHY

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

Big 'Mack' Attack

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

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

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

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

through the goal-keeper's legs."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phillips stuffed 29 shots for the Ironmen.

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

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

The Ironmen closed their

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sidelines

Figure-skating extravaganza

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

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

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

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

Ocelots roll

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

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

Schoolcraft led 46-36 at the half.

NRCLL signups

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

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



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Star burst

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

Marquee Monday

Stars abound, but Trojans fall

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

triumph.

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

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

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

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

Please see **HOOPS, B2**

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No place like home: Patriots rule own mats

Livonia Franklin's wrestling team gave itself an early holiday present Saturday by winning its own Patriot Invitational. Franklin scored 315 points to lead the 10-team field followed by Northville and Ann Arbor Pioneer with 256.5 and 211.5, respectively. The Patriots came away with four individual titles led by Paul

PREP WRESTLING

Hanni (119 pounds), Brandon Billiau (145), Cody Hay (215) and Mike Modes (285). "This wasn't one of the harder tournaments that we will go to this year, but everyone got some good matches in," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "A lot

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

Patriots included Steve Tuyo (112), Elvin Ferreira (160), Don Stratz (171) and Matt Roos (160), the latter whom was competing for the Franklin 'B' team. Rian Klein (103), Erik Czech (125), Alex O'Connor (152) and Nick Simmons (189) each added fourths for Franklin. "With the snowstorm and the

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

Lutheran Westland had two individual champions - Laith Francis at 125 and Stephen Kemp at 171. Kemp edged Franklin's Stratz for the title, 2-1. Other top finishers for the Warriors included Craig Kowalski (215), third; Justin Palka (140), fourth; and Breck Crandell (135), fifth.

HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

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

LESSON LEARNED

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

premier teams - perhaps in the postseason.

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

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

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

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

"Jenkins really had a phenomenal game and I'm happy for him," Schoch said. "He's usually not that much of a scorer, but tonight he mentioned going into the game he was going to really be very aggressive. "When he hit those first couple jump shots, he really felt good about himself and that carried over to the rest of his game."

BACK IN THE GAME

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

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

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

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

"We talked at halftime after we made our run, I mean we were down 18 and showed a lot of heart to cut it back to two (37-35 early in the third)," McKendry said. "We felt if we could ever get the lead, we could pull them out of their zone and try to make them play man-to-man." The Trojans couldn't quite

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

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

COMEBACK STALLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tsmith@hometownlife.com

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

David Medley, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
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Publish: December 25, 2008

08069739-2x2.8

City of Westland

Invitation to Bid

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

Official City Newspaper

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

Jade M. Smith
Controller
City of Westland

Publish: December 25, 2008

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WRIGHT

FROM PAGE B1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"With his quickness, strength and smarts, he would have been an outstanding - and I mean outstanding! - 215-pounder if he just could have shed a few pounds," one ex-Snowy Oaks grappler insisted. "But he couldn't stay away from those darned milk and cookies."

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

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

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

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

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STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF WAYNE, File No. 2008-787362-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate
Estate of Roy T. Syer, Deceased, Date of Birth: August 31, 1925.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Roy T. Syer, who lived at 18925 Gillman Street, Livonia, Michigan, died August 3, 2008.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jack T. Syer, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1805 CAYMO, Two Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226, and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Personal Representative: Jack T. Syer, 18936 Gillman Street, Livonia, Michigan 48152. Telephone No.: (248) 887-9820

Attorney: Karen L. Kayes, P-41751, 400 Terrace Plaza, PO Box 900, Muskegon, MI 49443-0900. Telephone No.: (231) 727-2600.

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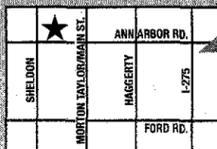
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Redford UnionWade Stahl
StevensonJeffrey Ricketts
ChurchillJustin Sneddon
CantonRobert Tolentino
Redf. ThurstonMichael Bratcher
Redford UnionJake Morris
John GlennKyle Brindza
PlymouthPat Madish
CantonNate Coleman
FranklinRamsey Hart
Wayne MemorialJeremy Gainer
ClarencevilleDevin Moynihan
ChurchillWyatt Stahl
StevensonConnor Martin
PlymouthBrad Bond
Garden CityJamonne Chester
Redf. CovenantJerome Scales
John GlennDarryl Whitaker
Clarenceville

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

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Mark McRobb, Sr. QB, Liv.
Franklin: The 5-10, 180-pound senior quarterback completed 59 percent of his passes for a total of 1,359 yards. McRobb also threw for 13 touchdowns and was intercepted only three times. He also rushed for 530 yards and four TDs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALL-OBSERVER FOOTBALL

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Mark McRobb, Sr. QB, Liv. Franklin
Jacob Gudeman, Sr. QB, Liv. Stevenson

Austin White, Jr. RB, Liv. Stevenson
De'Andre Alexander, Sr. RB, Red. Thurston

Kiere Daniels, Sr. RB, Canton
Terrance Guthridge, Sr. RB, Plymouth

David Caloia, Sr. RB, Redford Union
Wade Stahl, Sr. WR, Liv. Stevenson

Jeff Ricketts, Sr. WR, Liv. Churchill
Dakota Dark-Bird, Jr. TE, Canton

Michael Bratcher, Sr. C, Redford Union
Justin Sneddon, Sr. OL, Canton

Robert Tolentino, Sr. OL, Red. Thurston

Jake Morris, Sr. OT, Westland Glenn
Kyle Brindza, Soph. K, Plymouth

Pat Madish, Sr. DL, Canton

Nate Coleman, Jr. DL, Liv. Franklin
Ramsey Hart, Sr. DL, Wayne

Jeremy Gainer, Sr. LB, Clarenceville
Devin Moynihan, Sr. LB, Liv. Churchill

Wyatt Stahl, Sr. LB, Liv. Stevenson
Ronnie Goble, Sr. LB, Plymouth

Brad Bond, Sr. LB, Garden City
Connor Martin, Sr. LB, Plymouth

Jamonne Chester, Sr. DB, Red. Covenant

Jerome Scales, Sr. DB, Westland Glenn
Darryl Whitaker, All-Purpose, Clarenceville

COACH OF THE YEAR
Ryan Irish, Liv. Clarenceville

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE
Ryan Smith, Sr. QB, Red. Thurston

Kevin Delapaz, Jr. QB, Canton
Adam Payer, Jr. RB, Canton

Levonte Brooks, Jr. RB, Clarenceville
Richard Haley, Sr. RB, Wayne

Mike Baumgartner, Jr. RB, Liv. Franklin
Mike Kowals, Sr. RB, Liv. Churchill

Zack Hamed, Sr. WR, Plymouth
Cameron Mitchell, Sr. TE, Red. Thurston

Drew Grabowski, Sr. OL, Salem
Carter Statfeld, Jr. OL, Canton

Johnathan Edwards, Sr. OL, Red. Covenant

Tony Iltis, Sr. OL, Redford Union
Sam Ahlersmeyer, Sr. OL, Luth. Westland

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE
Jake Gilbert, Sr. DL, Plymouth

Jason Hu, Sr. DL, Canton
De'Andre Hogan, Soph. LB, Clarenceville

Sheldon Hankins, Sr. LB, Westland Glenn

Kyle Hobbins, Sr. LB, Liv. Stevenson
Kyren Boyd, Sr. DB, Westland Glenn

Kyron Nelson, Sr. DB, Red. Thurston
Connor Leidel, Sr. DB, Liv. Franklin

Nick Sweda, Sr. DB, Canton
Mark Grisa, Sr. DB, Liv. Stevenson

Michael Pack, Sr. DB, Garden City
Grant Morgan, Sr. DB, Liv. Churchill

Heath Parfing, Sr. All-Purpose, Salem

HONORABLE MENTION
Churchill: Nathan Zak, Eric Perkowski,

Alexander Bay, Franklin: Brandon Lane,
Don Stratz, Mike Gadsby, Canton: Rohn

Gaudi, David Wilcox, Alex Dixon, Bryan
Gerst, Donny Barlow, Daniel Stoney,

Stevenson: Steve Eiden, Rich Savid, Zeb
Baigal, Stephen Polhard, Austin Micallef,

Zac Whalen, Andrew Nelson, Jordan
El-Sabah, Plymouth: Travis Mewton,

Alex Minch, Matt Skubik, Kelly Waite,
Connor McKinney, Matt Pribe, Salem:

Justin Bashl, Anthony Mullins, Austin
Root, John Glenn: Taylor Arancibia,

Steve Murphy, Chase Glover, Steve Smith,
Wayne: Alex Bledsoe, C.J. Johnson,

Zakk Hardyniec, Eric Story, Keith Agee;
Lutheran Westland: Ethan Haller,

Stephen Kemp; Clarenceville: Joe
Baer, Joe Haapala; Redford Thurston:

Deon Freeman, Kareem Gaymon, Marly
Johnson, Josh Bobbiss, Cosmas Ireland;

Redford Union: Dwan Burris, Jacob
Blach, Julian Rivera; Garden City: Bryan

Grace, C. J. Rayburn; Red. Covenant:
Dominique Williams, Calen Spencer.

51. Although not exceptionally big, he was hard to bring down between the tackles.

"Terrance is pound-for-pound one of the toughest and hardest-hitting football players I have ever coached," said Plymouth coach Mike Sawchuk. "At 150 pounds, he was the workhorse for our offense, averaging over 20 carries a game. He is a fierce competitor who hates to lose at anything."

David Caloia, Sr. RB, Redford Union: The valuable, versatile, hard-hitting Caloia proved to be a workhorse in the backfield in 2008, rushing 140 times for 1,119 yards (8 yards per carry) while scoring 11 touchdowns along with nine two-point conversions.

RU coach Miles Tomasaitis moved the third-year player from fullback to halfback following a teammate's injury and proceeded to rack up two straight 100-yard games.

"David was the hardest hitter on our team, whether it was running the ball, blocking or tackling (he also played safety)," Tomasaitis said. "He brought his whole body into the hits he made no matter what the size of his opponent."

Caloia was an All-Mega White first-team selection and team co-captain and continued the Panthers' string of outstanding "go-to players" in the

backfield during recent years, Tomasaitis added.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nate Coleman, Jr. DL, Liv. Franklin: The 6-3, 280-pound junior captain and two-year starter was force on both sides of the line. Defensively, Coleman finished with 76 tackles, three sacks, five tackles for loss and two forced fumbles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For his efforts, Whitaker was named to the All-Metro first team.

Ryan Irish, Coach, Liv. Clarenceville: This season marked a big turnaround for the Trojans, with the team finishing 9-2 and capturing the Metro Conference title before bowing out to Almont, 28-21, in a Division 5 district final.

The strong communication skills and football savvy possessed by Irish obviously

Ryan Irish
Coach of the Year

helped push the team to the top. But he insisted that his players and assistant coaches should get the credit.

"I am only as good as the people around me," Irish said. "My staff of Joe Bodo, Chad Teague, Brady Gustafson, John Wallace, Chase Moore and Ed Watkins really made the difference this year."

Irish added that the maturity of players and their willingness to heed what the coaches told them also had a lot to do with the championship success the Trojans enjoyed in 2008. "This season truly was a team effort in everything we accomplished."

Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

ANNIVERSARIES

A tuneup 30 years

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Night on the ice

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

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

Consumer Expo

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

453-4040.

Warm Coats, Warm Hearts

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

Food collection

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

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

ON THE SHELF

A spot of tea

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

LEARN BUSINESS BASICS

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

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

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

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

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

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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

Wine Baron stresses fresh ingredients, customer service

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

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

What makes your business unique:

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

WINE BARON

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

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

How did you first decide to open your own business:

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

How did you decide to locate in the Redford community:

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

MORE NEWSMAKERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

St. Mary Mercy adds to Campaign with Gala

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

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

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

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

reach our goal."

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

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

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



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

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Former Stevenson High QB facing charges in MSU brawl

BY JOE REXRODE
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

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

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



Mitchell White

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

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

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

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

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

"And there were serious inju-

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

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

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

"While I am displeas-

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

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

During the 2007 high school

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

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

The Observer sports staff contributed to this report.

LOCAL PERSONALITIES GO HEAD TO HEAD

125-67	118-74	120-72	119-73	129-63	125-67	130-62	126-66	121-71
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WEEK #17 GAMES
Sunday, December 28, 2008

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

Olympian Taormina triathlon inductee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Redford Parks & Rec cagers tip off season

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

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

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

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

- 2 p.m.: Cheli's Chili must have been slow cookin' in the off season, because they came in thick and too much to handle for newcomers the 1800, winning 68-57. Nate Labadie led the way for the victors with 27 points with scoring help coming from Dave Nichols (9 points), Matt Schlieff (6), Mike Bright and Dan Regan (each with 4).
- Pacing the 1800 was George Johnson, who poured in 20 points. Chipping in with 15 was West Hicks. Other contributors included Eugene Baker (8), Reginald Hodo and Frank

- Bickerstaff (each with 6) and Richard Gamble (2).
- 3 p.m.: Two more new squads tipped it off with Puck's Bar & Grill nipping Captain Nemo's by a 36-33 score.
- Puck's boasted balanced scoring, spearheaded by Josh Sobas' 15-point performance. But Sobas had help from Mike Cochran and Jay Fontaine (each with 6), Jeff Mornings and Mike Discher (each with 3), Ryan Bushoff (2) and Alan Gerhke (1).
- For Nemo's, Mike Murphy tallied 13 points while Rodney Hurst chipped in with eight. Art Tinker (5), Joe Weaver (4) and Greg Murphy (3) rounded out the scoring.
- 4 p.m.: The Motor City Ballers put a down payment on the Layaways, winning 52-22. Pacing the Ballers with 15 points was James Hill while Tyrone Temple registered nine. Each adding five to the scoresheet were Mitchell Jones, Bill Johnson, Mike Green and Boe Shelby. Le'Brian Paul (4 points), Martin McElroy and Walter Reese (each with 2) provided some offensive insurance.
- For the Layaways, Matt Patra and Phil Garrett tallied nine and eight points, respectively. Aaron Moran scored three while Ryan Donovan and Chris Respondek provided a bucket each.
- 5 p.m.: The Dirty Dozen

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCORING LEADERS
1. D. Sherry (DD), 31.0 points per game; 2. K. Roberts (Shoot), 27.0; 3. N. Labadie (CC), 27.0; 4. L. Bennett (RNG), 26.0; 5. M. Robinson (GG), 26.0; 6. T. Barker (Aff), 24.0; 7. A. Nelson (GG), 24.0; 8. D. Smith (Ars), 21.0; 9. J. Jenkins (HWts), 20.0; 10. G. Johnson (1800), 20.0; 11. R. Moss (GG), 19.0; 12. D. Kurtanitis (CC), 18.0; 13. L. Blyden (HWts), 18.0; 14. D. Dell (Shoot), 18.0; 15. K. Reid (RNG), 17.0; 16. J. Allen (GG), 17.0; 17. D. Smith (DD), 16.0; 18. L. Griffin (Ars), 15.0; 19. W. Hicks (1800), 15.0; 20. J. Sobas (Puck), 15.0; 21. T. Hill (MCCB), 15.0; 22. Scag (RNG), 13.0; 23. M. Murphy (C.W.S), 13.0; 24. I. Wincher (TC), 13.0; 25. No. 8 (HWts), 12.0; 26. R. Borkins (Aff), 11.0; 27. R. Brown (DD), 10.0; 28. J. Marshall (Shoot), 10.0; 29. R. Wimbley (HWts), 10.0; 30. J. Green (HWts), 10.0.

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Thanksgiving champions

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

MU softball coach White signs 5

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

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

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

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

White calls Sanborn, a right-hander who posted an 1.82 earned run average as a junior, as a "hidden gem." "She has a lot of potential," the MU coach said. "She can throw hard and now we just have to polish that diamond that we think we have found."

Hamann, the niece of former Crusader Stacey Sexsmith (2003-06), earned three letters at DC and two more in volleyball. She helped the Falcons to a pair of district titles and was named All-City, All-District and honorable mention All-Catholic League as a junior.

"She's a fireball," White said. "Katelyn is a sparkplug type of player. She does anything at second base or shortstop to keep the ball on the infield."

Crusaders secure setter

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

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

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

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

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

Thomas adds soccer pair

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

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

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

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

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

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP HOCKEY

Goaltender Adrian Motta has been Livonia Churchill's saving grace so far this hockey season.

But despite stopping 41-of-45 shots Saturday night, it wasn't enough as the Chargers fell to Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 4-2, in a non-league game played at Compuware Arena's Olympic Rink.

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

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

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

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

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

But it took the Shamrocks only 11 seconds to responded as Zyluk notched his second of the night from Austin Hervey and David Swierszczyk to make it

2-1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

bemons@hometownlife.com

PREP SWIMMING

ANN ARBOR HURON 123 CANTON 63

Tuesday at Canton
200-yard medley relay: 1. Huron (Pat Richardson, Michael Swain, Nathan Nemon, Raymond Viviano), 1:45.16; 2. Canton, 1:48.85; 3. Huron, 1:51.51.
200 freestyle: 1. Richard Zhang (C), 1:52.13; 2. Michael Everett (H), 1:55.38; 3. Ben Kirsch (H), 1:58.27.
200 IM: 1. Victor Zhang (C), 2:01.61; 2. Leopold Chen (H), 2:03.50; 3. Charlie Zhang (H), 2:10.64.
50 freestyle: 1. Michael Swain (H), 23.35;

2. Pat Richardson (H), 23.43; 3. Nick Clyde (H), 23.93.
1-meter diving: 1. Jeff Camalo (H), 221.50 points; 2. Matt Flegelwicz (C), 181.70; 3. Nate Argetsinger (H), 172.40.
100 butterfly: 1. Victor Zhang (C), 54.56; 2. Ben Kirsch (H), 59.27; 3. James Riegger (H), 1:02.45.
100 freestyle: 1. Richard Zhang (C), 50.62; 2. Nathan Nemon (H), 50.97; 3. Pat Richardson (H), 52.29.
500 freestyle: 1. Nick Clyde (H), 5:07.32; 2. Jay Jin (C), 5:07.79; 3. Keeley Maher (H), 5:17.79.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Huron (Jonathan Geldermans, Charlie Zhang, Pat Richardson, Nathan Nemon), 1:35.09; 2. Canton, 1:38.02; 3. Huron, 1:42.82.
100 backstroke: 1. Michael Swain (H), 58.45; 2. Jin Jay (C), 1:00.61; 3. Raymond Viviano (H), 1:02.56.
100 breaststroke: 1. Charlie Zhang (H), 1:10.96; 2. Ryan Boes (C), 1:13.67; 3. Nick Wang (H), 1:14.31.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Huron (Michael Swain, Geldermans, Michael Everett, Nathan Nemon), 3:29.10; 2. Huron, 3:30.63; 3. Canton, 3:33.42.
CANTON'S RECORD: 0-1.

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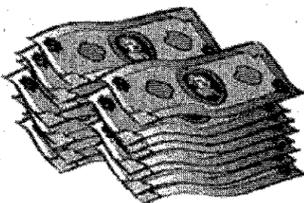
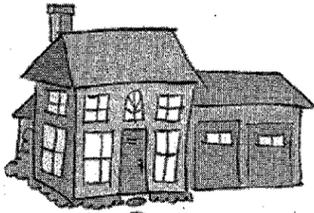
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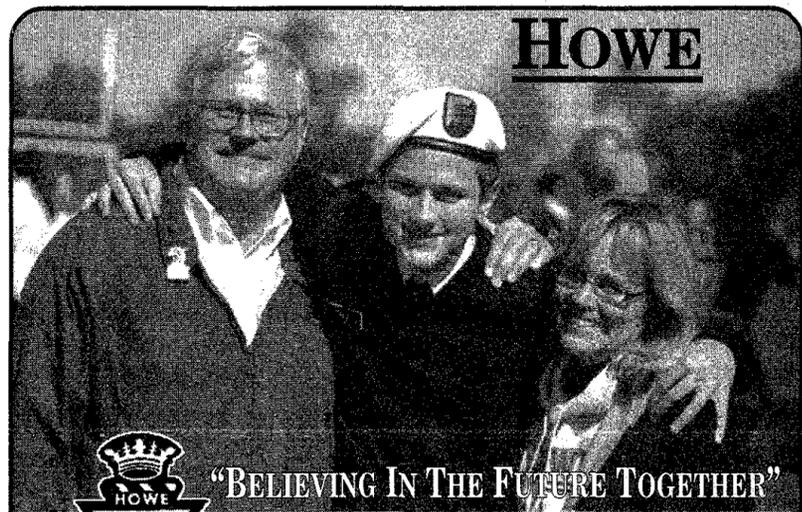
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SPORTS ROUNDUP

GCYBSA news

Registration for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball and Softball Association's 2009 season will open Jan. 9 and close March 10. GCYBSA offers T-Ball through 18U baseball and 8U through 18U softball. Registration information is available online at www.gcybsa.com.

Cheer clinic

The Canton competitive cheer team will be hosting a kids clinic in the Canton High School cafeteria on Saturday, Jan. 17. Check-in will begin at 9 a.m.

Precision camps
Precision Baseball in Canton will be hosting softball and baseball camps for kids in grades 1st through 8th later this month. The softball camp will be held Dec. 26-27 with a cost of \$65 per session or \$115 for both. The cost of the baseball camp, which will be held Dec. 26-28, is \$65 per day or \$180 for all three days. For more information, call (734) 459-5921 or visit www.precisionbaseballone.com.

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

Sunday, Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22. The cost for each session is \$150. For more information, or to register, call MU coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or visit www.madonnacrusaders.com.

WYAA basketball signup
Basketball registration for the Westland Youth Athletic Association will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road). Age groups offered include: Right Start (7-8), Freshman (9-10), Junior Varsity (11-12), Varsity (13-14-15) and Senior (16-19). JV- and Varsity-age players involved in middle school basketball will be eligible for WYAA play once their seasons conclude. For more information, call the WYAA building at (734) 421-0640.

Glenn baseball training
Westland John Glenn High School will host a six-week Spring Training 2009 baseball program for players in grades 1-12 from Jan. 18 through Feb. 22. John Glenn varsity coach Tom Wakefield will direct the program in conjunction with the Midwest Baseball Academy. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching and catching with a cost as low as \$99 for six weeks. Space is limited and registration is underway. For more information, call toll-free at (866) MBA-HITS; or visit www.baseballacademy.net.

Practice with Kessel
Play It Again Sports in Canton and Livonia, along with Nike Bauer Hockey, will be offering a "A Practice of a Lifetime" national sweepstakes to award one lucky hockey devotee, along with 20 teammates, to win a personal practice session with Boston Bruin Phil Kessel, the fifth pick of the 2006 NHL Entry Draft and Master Memorial Trophy winner his rookie year. The drawing ends Dec. 31. For more information, visit www.playitagainsports.com.

Pre coaches wanted
Westland John Glenn High School has coaching openings for varsity girls soccer. Those interested can apply online at www.wyaa.net. Livonia Ladywood has openings for the following coaches: girls varsity track and field (2009 spring season); girls cross country (2009 fall season); and girls JV golf coach (2009 fall season). Those interested should fax

The Pro Secrets Baseball Academy will be conducting showcase sessions for high school players as well as skill sessions in power pitching, hitting and fielding. The latest pro pitch trainer will be used and former Phillies pitcher Mark Rutherford will be the featured instructor. For more information, call (734) 421-4928.

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CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 24 12/15/08

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

Minutes available in the Clerk's office.

Cheryl Graunstadt,
Council President Pro-Tem
Eileen DeHart, CMC,
City Clerk

Publish: December 25, 2008

MHSAA event to educate future collegiate hoopers

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

tively, these students, selected by BCAM members, will have classroom sessions, engage in on-court drills and testing, and scrimmage. Classroom sessions will be conducted for parents as well. College coaching staffs will be invited to observe. "This is a day of education," says MHSAA Executive Director John E. "Jack" Roberts, who proposed the idea on a two-year experimental basis to the MHSAA Representative Council and BCAM's Board of Directors,

which both enthusiastically approved the initiative. "The events intend to strengthen the ties between high school players and coaches, to show students and parents how to prepare for college on the court and in the classroom, and to provide college coaches a convenient and inexpensive means for evaluating a large number of players with potential to 'reach higher.'" April's events are the first of a multi-phase program intended to encourage an educational orientation for sports

participation for high school, middle school and even younger students. As each phase is implemented, it will be evaluated and thereafter adapted for application in other sports. Letters from the MHSAA to head girls and boys basketball coaches of all Association member high schools have already been mailed inviting them to nominate players. In mid-February, 100 girls and 100 boys, plus up to 40 alternates will be identified by BCAM Selection Committee members.

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Don't hesitate, make reservations for dinner at the Century Theatre, seats at "The Rat Pack is Back!" at the adjoining Gem Theatre, or a dinner and show package for this New Year's Eve. Champagne will flow after the 9:30 p.m. show. See David DeCosta as Frank Sinatra (from left), Kyle Diamond as Sammy Davis Jr., Mickey Joseph as Joey Bishop and Bobby Mayo Jr. as Dean Martin.

Ring in the new year - on about any budget

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

FOR THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT

Because we can never remember all the words to that traditional song, written originally as a poem by Robert Burns in the 1700s, here's a cheat sheet to "Auld Lang Syne:"

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?
For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?
And here's a hand, my trusty friend
And gie's a hand o' thine
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

It's less than a week away before the clink of champagne glasses toast in 2009. Have you made your plans yet? Whether you're a snuggle-by-the-fire sort or you plan to paint the town red at any expense, FILTER has you covered.

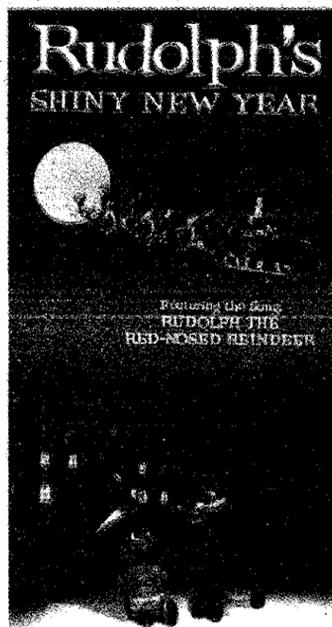
FOR POCKET CHANGE

New Year's Eve can be just as enjoyable spent at home among friends or loved ones as it can with elaborate dinners or dancing. Try one of these non-plans and cozy up for the coming year:

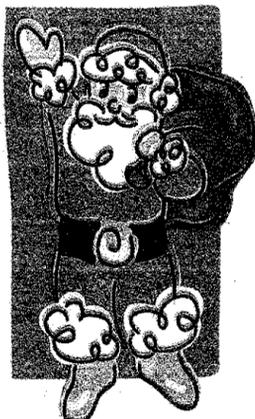
Make it a movie night, no date required — Rent a DVD, grab a stack of pillows and warm blankets and set up a living room picnic with popcorn and peach mimosas — or ginger ale with a cinnamon stick. For the young, and young-at-heart, you can't lose with animated classics like *Rudolph's Shiny New Year* or *Happy New Year, Charlie Brown*. Grown-ups might choose a favorite director — Alfred Hitchcock, Woody Allen or Ingmar Bergman — and squeeze in a double feature before the clock strikes 12. Stick to the holiday theme with a comedy like *When Harry Met Sally*, a romance like *The Apartment* or a mystery like *After The Thin Man*.

Heat up the oven and click on the TV — Plan ahead and make your own indulgent New Year's Eve dinner, complete with a des-

Please see **NEW YEAR, D5**



Rent a classic and stay in Dec. 31.



Holiday Happenings

Events

The Big, Bright Light Show: Downtown Rochester lights the night with its dazzling display of more than 500,000 lights coating all the buildings along Main. The free event, through Jan. 4, 2009 attracts more than 1 million visitors. Expect a traffic jam but it's still a sight to behold.

Wayne County LightFest: Drive through more than four miles of light displays along Hines Drive, beginning at Merriman. Cost is \$5 per car, call (734) 261-1990 for details. The display runs to Jan. 1, 2009.

Holiday Nights: Greenfield Village will transform into a living Christmas card with its candle-lit paths, Model T and carriage rides, ice skating and decorated home tours for this seasonal favorite, 6:30-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28. Tickets \$12.50-\$17, children under 4 enter free. Add dinner at the Eagle Tavern for \$64.50 to \$68.50. Parking costs \$5. The Henry Ford is at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., in Dearborn. Visit www.thehenryford.com.

The Henry Ford: See *Polar Express* in all its IMAX glory, now showing at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Call (313) 271-1570.

On Canvas

Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Get ready for handmade holiday-themed works in glass, ceramic, fiber and more with *Holiday Objects Up and Down*, through Jan. 3, 2009, at 407 Pine Street, Rochester. Call (248) 651-4110.

On Stage

Spend Xmas with Ced n Teri: Mikey Brown and Sarah Switanowski celebrate the holidays by bringing their Webisode characters Cedrick and Teri to life, along with musical guests, in *A Very Ced n Teri Xmas*, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, through Dec. 27, Planet Ant, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Tickets, \$10-\$15, call (313) 365-4948.

Fox Theatre: Like a Christmas Card set to music, see Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, running to Dec. 28, tickets \$20-\$100, 2211 Woodward, Detroit. Visit OlympiaEntertainment.com or call (248) 433-1515.

Compiled by Stephanie Angelyn Casola

Classical Chinese dance show returns to Michigan

Elaborate costumes, music that's both soft and bold, stage designs that add color to gray winter days, master choreography and classically trained dancers — it's all part of the show by The Divine Performing Arts performing classical Chinese dance and music.

The Divine Performing Arts Spectacular will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday Dec. 30 and 31 at the Ford Community & Performing Arts in Dearborn.

It's the second time the group has performed in Michigan this year — that's how popular it is.

It receives critical acclaim worldwide.



Elegant Chinese ethnic and folk dances highlight the Divine Performing Arts show.

Divine Performing Arts brings Chinese dance and music to life with an exhilarating show. Graceful routines include classical professions to ethnic dances.

Tickets are \$49-\$99. Visit www.divineperformingarts.org for more information.

Location is 15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn.

Lana Mini

Ferndale band creates great ambient Christmas music

Merry Christmas! We want to spread some cheer, through music to you!

We love the name of this Ferndale-based band: *Computer Perfection*.

We love the name of the Web site: www.romanticair.com (it's the Detroit and New York recording company).

And we love that for Christmas they have created a fun, upbeat, hip holiday album titled *Christmas Party with Computer Perfection & friends*, with guest musicians.



The CD *A Christmas Party* by the band Computer Perfection is available to the public for free download. The CD is worth listening to during Christmas dinner.

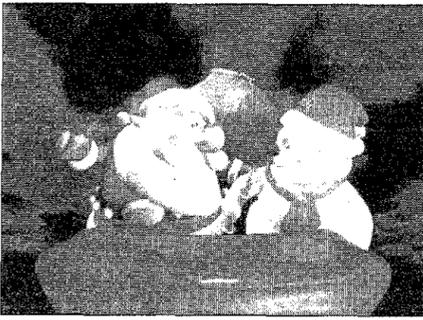
Download it for free.

Songs include classics like Computer Perfection performing *Silent Night*.

We recommend the ambient song *Purple Snowflakes* and the fun version of *Feliz Navidad*.

Please see **BAND, D2**

"Santa Vs. The Snowman"



PURE PICKS

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Filtering your entertainment best bets for the holiday week-end, beginning Dec. 25, 2008:

25 Click on the leg-lamp and take a time-out tonight to laugh along with

Ralphie in his never-ending quest for a Red Ryder BB gun, as TBS resumes its 24-hour loop of the holiday classic, *A Christmas Story*, airing until 8 p.m.

26 From his roots in New Orleans to his rise as one of the Hot Boys to being a top Grammy contender



KoKo Louise and Augie of The Hard Lessons wish you a Happy Holiday season, and give you the 3rd Annual Post-Christmas Blowout.

5 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS

BEST ACTOR Frank Langella
BEST DIRECTOR Ron Howard
BEST SCREENPLAY Peter Morgan

"REMARKABLE. ENGROSSING."
Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"★★★★ ABSOLUTELY ELECTRIC."
James Christopher, THE LONDON TIMES

"ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST."
Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"★★★★ ENTHRALLING."
Claudia Puig, USA TODAY

"ABSORBING AND EXCITING."
David Denby, THE NEW YORKER

4 CRITICS' CHOICE AWARD NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE

FRANK LANGELLA MICHAEL SHEEN

FROST NIXON

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TODAY

"THE JOY OF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON."
A delight for the eye, a laugh for the belly, a bonbon for children and a captivating pleasure for adults."
Gene Shalit

"IMMERSIVE AND BEAUTIFULLY ANIMATED."
Manohla Dargis, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"TRULY INSPIRED. THE AUDIENCE CHEERED!"
Wesley Morris, THE BOSTON GLOBE

The Tale of Despereaux

AWARD WINNER

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATRES AND SHOWTIMES

MOBILE USERS: For Showtimes - Text TALE with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549)!

him perform along with Keyshia Cole, T-Pain, Gym Class Heroes and Keri Hilson, tonight at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets \$39.75 to \$79.75, call (248) 645-6666 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

27 Detroit darlings **The Hard Lessons** always manage to give their all on stage, which makes this trio — Augie, KoKo and The Anvil — a natural choice for a holiday weekend party. Don't miss out on the band's 3rd annual **Post-Christmas Blowout**. Doors open at 7 p.m. tonight and the show high-kicks in at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets \$12, call (248) 645-6666 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

28 You can almost hear the whistling melody and see the high-flying basketball dunks now, so get the family packed and over to Palace of Auburn Hills in time for the **Harlem Globetrotters'**

band Pas/Cal. The band's full-length debut is due out in 2009. We will keep you posted. In the meantime the *Christmas Party EP* is just a little holiday treat!

Download the album at www.romanticair.com. For Computer Perfection's regular music visit myspace.com/computerperfection. Happy Holidays!

Lana Mini

USA WEEKEND

EXCLUSIVE SHOTS OF
Robert Downey Jr.
Vanessa Williams
Will Smith
Jamie Foxx
Taylor Swift
Eli Manning
Gwyneth Paltrow
Rascal Flatts
Liv Tyler
Will Ferrell
Jack Black
and more!

OUR YEAR IN PHOTOS

The Jonas Brothers take aim at our best collection ever!

The best shots you didn't see

Exclusive photos and great outtakes of your favorite celebrities.

USA WEEKEND MAGAZINE

This Sunday in...
The Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers

Announcing!

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Core Rhythms Creators
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12 time U.S. Champion
&
Joanna Kitzitz
10 time International Champion

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Franchised Dance Studios

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Ring out the year with special wines

It's safe to say that as a reader of this column you've tried Australian wines. But have you tried Penfolds?



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

Chief wine maker Peter Gago calls it the "world's largest boutique winery." And rightly so. We're now 164 years old," Gago says of Penfolds. "To some people, the range of wines we make may appear a bit daunting."

THREE DISTINCT STYLES

More than half of all Penfolds wines fall into the style category of multi-regional blends. Koonunga Hill Shiraz Cabernet (2005 vintage at \$12) is a good example as a blend based on Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale and Coonawarra

grapes. In each vintage, Penfolds wine makers under the direction of Gago, seek to maintain Koonunga Hill's various red wines as superior values at \$12.

Penfolds Thomas Hyland wines are also in the multi-regional style. Although the Chardonnay (2007 at \$16) is an evolving style expressing fruit from the Adelaide region. There's loads of value in this range.

Next rung on the ladder is single region wines with major examples, RWT Shiraz (2005 at \$90) from Barossa grapes, Bin 128 (2005 at \$22), a Coonawarra shiraz and Bin 51 Eden Valley Riesling (2007 at \$20). The two shiraz wines are decidedly different. RWT is seductive with aromas from violets to red and black fruits, ending with brown spices and hints of French oak. Bin 128 is distinctively Coonawarra with loads of heft, weight and regional flavor from the unique red soil.

Bin 51 Riesling highlights a new chapter in the long Penfolds history. South Australia, and in particular the Eden Valley, is gaining recognition for producing dry riesling with lime and apple aromas along with a decidedly

mineral edge. We've reached the third rung with single vineyard wine styles that account for less than 10 percent of Penfolds wines. St. Henri Shiraz (2004 at \$51) epitomizes this category with pure unadulterated fruit due to no new oak aging. Gago considers it the "finest since 1990."

THE PEAK

At the Penfolds peak is the

current 2003 release of Grange, \$300, which requires medium to long-term aging to fully develop its immense complexity. It's not a stretch to say that it showcases the Penfolds philosophy of multi-vineyard, multi-district blending philosophy. Aging in American oak marks this wine at the spicier end of the shiraz wines produced by Penfolds.

WINE PICKS

- Serve some change-of-pace wines for the New Year's holiday:
- Picks of the pack: 2007 Pine Ridge Chenin Blanc-Viognier, \$14, and 2007 Dutton Goldfield Dutton Ranch-Shop Block Pinot Blanc, \$25.
 - Fruit and spice: 2007 Pietra Santa Gewurztraminer \$15; 2007 Helfrich Alsace Gewurztraminer \$15 (off-dry); and 2007 Clos LaChance Viognier \$22.
 - Wallet-friendly: 2008 Man Vintners Chenin Blanc (South Africa) \$10.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for

the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

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8 CRITIC CHOICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE

3 CRITIC CHOICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS BEST CAST

BASED ON THE TRUE STORY

WINNER GOLDEN GLOBE BEST ACTOR

WINNER PRODUCERS GUILD OF AMERICA

SEAN PENN

MILK

EMILIE HIRSCH JOSH BROLIN DIEGO LUNA AND JAMES FRANCO
WRITTEN BY DUSTIN LANCE BLACK AND DIRECTED BY GUS VAN SANT

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BEST ACTOR Brad Pitt

BEST SCREENPLAY
Screenplay by Eric Roth and Robin Swicord
Screenplay by Eric Roth

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE
Alexandre Desplat

TIME
"A SPRAWLING, ENTHRALLING MOVIE."
-Richard Corliss

ELLE
"ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES OF THE DECADE."
-Karen Dunbar

Newsweek
"BRAD PITT GIVES ONE OF THE SUBTLEST, MOST TOUCHING PERFORMANCES OF HIS CAREER."
-David Ansen

BRAD PITT CATE BLANCHETT

The Curious Case Of BENJAMIN BUTTON

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND WAGNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENT A KENNEDY/MARSHALL PRODUCTION A DAVID FINCHER FILM BRAD PITT CATE BLANCHETT "THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON" YARAJI P. HENSON JULIA ORLANDO JASON LEVINEK FELIX ROTAS AND TRINA SWINNEY "THE ALEXANDER HUSTON" "THE ROCK BAKER" ANGUS WALL "THE KATHLEEN KENNEDY FRANK JAMES" "FRANK CHASTAIN" "FROM THE CORNER" SCOTT FITZGERALD "THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON" SCREENPLAY BY ERIC ROTH AND ROBIN SWICORD "THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON" DIRECTED BY DAVID FINCHER

STARTS CHRISTMAS DAY

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BEDTIME STORIES

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS ADAM SANDLER'S "BEDTIME STORIES" A HAPPY ENDING/VIOLIN FILMS/OPENED PRODUCTION A FILM BY ALAN SHULMAN AND GUY HOSSEL

FOR THEATRES AND SHOWTIMES: CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS OR TEXT BED WITH YOUR ZIP CODE TO 43KIX (43549) OR VISIT Disney.com/BedtimeStories

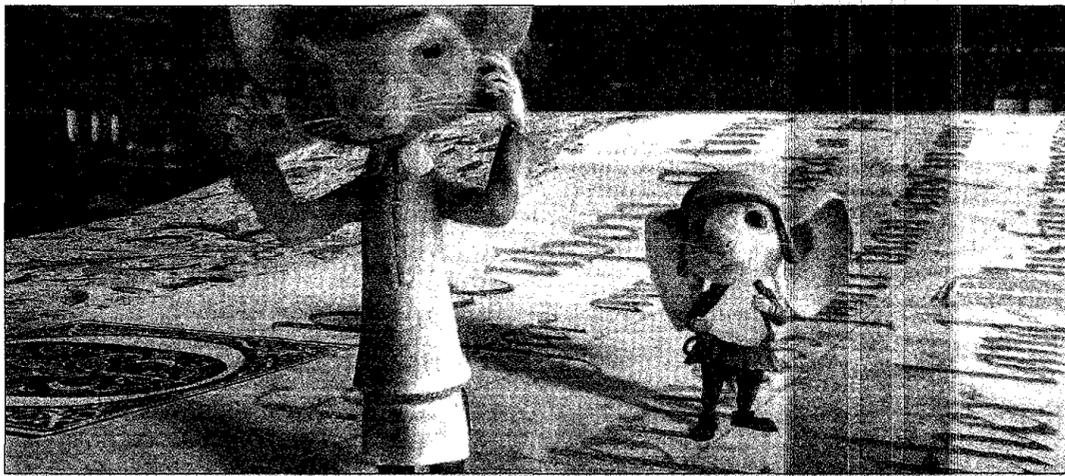
MOVIE Guide

Where available by deadline, features are listed.

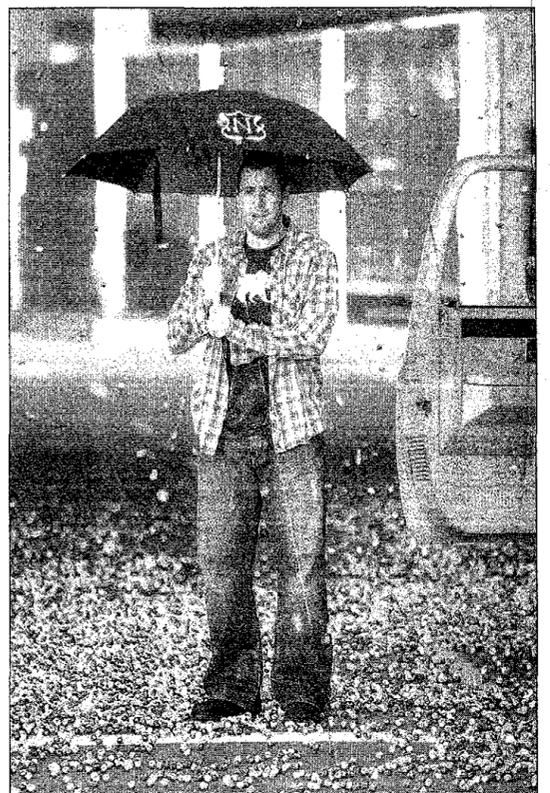
Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

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Old Woodward Ave. Downtown Birmingham 248-644-FILM 248-644-3456 www.birmingham8.com</p> <p>CINEMARK MOVIES 16 The Best Seat in Town 28600 Dequindre Rd. • Warren 586-558-7520 Reel Family Monday's With Parties Of 3 Or More - 50¢ Admission Monday Is Seniors Day All Seats \$1.00 The First Show Of The Day Monday-Friday Before 6:00pm Is \$1.00 Bargain Tuesday All Seats All Day \$1.00 All Shows \$1.50 Except Fri-Sun After 6PM All Shows \$2.50</p> <p>CALL FOR FEATURES AND TIMES</p> <p>EMAGINE THEATERS ONLINE TICKETS www.emagine-entertainment.com CALL 888-319-3456 VOTED BEST MOVIE THEATRE 2006 BY THE DETROIT NEWS! GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE! EMAGINE THAT!</p> <p>Make Your Phone Your Movie Ticket at www.mbo.com</p> <p>NO COMMERCIALS ONCE THE PREVIEWS BEGIN!</p> <p>Digital Projection On All Screens "A Perfect Picture Every Time!"</p> <p>DP-Digital Presentation **"Luxury" Seating OPEN AT 11:30 AM</p> <p>EMAGINE CANTON 39535 Ford Road Canton Twp. 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Main at 11 Mile • Royal Oak 248-542-0180 24 Hr. Movie Line 248-263-2111 (DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!!) TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BOX OFFICE OR PHONE 248-542-0180</p> <p>MAPLE ART THEATRE III 4135 W. Maple, West of Telegraph Bloomfield Township 248-855-9091 24 Hr. Movie Line 248-263-2111 (DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!!) SUNDAY THROUGH THURSDAY</p>	<p>MICHIGAN THEATER 603 E. Liberty • Ann Arbor 734-668-TIME 734-668-8463 www.michtheater.org \$8.50 Regular Adult; \$6.75 Students, Seniors & Children Under 12</p> <p>MJR DIGITAL THEATRES</p> <p>MJR BRIGHTON TOWNE SQUARE DIGITAL CINEMA 20 8200 Murphy Drive Brighton Towne Square Behind Home Depot 24 Hr. Movie Line CALL 810-227-4700 www.mjrtheatres.com</p> <p>MJR WATERFORD DIGITAL CINEMA 16 7501 Highland Rd. S. E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd. 24 Hr. Movie Line 248-666-7900 www.mjrtheatres.com</p> <p>NATIONAL AMUSEMENTS SHOWCASE CINEMAS</p> <p>SHOWCASE ANN ARBOR 1-20 4100 Carpenter Rd. I-94 & US 23 734-973-8424 Bargain Matinees Daily, All Shows Until 6PM. 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E. of Van Dyke 313-438-3494 www.phoenixmovies.net Bargain Matinees Before 6 PM</p>	<p>For Group Sales, Special Events & Field Trips PLEASE CALL 248-788-5785</p> <p>PHOENIX THEATRES AT WEST RIVER CENTRE Farmington Hills' Neighborhood Theatre 30170 Grand River M-5 W. of Middlebelt 248-788-6572 www.phoenixmovies.net Bargain Matinees Before 6 PM For Group Sales, Special Events & Field Trips PLEASE CALL 248-788-5785</p> <p>STATE THEATER 233 State St. at Liberty Ann Arbor 734-761-8667 \$8.50 Regular Adult; \$6.75 Students, Seniors & Children Under 12 \$5.50 All Shows Beginning Before 6PM \$5.00 Michigan Theater Member</p> <p>STATE WAYNE THEATRE 35310 Michigan Ave. • Wayne 734-326-4600</p> <p>THURSDAYS • ALL SEATS 99¢</p> <p>12/26/08-1/1/09 CLOSED NEW YEAR'S EVE</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: THE SENIOR YEAR [G] BODY OF LIES [R] BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA [PG] EAGLE EYE [PG13] SAW V [R]</p> <p>Please Call Theatre For Movies & Showtimes</p> <p>UNITED ARTISTS COMMERCE-14 3330 Springvale Drive Adjacent to Home Depot N. of the intersection of 14 Mile & Haggerty 248-960-5801 Bargain Matinees Daily For All Shows Starting Before 6PM Same Day Advance Tickets Available</p> <p>UPTOWN PALLADIUM 12 THEATRE 250 N. 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Despereaux, the brave mouse and star of the film, "Tale of Despereaux."



Adam Sandler plays Skeeter Bronson in "Bedtime Stories."

Christmas movie traditions go on

Here's a list of movies opening for the holidays.

For the kids, opened last week:

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX: Once upon a time, in the faraway kingdom of Dor, there was magic in the air, laughter and gallons of mouth-watering soup. But a terrible accident left the king broken-hearted, the princess sad and the townsfolk despondent. All hope was lost until Despereaux Tilling was born.

A brave and virtuous mouse, Despereaux is simply too big for his small world. Though tiny, wheezy and saddled with comically oversized ears, Despereaux refuses to live a life of weakness and fear, believing he was destined to be celebrated in the tales of chivalry he so adores. (UNIVERSAL) Rated G.

For the family with kids in their teens:

BEDTIME STORIES: An adventure comedy star-

ring Adam Sandler as Skeeter Bronson, a hotel handyman whose life is changed forever when the bedtime stories he tells his niece and nephew start to mysteriously come true. Directed by Adam Shankman and featuring Sandler, Guy Pearce, Keri Russell, Courtney Cox and Russel Brand. (WALT DISNEY PICTURES) PG.

For families and mature teens who like the unusual:

THE CURIOUS CASE

OF BENJAMIN BUTTON: Adapted from the 1920s story by F. Scott Fitzgerald about a man who is born in his 80s and ages backward. We follow his story, set in New Orleans from the end of World War I in 1918, into the 21st century. Directed by David Fincher and starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett with Taraji P. Henson, Tilda Swinton, Jason Flemyng, Elias Koteas and Julia Ormond. (PARAMOUNT PICTURES) PG-13.

Not an upbeat theme:

DOUBT: John Patrick Shanley brings his Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play to the screen. It's 1964, St. Nicholas in the Bronx. Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman) is trying to upend the schools' strict customs, fiercely guarded by Sister Aloysius Beauvier (Meryl Streep), the iron-gloved principal. The winds of political change are sweeping through the community, but when Sister James (Amy Adams), a hopeful innocent, shares with Sister Aloysius her suspicion that Father Flynn is paying too much personal attention to a male student, Sister Aloysius sets off on a personal crusade to unearth the truth and expunge Flynn from the school. Without any proof, she locks into a battle of wills with Father Flynn (MIRAMAX)

PG-13.

Teens may like:

HURRICANE SEASON: A year after Hurricane Katrina, Al Collins, a high school basketball coach in Marrero, Louisiana, assembles a team of players who had previously attended five different schools before the disaster and leads them on the path to the state championships. Starring Forest Whitaker, Isaiah Washington, Shad Moss and Lil' Wayne. Directed by Tim Story (Dimension & MGM) PG-13.

If you like animals, bring the tissue:

MARLEY AND ME: The heartwarming and unforgettable story of a family in the making and the wondrously neurotic dog who taught them what really matters in life. Starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston. Directed by David Frankel. Screenplay by Scott Frank and Donald Roos.

based on the book by John Grogan. (20TH CENTURY FOX) Rated PG.

Cool:

THE SPIRIT: Adapted from Will Eisner's comic book series, The Spirit is a classic action-adventure-romance genre-twister written for the screen and directed by Frank Miller (creator of *300* and *Sin City*). It's the story of a former rookie cop who returns mysteriously from the dead as "The Spirit" (Gabriel Macht) to fight crime from the shadows of Central City. His arch-enemy, (Samuel L. Jackson) has a different mission: to wipe out Spirit's beloved city as he pursues his own version of immortality. Stars Gabriel Macht, Eva Mendes, Sarah Paulson, Dan Lauria, Paz Vega and Jaime King, with Scarlett Johansson and Samuel L. Jackson as "The Octopus." Odd Lot Entertainment and Lionsgate are production partners on the film. (LIONSGATE FILMS) PG-13.

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Go Comedy! offer hilarious dance movie spoof

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Go Comedy! Improv Theater has its first audience favorite.

Timeless: The Dancical, which opens the new Ferndale theatre's 8 p.m. Sunday showcase, has been extended indefinitely says Pj Jacokes, co-owner and producer. The showcase features original written comedies.

"It's one of the shows where

people who see it come back," he said. "So each week we have repeat attendees. It's a big word of mouth show."

The spoof of dancing movies like *Dirty Dancing* was written and directed by Lauren Bickers of Ferndale.

Jacokes said *Timeless* is "hilarious" but "hard to describe."

"It's sort of like a musical but they don't sing, they dance, and it's not necessarily people who should

dance," Jacokes said. "I have seen it 12 times by now and there are still times that I'll howl."

Timeless has had success in other venues. It debuted as a short sketch at Hamtramck's Planet Ant Theatre 2007 Box Fest, then returned there as a full production earlier this year. It was picked up by The Second City to run this summer at Donny's Sky Box in Chicago.

Timeless is followed at 9 p.m. by the fully improvised musical, *Rock-*

o-Matic.

Using only audience suggestions, the cast creates an on-the-spot musical comedy accompanied by a live band featuring Phred and Mikey Brown. *Rock-o-Matic* is followed at 10 p.m. by *Elemenopy* featuring improv power-duo Pj Jacokes and Chris DiAngelo.

"I think our whole line-up is something you are not going to see anywhere else," Jacokes said. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261

E. Nine Mile, opened last month in the building formerly occupied by the Ferndale Secretary of State office. It offers improv and sketch comedy, a training center, road shows, classes and workshops for private parties, corporations and schools. For tickets (\$10), call (248) 327-0575; or buy them beginning at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the theatre box office.

The Web site is www.gocomedy.net.

NEW YEAR

FROM PAGE D1

sert you'd never dared before (perhaps a chocolate soufflé), light some candles and dine with your family or loved one decked out in slippers and pajamas. Let *Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve*, now with co-host Ryan Seacrest, entertain you and count down to a new year ahead. The Times Square holiday broadcast has been going strong since 1972 and will air at 10 p.m. Dec. 31, on ABC, Channel 7. After all, what would New Year's Eve be without the ball drop?

BYO Wine and Dine

— Gather a group of close friends and ask everyone to bring a favorite bottle of wine, and an appetizer or dessert to share. Spend the time sampling flights — from white to blush to full-bodied red — and noshing on home-baked goods while you investigate the lyrics to *Auld Lang Syne*, the Scotch song known to ring in many a New Year. Try hanging sprigs of mistletoe around the house, to catch your unsuspecting pals off guard.

WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK

If you can't imagine closing the door on 2008 without some serious dance moves, consider these mid-priced options for singles, couples or groups:

Ferndale's Boogie Fever blends the sounds of the '70s and '80s with party favors, a champagne toast and late-night pizza buffet. Doors open at 9 p.m. Dec. 31, at 22901 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Tickets \$25 in advance at

www.boogiefevercafe.com.

The Royal Oak Music Theater features Eve's New Year with guest Lori Michaels. Doors open at 9 p.m. Dec. 31, at 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. The event is 21 and older and tickets \$15-\$30, call (248) 399-2980.

Craving those '80s hits you know and love? Feel like breaking out your Pat Benatar-inspired shoulder shakes? Head to the Magic Bag in Ferndale for the annual Mega 80s New Year's Eve Bash. Doors open at 8 p.m. for anyone 21 and older. Tickets \$40, visit www.themagicbag.com for details. The bar is located at 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Call (248) 544-3030.

SET TO SPLURGE

From belly-laughs to long-standing traditions, make it a night to remember at any of these events:

For 21 years, Livonia's Laurel Manor has held the tradition of hosting a New Year's Eve Gala. This year will be no exception. From 7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. on Dec. 31, patrons will enjoy hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, dinner featuring filet mignon and chicken or a vegetarian entree, dessert table and an afterglow featuring pizza and Danishes after midnight. Tickets \$85 per person, 21 and over only, call (734) 462-0770. Laurel Manor is at 39000 Schoolcraft in Livonia, visit www.laurelmanor.com.

Canton's Village Theatre hosts New Year's Eve with *Two for the Road*, a stage show featuring the music of Dean Martin, Barry White, The Beatles and more. The evening

includes a strolling reception and champagne at midnight. Festivities begin at 9 p.m. Dec. 31, 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. Tickets \$50, call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.canton-mi.org.

If your New Year's Eve requires a full-scale balloon-drop and fireworks, check out A New Year's Eve-olution, 9 p.m. Dec. 31 at Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron in Pontiac. The first 100 tickets sold cost \$40, then the price rises to \$75, but it includes a top-shelf open bar until 1 a.m., elegant hors d'oeuvres, champagne, music by DJs Ryan Richards and Braz D, a fashion show, magicians, comedy by Guy Copeland, door prizes and a late-night buffet. Call (248) 333-2362 or visit www.clutch-cargos.com.

Eve '09 at the newly-revamped Hyatt Regency of Dearborn features music by DJs Capt'n20, Padi and Blake George, model art, dancing in the Grey Goose Ballroom, a Platinum Ice Lounge featuring Jose Cuervo Platino Tequila, visit www.EVE09.com for details and prices as they become available.

If you love Middle Eastern food and music, check out the lavish, stylish New Year's Eve Celebration hosted by legendary modern musicians Emad Batayeh and Osama Baalbaki plus DJ Franky Bones. The huge event includes appetizers, dinner, champagne, breakfast and full premium bar. There's also kids tickets available that includes dinner and babysitters. The party also includes a raffle and prizes. Tickets are \$75, \$100 and \$125. Location is the upscale Bella Banquet Center, 4100 E. 14 Mile Road in Warren (at

Ryan Road. For details call (810) 397-8500.

Ring a Ding Ding with The Rat Pack is Back! a musical tribute to Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey Bishop and Dean Martin, offering show-only tickets for \$45 at 6:30 p.m. and \$65 at 9:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Dinner and a show offered at the same times for \$110 and \$130, respectively. Or opt for dinner only at the Century Grill, reservations run from \$65 to \$90, later seatings include a midnight champagne celebration with party favors and members of The Rat Pack Orchestra. It's all happening at The Gem Theatre, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 963-9800.

Comedians Steve Harvey and Katt Williams take the stage for the 2008 Championships of Comedy, 9 p.m. Dec. 31, at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. Tickets \$65-\$250, call (248) 645-6666.

The Barenaked Ladies will rile up the crowds, making them feel as if they had a million dollars, at The Fox Theatre, 9 p.m. on Dec. 31, 2211 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets \$55-\$125, call (248) 433-1515.

Make it to the Mansion for an unforgettable New Year's Eve bash this year as Detroit's Whitney restaurant opens its doors — and even heats garden tents — for revelers. The restaurant offers three dinner seatings, at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. but the party begins at 10 p.m. and keeps rocking with DJs Matt A and DJ Roc Boy until 4 a.m. Enjoy a premium open bar, champagne toast and hors d'oeuvres for \$100 per person or reserve a booth for up to six guests including unlimited bottle service for \$900. Late-comers arriving after 1 a.m. pay \$50 each. Reserve a spot at (313) 832-5700.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

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

DECEMBER

Christmas worship 10 a.m. Christmas worship Thursday, Dec. 25, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. All are invited.

Clothing bank Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of each month (Dec. 27), at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley. For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

Christmas services 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, blessing of the children and their toys, at Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, two blocks south of Plymouth Road. Call (313) 937-3170.

UPCOMING

Group support for widowed Widowed Friends of the AOD offer a grief support program, Grief Recovery, beginning 1:23 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009 at Our Lady of Loretto Parish, 17116 Olympia, Redford. The six-week series offers information about grief, coping with loneliness, making it on your own and other issues related to the loss of a spouse. A \$20 fee covers all materials, payable at the first meeting. To register, call Joan at (248) 478-1084.

Benefit dinner Swiss steak dinner 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, 2009 in Guthrie Hall at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Eat in or carry out. Cost is \$8 adults, \$4 for mac n'cheese for children. Proceeds go to support homeless ministry. Call

(734) 422-0149 for reservation or purchase tickets at the door.

Worship service The Wayne-Westland Ministerial Association is sponsoring a worship service to remember the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. There will be a combined choir from several churches led by Steve Holbrook. The preacher for the evening will be the Rev. Mike Wilson of the New Beginnings Church in Wayne. The public is invited. If you have any questions, call Neil Cowling at the Kirk of Our Savior, at (734) 728-1088.

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

Music at St. John's Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2009, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, 2009, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

ONGOING

Caregiver's support group St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for

your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

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

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

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

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

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

Mid-week Service Hosanna-Taber Lutheran Church offers a Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Leverne, Redford. Communion

is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m.

ENDOW St. Michael the Archangel Parish is hosting two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Based on Pope John Paul II's "Letter to Women", the Course I groups meet 9:30-11 a.m. Mondays, and 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays. Course V, called "Aquinas for Beginners", is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available locally only at St. Michael's 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays. All meet in the convent basement meeting room. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or online at www.endowonline.com. St. Michael's is at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Choral rehearsals Oakland Choral Society has begun Tuesday evening rehearsals for its Christmas concerts with professional soloists and orchestra. On Dec. 6 the group performs Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicolas," and J.S. Bach's "Cantata Wachet auf," and on Dec. 14 Handel's "Messiah." Registration begins at 7:00 p.m., with rehearsal 7:30-9 p.m., at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. All singers who can read music are welcome. Membership dues \$55 for fall season (\$30 for students age 30 and under). Music cost additional. For information, call (248) 391-0184.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reformed Protestant services The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are preached by the Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean.humby@att.net, or visit www.members.aol.com/rsi-worship/detroit.html.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which produces 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 information, send e-mail to ccrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran 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, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

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

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

more information, call (734) 425-6360.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please see CALENDAR, D7

Passages Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances 1-800-579-7355 fax: 734-953-2232 e-mail: oebits@hometownlife.com View Obit On-Line@www.hometownlife.com

JOSEPH D. BULONE Of Port Sanilac. Age 86, died Sunday, December 21, 2008 at home in his own bed surrounded by the love of his children and their spouses. He was born November 15, 1922 in Cleveland Ohio, son of the late Domenico and Domenica DiDomenico Bulone. He married Frances E. Hendricks on June 14, 1952 in Birmingham. She died December 20, 1999. Mr. Bulone served in the Pacific Theatre in the U.S. Navy Air Corps during WW II. He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church. He worked on the design staff at the G.M. Tech Center. He was a founding member of the Port Sanilac Fine Arts Association. Joe was one of the most prolific and respected professional painters and sculptors in southeastern Michigan. His 60 year career, which included many Best of Show awards earned well into his 80's, brought him recognition as one of the finest landscape and seascape artists of his time. His favorite subjects were Lake Huron sunrises and the Port Sanilac lighthouse. In his leisure time he was a Detroit Tigers fan and never gave up on the Lions. He enjoyed his vegetable and flower gardens and his homemade meatloaf was legendary. Surviving are his children Vincent M. of Oak Park, Daniel J. of Memphis, TN, Cathi (Bryan) Bulone-Campbell of Port Sanilac, Helen M. Bulone of Portland, OR, and Maria (David) Kujat of Lexington. Three brothers Tony of Meridian, ID, Mike of Cleveland, OH and Rego of Anaheim, CA. One sister Virginia Bulone of Fullerton, CA. Three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by brothers Angelo, Dominic and Louis. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27 at the Museum Church at the Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum in Port Sanilac. Pastor Bill Willis will officiate. Burial will be in Old St. Mary Cemetery. Friends may call at the Pomeroy Funeral Home, Lexington from 2 to 9 Friday and at Church from 10 to 11 Saturday. Memorials may be made to the Sanilac Co. Historical Society Hunting Cabin Fund or the Sanilac District Library.

JANICE R. FRUDD Age 64, passed away December 18, 2008. She was born on August 12, 1944, in Huntsville, AL to the late Thomas and Thelma (Norris) Brazelton. They moved to the area in 1950. She worked for Ford Motor Company for over 28 years. Janice was a loving and caring person who will be dearly missed by her friends and family. Janice is survived by her daughters: Bridget (Jack) Jenkins and Robin Frigg; her grandchildren: Nicole Hauler and Jack T. Jenkins; two brothers and three sisters. Memorial Service was held on December 23, 2008 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Online guest book www.phillipsfuneral.com

EMILY L. GENTRY December 22, 2008 of Dearborn Heights. Loving wife of the late Wilbur Gentry and George Palmer. Loving mother of George, Jr. and Richard K. Palmer (Katherine); four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Visitation and Services were held at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne.

JENNIE ESTHER HINSHAW Age 91. Formerly of Sun City, AZ and Rochester, MI, most recently of the Masonic Village Sewickley, PA died on Friday December 19, 2008. She was born on December 10, 1917 in Yale Michigan the daughter of the late Fred Bontrager & Marie (West) Waters. She was a Real Estate Agent working until she was 82 for Ken Meade Real Estate in Sun City Arizona. She also loved spending time with her family, traveling and being physically active. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her loving husband A. Kenneth Hinshaw in 1986, one brother and seven sisters. She is survived by a daughter & son-in-law: Sharlene K. & John Whitmire, Moon Twp.; a son and daughter-in-law: Robert T. & Sharlene Hinshaw, Nipomo, CA; and a step son Gilbert & Judy Hinshaw, Hobbs, New Mexico.; two grandchildren: Tahge Featherston & Misty (Frank) McCormick; two great-grandchildren: DeClan & Quinlan McCormick. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Memorial Contributions may be made to the Best Friends Animal Society, 5001 Angel Canyon Rd. Kanab, Utah 84741. www.huntsmanfuneralhomes.com

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

ROBERT J. MARTIN Age 88. December 19, 2008 of Livonia. Predeceased by wives Mary, Anne, and June. Dear father of Sharon M. (Tom) Dorda, Michael R. (Mary) Martin, Sandy Martin and James D. Martin. Grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of three. Brother of the late Delores, Maurice and Charlotte. He was a Ford Quarter Century Club member for 41 years. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, family requests donations to the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society or Angela Hospice.

CARLOTTA "LOTTIE" MOORE Age 61, of Rochester Hills. December 18, 2008. Lottie owned and operated Nails by Carlotta; she is survived by her husband, Carl; daughter Amanda (John) Tantarò of West Bloomfield; grandchildren, Michala, Joshua & Olivia. Memorial gathering Sunday, December 28, 2008, 2-8 p.m. at Pixley Funeral Home, 322 W. University Dr., Rochester; Memorial contributions to American Cancer Society or Troy Beaumont Cancer Care Center would be appreciated. Please visit www.mem.com

GENE P. SIGERS JR. Of Livonia. Age 44. Passed away December 19, 2008. Survivors include his father, Gene Sigers Sr.; son, Matthew and sister Pamela Hanksnecht. He was preceded in death by his mother, Elaine Sigers. Gene was a member of the Pipe Fitters Local #636 for several years. Funeral Services were held 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 23, 2008 at Sherwood Funeral Home, Grass Lake. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. Please sign Gene's guest book at sherwoodfh.com

OBITUARY POLICY The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$5. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.) Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue. e-mail your obit to oebits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obitis c/o Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7318 For more information call: Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7115 or Charolette Wilson 586-826-7082 or toll free 800-579-7355 ask for Jennifer or Charolette

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE D6

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. 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. 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. A Christian women's group. 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 hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday 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.celebraterecovery.com and www.ward-church.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 on Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from I 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 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. Weigh-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,

Festival of hymns seeking choirs, singers

Registration deadline for choirs/singers interesting in participating in the massed choir for Beloved: A Festival of Hymns is Dec. 31. E-mail Ann Buland at musicalann@musician.org. The festival takes place 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009 at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 421-7249 for more information. The festival is "A Whosoever Event for the Whosoever Synod" sponsored

by the Western Wayne Cluster (No. 5)/ELCA. It is an opportunity to focus on the theme of the Epiphany season; worship together as a synod; build relationships across clusters; sing music of a variety of times, places and cultures; and learn about the vision for Southeast Michigan Synod Whosoever Children's Choir beginning with a summer camp experience in 2009. Michael Burkhardt, director of worship and the arts at

Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia, serves as director and organist for the hymn festival. A director's workshop will be offered 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009 at Faith Lutheran Church for all participating directors as well as for any choral directors in the synod seeking a growth opportunity. The workshop includes rehearsal technique, tone production and stylistic considerations for hymn festival music.

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. 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., Wednesday service at 6:15 p.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. English classes Conversational English as a Second

Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830. Sunday school Congregation Beit Kodesh, at 31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974. Services St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, invites the community to a new worship service at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Also, Sunday traditional worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; contemporary service is at 9:50 a.m.; and Sunday school hour for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584.

Your Invitation to Worship

Directory of churches including Catholic, Evangelical Covenant, United Methodist, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Seventh-Day Adventist, Presbyterian, and others. Each entry includes church name, address, phone number, and service times.

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com

pink

Susan Steinnmueller . Special Editor . (248) 901-2576 . ssteinmueller@hometownlife.com

See that great celebrity hair? It's fake - you can have it cheaply

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

One of my co-workers complains constantly about her normal longish hair. "It's too thin," she says. "Why can't it look like Jessica Simpson's or Natalie Portman's?"

"Your hair is normal," I tell her repeatedly. "Jessica and Natalie both wear extensions."

In fact, minus a rare few lucky celebs like Angelina or Jennifer (ironic), most of Hollywood's great locks are faux.

Paris Hilton, Anna Faris, Cameron Diaz, Vanessa Anne Hudgens, Mariah Carey, Kim Kardashian, Carmen Electra, Holly Madison, Beyonce — all of them have donned hair extensions.

Aniston admitted she had them once years ago and it fried her hair. Hers, they say, were glued to her hair.

For instant, pretty, safe faux hair, most celebs use clip-on hair extensions.

Paris Hilton has created her own of hair that comes on a head-band. The hair is synthetic, heat-resistant and can be removed from the headband so you change the hair styles with long or short pieces. Her headband-hair is called *The Bandit* and should be at Sally Beauty Supplies soon.

I'm not the kind of person who enjoys over-primping. No faux nails or Botox (but I love a good pedicure). I've had two or three microderms, but really prefer donating my extra money to the Sashafarm.org animal sanctuary.

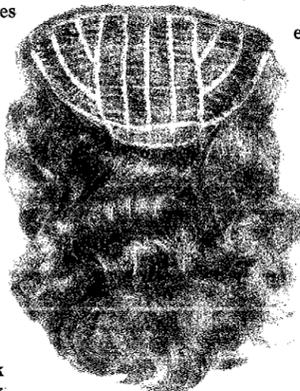
However, my vanity weakness is hair. I purchased the clip-in extensions and am always complimented when I use them. I have two sets — one to just add fullness and another to add 13 inches of length. They take about 15 minutes to clip in and 10 minutes to remove. I wash them in the sink and curl with a curling iron. Find them at beauty supply stores. My extensions are human hair, but they make me feel bad wondering who sacrificed their locks overseas for a low amount of money. I also have synthetic hair that I like just as much.

Also I never thought I would wear wigs just for fun, but recently purchased a long \$40 wig at Cherry Beauty Supply, 13421 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park; it beats styling and frying hair everyday.

My favorite hair salon in Birmingham - Platinum the Salon, 223 E. Maple, Birmingham, (248) 594-9988, specializes in hair extensions. Platinum custom makes the extensions to match your hair color, and will teach you how to use them. I love this place because they're also



Raquel Welch's hair extensions are top-of-the-line.



Jessica Simpson's hair extensions come in smaller individual clip-on pieces or in large sections that are clipped in - as pictured here.

experts at adding outrageous shine to normally dull hair. I've literally been stopped on the streets after walking out of the place.

Extensions cost anywhere from \$10 (question the quality) to hundreds. Jessica Simpson's range from \$90 to \$300 — depending how much hair you want. Paris Hilton's clip-on (not The Bandit headband), are \$50. Mine were about \$150.

Raquel Welch's extensions and wigs are human hair and cost more, but online reviews rave about the quality. Visit stores like Nailco Salon Marketplace, 23200 Haggerty, Farmington



Jessica Simpson hair extensions are at Sally Beauty Supply.

(248) 347-7700.
Have fun with it.
lmini@hometownlife.com

pink picks

For the Toddler Set

Editor's Note: In the spirit of the coming Baby New Year, enjoy these toddler-themed PINK Picks, submitted by reader Jill S. Kathan of Livonia, mom to Kelsey (pictured):



Kelsey Kathan

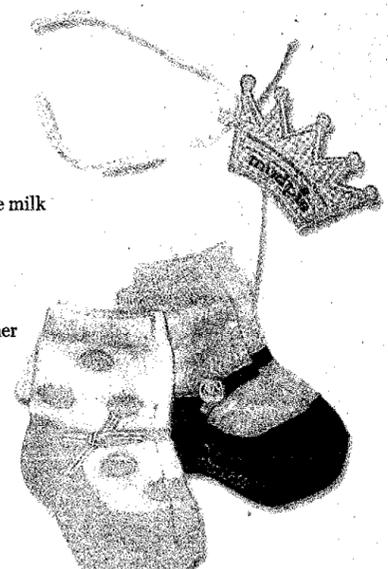
- Wear It!
Carter's pajamas
- DON'T Wear It!
Clothing that is too big!
- Tote It!
Snoopy Midi-Cooler. It's great for storing food to keep cool.
- Kick It!
Stride Rite for new walkers
- Accessorize It!
Princess Sock Booties, from Target or Babies R Us
- Face It!
Gentle Naturals Baby Eczema Cream
- Sneel It!
Johnson's Bedtime Lotion
- Hear It!
The Little Mermaid soundtrack
- Drink It!
Guernsey's whole milk
- Eat It!
Pirate's Booty
- Use It!
Gerber Lil' Trainer Tablewear
- See It!
Dora The Explorer DVD It!
- Baby Einstein videos
- Read It!
The Very Hungry

Caterpillar by Eric Carle

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Compiled by Staff Writer Stephanie A. Casola



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Before

After

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