

The year in photos

Inside today's newspaper

The zoo in the winter?

County news, A5



Book seeks to change double standards when it comes to older woman-younger man couples

Hometownlife, C1



Observer

SUNDAY
December 28, 2008

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Salvation Army: Requests for assistance rise

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle fund-raising campaign is one of the most recognizable charitable drives around, and their Thanksgiving and Christmas Adopt-a-Family programs are perhaps their most visible and well-known efforts.

And while those programs saw increasing numbers this year as the economy suffered, they aren't the only numbers on the rise within the Salvation Army. Lesser known, but equally as important, programs such as utility and rent assistance are also climbing.

At the Plymouth Salvation Army, for instance, calls for utility assistance are coming at a rate of some 30 per day.

"We're seeing a huge increase in utility and rent (assistance)," said Laurie Aren, the Plymouth Corps' director of family and community ministries. "We encourage them to go to the Department of Human Services (because) that gets them in line for other kinds of assistance, as well."

Aren said many of the calls she fields are from people who "are in shutoff right now," people who ran up large utility bills staying cool during the summer. Many calls, she said, come from people in low-income housing or mobile homes, drafty structures difficult to heat during the winter and cool in the summer.

She said the largest bill she's seen from someone seeking help is \$3,600, though she said she'd heard tell of one bill that closed in on \$10,000.

"It's cyclical," Aren said. "People are

in shutoff now from the summer. Then shutoff protection plans expire in the spring, so we'll start seeing them again in April, May and June."

While fielding some 30 utility calls a day, Aren said the Plymouth corps is also getting about 15-20 calls per day for rent assistance, in addition to 35-40 calls per day for food assistance.

In addition, the corps adopted some 435 families for Christmas (up from 343 in 2007), a figure that encompasses some 1,035 children (up from 737 a year ago). The holiday need adds additional stress to an already strained mission.

"The challenge for us is while people are turning to us for Christmas and Thanksgiving assistance, we're trying to keep up with our regular case load," said Maj. Jim Irvine, the corps officer in Plymouth.

It's the same around the county. According to Capt. Derek Rose, commander of the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, his corps is fielding some 20-30 calls a day for assistance. Unfortunately, the Wayne-Westland corps won't receive its funding for utility/rent assistance until after the first of the year. That means Rose's staffers have to refer those in need to other agencies, such as the DHS, churches and other organizations that might be able to help.

And Wayne-Westland, like the other corps, saw an increase in need over the holidays. According to Rose, the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army had some 700 requests for help this year, up from 630 a year ago.

Please see **REQUESTS, A4**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

H. Clemens of Westland stands near the stagecoach he built in his back yard.

Wild, wild Westland Man builds a stagecoach

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

H. Clemens doesn't fancy himself a modern day John Wayne, even if he did build a stagecoach in his back yard.

"I just always wanted to build one," said Clemens, 58, a self-employed auto body repairman and painter.

His stagecoach blends with other relics, including an old-fashioned locomotive and a windmill, that can be found on Clemens' prop-

erty on Westland's southeast side. He even has a Memory Lane sign posted in his back yard.

Clemens built his latest project, similar to an old U.S. Mail delivery stagecoach, last summer. He used wheels and axles he bought at an old apple orchard, and he pieced together scrap wood, steel, leather belt straps, handmade latches and a couple of Old West-style arrows that make it appear as though his latest creation has been under attack.

He used galvanized deck screws and construction adhesive to hold his stagecoach together even during winter weather, and he tucked a couple of plastic skeletons inside his old-school ride. He calls one of them Tex.

If anything seems a little mod-

ern on this stagecoach, it might be the Wyoming license plate, but Clemens had it and figured he may as well put it to use.

Even though the stagecoach doesn't really roll, Clemens put up a sign advertising for a full-time driver who must be handy with firearms and speak fluent Cherokee. The pay: \$20 a month.

The other side of the sign notes that coach rides are available, though riders are warned of possible holdups and urged to take out their own scalping insurance.

While he doesn't live in the wild, Westland, Clemens does seem proud of the stagecoach he built in his little corner of Westland.

"It was a labor of love," he said.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Gift exchange has a charitable side

BY JULIE BROWN
OGE STAFF WRITER

Did you end up with a gift that doesn't exactly suit your tastes? Consider coming to Westland Shopping Center 6-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, for a "White Elephant" gift exchange or donation.

The event, in the East Court, will benefit the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army.

"Bring along everything and anything you'd like to exchange," said Denise Mills, marketing manager for Westland Shopping Center, at Wayne and Warren roads. "We'll see what happens."

This is the first year for the "White Elephant" exchange so organizers aren't sure just what the response will be. It came from the

mall's corporate office which had a "Spread the Cheer" program, including the concept.

"I thought, 'Let's give it a try,'" Mills said.

Participants will bring a gift, new or of good quality, and register it with a contact phone number. Organizers will make calls Tuesday to let donors know if the item is wanted for exchange. Unwanted items can be donated to the Salvation Army.

"We wanted to give them a head start for next year," Mills said. "We'll do the rounds on Tuesday. Being a first time, you have no idea."

She chose not to put size limits on gifts: "We'll just see what shows up."

There's no cash involved, strictly a gift exchange. For details, call Mills at (734) 425-5001.

Police seek info on three holdups

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland police are investigating a rash of armed robberies or attempts, including two that occurred in a sprawling apartment complex, The Landings, southeast of Warren and Central City Parkway.

The most recent holdup happened about 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, when a 25-year-old mother was getting her child out of the back seat of her car in a Landings parking lot, police Sgt. Steve Borisch said.

"Someone approached her, stuck an unknown object to her back and took her purse," he said.

The victim wasn't hurt, and the lone bandit fled on foot. He was described as a tall black male with a slim build. His face was masked, and he wore an orange jacket with fur around the collar, Borisch said.

Two nights earlier, a lone bandit who caught a taxi cab from Inkster to Westland tried to rob the driver

of money, but escaped with only a cell phone following a brief struggle at The Landings, police Sgt. Brian Miller said.

The suspect produced a handgun, but no shots were fired during the incident that happened about 9 p.m. last Sunday, police said. The gunman had been picked up by the cab driver near Inkster and Annapolis roads.

Miller said the cab driver described the gunman as a black male, 5 feet, 9 inches tall, 150 to 160 pounds, in his early 20s. His clothing included what the victim described as a white, fur-type hat, Miller said.

Meanwhile, an attempted robbery happened shortly after 8 p.m. Monday at Romantasy, a retail business in a shopping center on the northwest side of Wayne and Hunter roads, Borisch said.

Two men armed with handguns went into the store and tried to take money from a 65-year-old female

clerk, who slammed the cash register drawer closed and pressed an alarm, Borisch said. The bandits fled without any money.

The men had earlier been inside the store and were believed to have staked it out, the detective said.

The victim described both men as black males in their 20s and between 6 feet tall and 6-foot-4. One was stocky; the other had a thin to medium build, the woman told police.

The stocky male was wearing a red coat, and the other suspect wore a black or dark blue coat with some type of lettering on the back.

Anyone who has information about any of the incidents is asked to call Westland police at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

Borisch also said anonymous tips for a possible reward up to \$1,000 may be made to Crime Stoppers by calling (800) SPEAK-UP (773-2587).

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Coming Thursday in filter. Nine events to help kick off 2009

GC man faces sentencing for indecent exposure

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Garden City man and repeat sex offender is facing sentencing in January after pleading guilty

to charges he exposed himself to passing motorists in Westland. Steven Brian Smith, 46, already spent 12 years in prison for second-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a boy. He

was released in 2006, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Smith is now facing sentencing Jan. 6 for indecent exposure following his arrest in June in the

Venoy-Cherry Hill area, where he was "standing totally naked and posing for traffic," Westland police Sgt. Debra Mathews has said.

On Friday, defense attorney

Marvin Stempien said it would be inappropriate for him to comment on Smith's still-pending sentencing in front of Wayne County Circuit Judge Brian Sullivan.

Smith had been ordered to stand trial after he earlier waived his preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court, but his plea has averted further court proceedings other than his sentencing.

Following his latest arrest, Smith was jailed with a \$1 million cash bond set by 18th District Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli, who cited his criminal history.

Last December, Smith was charged with indecent exposure after he was accused of masturbating by a Westland road, police said. While on bond in that case, he was detained after he was spotted near two Garden City elementary schools, prompting Cicirelli to sentence him to jail for 89 days.

Smith had just gotten out of jail last April, two months before he was accused of exposing himself in the latest incident.

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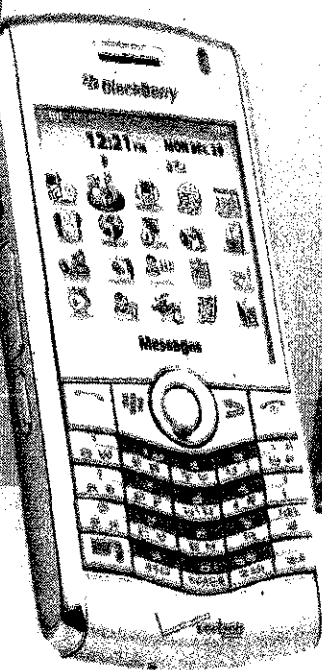
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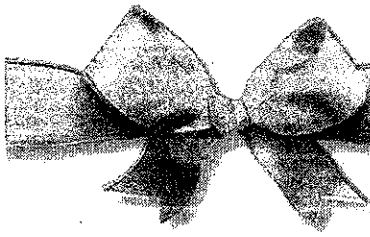
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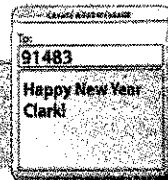
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REQUESTS

FROM PAGE A 1

"We just finished distributing for Christmas," said Rose. "Our numbers were up 30-40 percent for families coming in. We saw a lot of new families we were able to assist for toys, food and a Christmas meal, as well."

Happily, according to Rose, another number was up this year: The number of families he was able to adopt out. Rose said some 67 percent of the families the Wayne-Westland corps assisted were adopted out to donor families, up from last year.

"With the Westland community, we've been trying to get the word out it's going to be a tough year," Rose said. "The economy is in everybody's face, and people know how hard it is out there. We're very grateful to see people stepping up and letting us help the people in this community."

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BEDTIME STORIES (PG)
TH 4:50, 7:15, 9:35
FRI-SAT 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:35
FRI-SAT LS 11:55

MARLEY & ME (PG)
TH 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
FRI-SAT 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
FRI-SAT LS 11:50

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)
TH 3:10, 6:30, 9:50
FRI-SAT 11:30, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50

YES MAN (PG-13)
TH 4:30, 7:05, 9:30
FRI-SAT 11:45, 2:10, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30
FRI-SAT LS 11:50

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)
TH 4:10, 6:45
FRI-SAT 11:30, 2:00, 4:10, 6:45

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)
DAILY 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45
FRI-SAT LS 12:00
3D BOLT (PG)
FRI-SAT 11:10, 1:25

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Humane Society provides 'pawsitive' reinforcement

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Damion, a 1-year-old retriever, enters the room at the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland eager to show his stuff.

"So we're looking for a nice loose leash," said Terri Mallett, companion animal behavior specialist for the MHS. She was talking about the Pawsitive Start program, started by the MHS this spring to give positive behavior a boost.

Some 80 volunteers work with cats and dogs at the shelters in Westland, Rochester Hills and Detroit.

"We don't have cable television for them," said Mallett of animals like Damion at the Westland and other shelters. He's an adolescent dog and larger, so having socialization opportunities is particularly important when he's kenneled.

"It's a good experience for the animal," said MHS spokeswoman Stephanie Baron. "It's a good thing for the adopters to build on."

Pawsitive Start began last May and is designed to maintain mental and emotional well-being while animals are in the shelters. Being better behaved after they've been adopted is a nice extra, Mallett said.

Heather, a boxer-lab mix about three months old, was also good about responding to commands. A clicker is used to alert the pet and a treat then given after the desired behavior is shown. Pawsitive Start offers environmental enrichment through positive training, said Mallett.

"I think the economy is having an impact," she agreed, noting animals tend to stay in the shelters longer.

"We are still adopting out," Baron said. "People are still coming in." The Bingham Farms-based MHS has a Web site at www.michiganhumane.org where you can find information on pets, volunteer opportunities and more.

Training by volunteers

helps to alleviate boredom, Mallett said, as she gave small treats to Damion.

"A lot of people don't associate training with cats," said Baron, whose two cats walk on a leash.

"You have to be a lot more patient with cats," Mallett said. "They're more independent." Cat training sessions are shorter, she said as she reached into Duchess' area, to work with the 2-year-old domestic shorthair.

Targeting is used with cats, in which they respond to the end of a stick being placed near them and a small treat given. You can use your finger as well.

Training works with any age animal, as young as eight weeks.

"Senior animals can learn new things, too," said Mallett, adding such training helps the MHS make the best home match.

Training also includes working with dogs on special nail files which the animal scratches to file nails. Mallett's four dogs are enthusiastic, and she must keep the file of plywood with a rough surface on the shelf.

"They like doing their nails so much," Mallett said. It's less stressful for the dog and saves money for the owner.

Volunteers are trained by the MHS and work individually or in teams. "It's pretty easy," Mallett said in encouraging those interested.

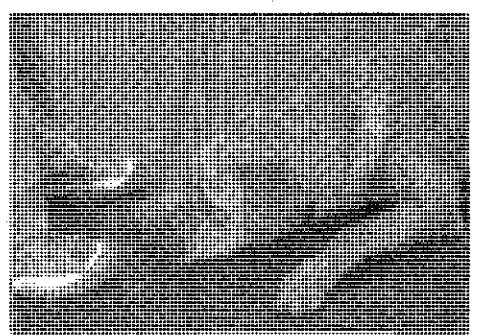
Dogs are trained to recognize the human "mad face" which indicates displeasure. "We don't start out telling them they're bad," Mallett said.

Baron added the busy holiday season may not be the ideal time to bring a new pet home, especially if you're entertaining. "They'll be more comfortable, you'll be more comfortable," she said of an adoption after the New Year.

The Michigan Humane Society offers a Behavior Help Line for challenges with pet behavior. You can call (248) 650-0127 anytime and leave a message for a return call.



Terri Mallett and Damion work on loose leash walking during the Michigan Humane Society's Pawsitive Start program.



Damion responds to a command given by Terri Mallett, a companion animal behavior specialist for the MHS.



Stephanie Baron of Troy holds a young Dancer.

Businesses' collection aids pets

While animal homelessness is especially heartbreaking during the holiday season, a Michigan-based company is hoping that by filling the animals' stockings with items that bring comfort such as food, toys, treats, and towels, they can help make their holidays a little brighter.

To that end, US-Mattress, an online retailer specializing in mattresses, bedroom furniture and linens, is holding a Holiday Wish List Drive at their showrooms in Macomb and Plymouth to benefit the Michigan Humane Society (MHS), through Wednesday, Dec. 31.

MHS wish list items that are most needed include dog and cat food (dry or canned), treats, toys (nonporous), clay cat litter, towels, small blankets and, of course, monetary donations that will help

MHS place the animals in new, loving homes. For the complete MHS Wish List, visit http://www.michiganhumane.org/donate_wishlist.

Wish list items can be dropped off at the US-Mattress showrooms in Macomb at 15611 Hall Road, and Plymouth at 1056 W. Ann Arbor Road. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

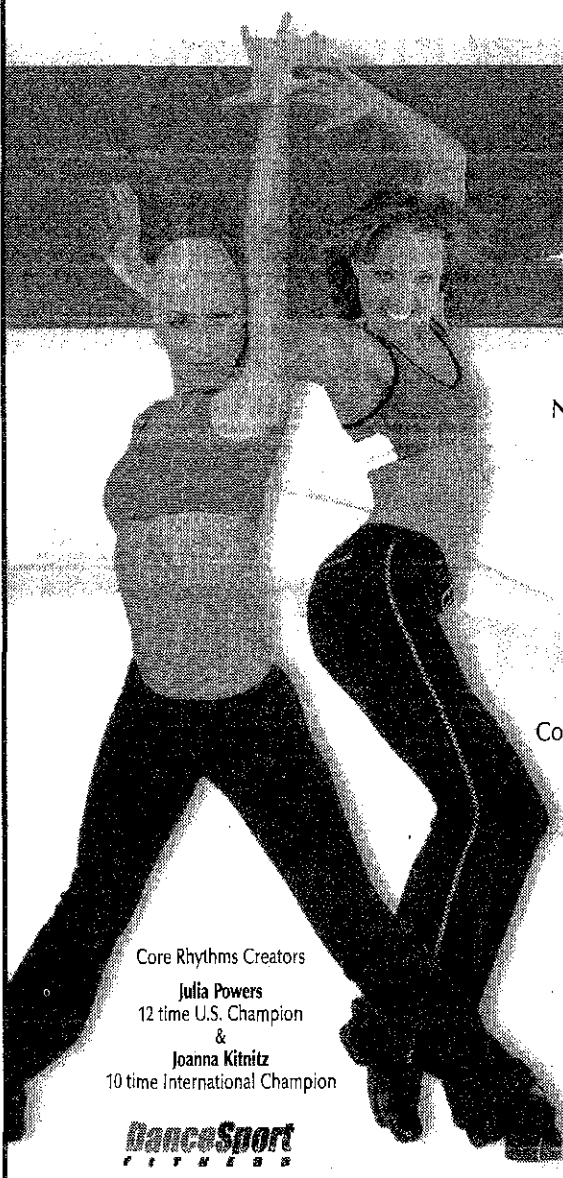
Donations can also be dropped off at one of the three Michigan Humane Society adoption centers, located at 7401 Chrysler Drive in Detroit, 3600 W. Auburn Road in Rochester Hills, and 900 N. Newburgh in Westland. MHS adoption center hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday.

US-Mattress is also partnering with MHS to raise funds. When you buy a mattress online at www.us-mattress.com you'll receive free shipping on your order and, by entering the coupon code "MHS" during checkout, you'll generate a donation of \$100 to MHS for each mattress ordered.

In addition, when you buy a US-Mattress gift card online through Dec. 31, 2008, the amount will be matched as a donation to MHS. For added convenience, the gift card can be e-mailed either to you or the recipient.

For more information on the US-Mattress Holiday Wish List drive or to make a monetary donation, call the Michigan Humane Society at (866) MHUMANE, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

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Zoo in winter?

It's more fun than a barrel of polar bears

BY MEGAN PENNEFATHER
O&E STAFF WRITER

Compared to the Arctic, Michigan winter is a springtime stroll for those giant white furballs at the Detroit Zoo.

"The polar bears are in their prime right now," said Bob Lessnau, curator for mammals at the Detroit Zoo.

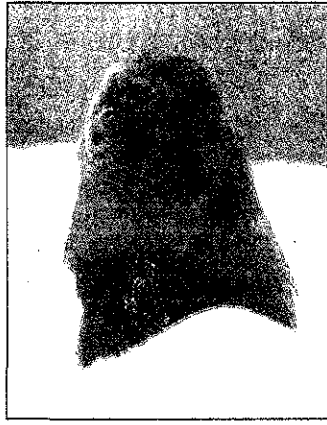
Of course, polar bears don't have to drive in this weather, but still, frigid temperatures and snow only make the Arctic Ring of Life exhibit more of a playground for them, he said. "They're having a great time out there."

So are a lot of animals at the zoo, as the colder weather brings out a lot of mammals like wolverines, red pandas and even the tigers.

"It is a better time to see animals," said Lessnau, adding he once saw gorillas playing in the snow at the Cleveland Zoo a few years back.

Even though many zoo species hail from subtropical and tropical climates, mammals are warm-blooded and can adapt to some pretty punishing conditions.

"I think I'm having a harder time than these animals," Lessnau said of the winter weather. "The animals do adapt to it."



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ZOO FACTS

The Detroit Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March. Admission is \$11 for adults 13 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 12; children under 2 are free. For more information, call (248) 541-5717 or visit www.detroitzoo.org.

the Zoo's Web site, www.detroitzoo.org.

For those animals that can't adapt to the conditions, exhibits are either moved indoors, as in the case of the meerkats, or on hold until spring, like with the giraffes. Animals like the apes are allowed outside but with easy access to a heat source.

The winter will also be a transformative time for the zoo, said Lessnau, as the facility is trying to acquire rare "cold-tolerant" animals, like the takin, a goat-ante-



Polar bears are in their prime this time of year, says Bob Lessnau, the zoo's curator of mammals.

lope that hails from the eastern Himalayas. More farm animals will be added as well, like pigs and an amber-colored Scottish Highlands steer.

In addition, the zoo will be replacing one of its two male tigers with a female in hopes there will be a new cub in a few months. "Come spring," said Lessnau, "the zoo will have a new look to it."

But that's still months away. Now's the time to see how some of your favorite animals act when put in the cold.

See the elk come alive. See the polar bears play. See the bison — well, the bison don't do a whole lot no matter the weather, but they're interesting to see. But the most surprising stars of winter viewing are the wolverines. "The wolverines are really

fun to watch," said Lessnau. "It almost seems like they're doing snow angels."

And even if the animals aren't enough to lure you in, the scenic serenity of a zoo in winter may.

"When it's dressed up in snow," Lessnau said of the zoo, "it's a beautiful place."

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Help wanted: Warming center puts out call for volunteers

BY SUE MASON
O&E STAFF WRITER

You can set your wrist watch to 7 p.m. Jan. 1. Like clockwork, the warming center operated by Lighthouse Home Mission opens its doors to the homeless. For three months, now through March 31, the center offers food and a warm place to sleep from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.

That was the case until last month. With bone-chilling winter weather hitting early, the mission opened the center two weeks early. "The Lord provided the space and the workers," said Thelma Ivey of Garden City, who has been working with the homeless, first in Detroit and now in the western suburbs for more than 20 years.

This is the fifth year a warming center has operated at Full Gospel Temple on Palmer Road in Westland. Operated by the Lighthouse Home Mission, it provides a hot meal of soup, donated by area businesses, a shower and place to sleep for homeless men and women. It's able to operate with the help of volunteers and the support of nine area churches.

According to Ivey, the outreach coordinator, some of the people

who come to the warming center and a soup kitchen that's open at lunchtime each day aren't homeless in the strictest sense of the word. Some might have jobs, but can't afford to have a place to stay. The heartbreaker, she said, is the men who chose to be homeless to avoid paying child support.

"I see so many stories," she said. "A lot of people come in and they're about to be evicted. We don't have the finances to help them, but we make calls and by the time they leave, nine out of 10 have help."

Twice a week, Ivey meets with homeless and needy individuals, seeing what they need and helping them connect with social service agencies. In some cases, it's as simple as acquiring a state ID card so they can get a job, or signing up for assistance. People are transported to where they need to go, but Ivey believes if agencies could send someone to the center once a month that would help tremendously.

Ivey has worked on the warming center since 2004 with the Rev. B.C. Beneteau, director of the Lighthouse Home Mission. The mission covers the electric and heating bills, but it's donations that

provide clothing and bedding for the center. Volunteers serve as the night watchmen at the center or help launder the bedding.

Help has come from the employees at Kohl's, Henry Ford OptiEyes, Safe Step and local church youth groups, to name a few.

The mission also relies on donations to feed the homeless. Ivey's name is synonymous with bologna sandwiches. Each month, volunteers at her church, Warren Road Light and Life in Westland, prepare 1,200 bologna sandwiches that are served at the warming center and at the soup kitchen. Donations of leftover soup from area restaurants as well as juice, coffee, milk and sweets fill out the menu for the evening meal.

But Ivey is looking for another church to also make sandwiches, so the warming center and a soup kitchen open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily can handle the increasing demand.

"Again, I'll ask the Lord to provide because there's no money to buy more food," she said.

There also are men who pick up the soup donations, but what is desperately needed is men and women to work in the soup kitchen

which feeds up to 60 people a day. While the kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., workers are needed to show up by 10 a.m. to help set up and get the soup ready. Volunteers can commit to one day a week or more. Ivey will take whatever she can get.

Beneteau, in an appeal to area businesses, stressed that donations go to the needy not to administrative costs.

"Our goal is to help the indigent to take on life in society with new vigor, to help them find the means to clothe and feed themselves," said Beneteau in a letter to the business community. "We want to be a hand up not a handout." People interested in donating or helping the warming center and soup kitchen can call Lighthouse Home Mission at (734) 326-3885.

"It's all about making a difference in someone's life," said Ivey. "I know this year there will be bigger needs than we have experienced in the past."

"We need a year-round shelter staffed with volunteers to help clients to see there is a better life for them. We do care and give them hope."

WARMING CENTER

What: Lighthouse Mission Warming Center, a temporary overnight shelter for homeless men and women during the winter months, and a soup kitchen.

When: The warming center is open 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily now through March 31. The soup kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Where: At the Full Gospel Temple, 34033 Palmer, east of Wayne Road, Westland.

What: The center provides a hot meal, showers and a place to sleep for up to 50 homeless individuals. It is staffed by volunteers and operates with the help of donations from individuals and businesses and the support of nine area churches - Christ Temple, Westland Free Methodist, Warren Road Life and Life and the Full Gospel Temple in Westland, Merriman Road Baptist in Garden City, Abundant Life Church in Canton, NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township, First Methodist in Wayne and Ward Presbyterian in Northville Township.

What: Volunteers are needed to work in the soup kitchen 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, to help sorting and sizing clothing and preparing food boxes 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or work at the warming center, laundering bedding once a week on Tuesday or Thursday or serving as watchmen when the center is open.

Information: To make a donation or to volunteer to help, call Thelma Ivey at (734) 326-3885.

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Metroparks offer winter fun

Christmas break is starting out with a blast as a winter storm blanketed 13 Huron-Clinton Metroparks. Park staffs are busy clearing roads and parking lots, and will be grooming cross-country ski trails, as they get the parks ready for winter activities. Visitors are advised to always call ahead to check on snow conditions and facility conditions.

Cross-country ski trails will be open, as conditions allow, at Hudson Mills, Huron Meadows, Indian Springs, Kensington, Lake Erie, Metro Beach, Stony Creek and Willow Metroparks. Most trails are self-groomed; tracks will be set as snow conditions allow. Trails are groomed for classic cross-country skiing at all parks; Huron Meadows Metropark is one of a few parks in southeast Michigan

that grooms its trails for skate-style and classic cross-country skiing. Call the individual park for trail conditions and when grooming will be completed.

Cross-country skis can be rented at Hudson Mills, Huron Meadows, Kensington, Stony Creek and Willow Metroparks on weekends. Kensington, Willow, Huron Meadows and Stony Creek Metroparks' ski centers also will be renting ski equipment during Christmas break - now through Jan. 4 - as snow conditions allow.

Sledding hills are located at Kensington, Indian Springs, Lake Erie, Willow, Stony Creek and Willow Metroparks. Toboggans can be used on designated hills at Stony Creek and Willow Metroparks. Kensington has two toboggan runs.

Snowboards are allowed only on the designated snowboarding hill at Stony Creek Metropark.

Lower Huron, Kensington and Willow Metroparks also have outdoor ice rinks. Call the individual park for ice rink conditions.

Snowshoes can be rented from the nature centers at Oakwoods and Stony Creek Metroparks - \$5 per adult, \$3 per child for three hours. The nature centers are open from 1-5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends. Both nature centers are closed New Year's Day.

Because ice and snow conditions vary from day to day, it's always best to call ahead to check on snow conditions before visiting any park. For more information, visit the Metroparks Web site at www.metroparks.com.

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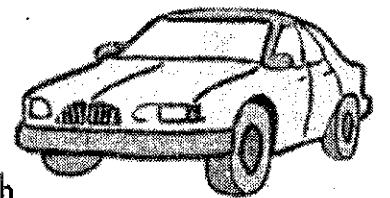
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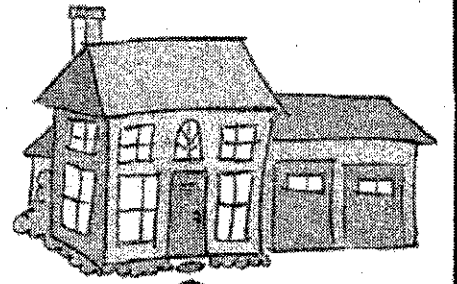
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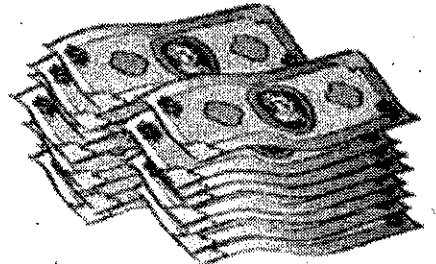


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Kwanzaa's core shines light of hope on hard times

BY STACY JENKINS
O&E STAFF WRITER

In hard times, Kwanzaa's beacon of hope shines even brighter.

Unity, self determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith are the seven principles of Kwanzaa, being celebrated Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.

"We all work together and we all are one — that's what it's about," said Wayne Smith, of Farmington Hills, whose family participated in a Kwanzaa celebration recently in Farmington. "Our nation has come together and showed us that we can work as one. That's the unity we need at this time."

Royce Anderson, 14, of Farmington Hills, read a story of courage and determination to a small audience at the celebration.

"To limit ourselves is to limit our determination," he said.

Other families shared their thoughts about a particular principle of Kwanzaa. The Beamer family, of Farmington, talked about collective work and responsibility and how this principle can be applied at a "time when our community is hurting."

"It's so important at this time, when businesses, households and schools are under pressures of all sorts," said Dirk Beamer. "We need to work together to tackle problems and find new solutions."

Drawing strength from the seven principles is at the heart of Kwanzaa, a secular observance created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga, for African Americans to celebrate their African heritage.

The observance was born from adversity in the 1960s racially divided America, which saw monumental changes in civil rights and equality by decade's end.

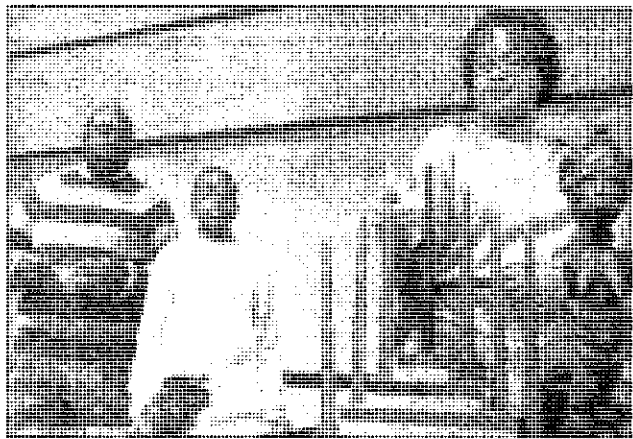
Today, Kwanzaa is a family-oriented observance, in which the symbols of a straw mat, a candle holder, ears of corn, gifts, a unity cup, water and soil weave the story of Kwanzaa and the African American culture.

"Kwanzaa allows us to cel-



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Smith family, from left, Wayne, Donna, and 8-year-old Taylor, of Farmington Hills, discuss the first principle of Kwanza, Umoja (Unity) during a Kwanzaa celebration in Farmington.



Sonia Anderson lights the second Kwanzaa candle as she and her family, husband Roy, and 14-year-old son Royce, talk about the second Kwanzaa principle, Kujichagulia (Self-Determination).

brate the season without shame or fear, while embracing our culture," said Marvin Gilliam.

His wife, Cora, said it's not just a week-long event.

"Kwanzaa is a way of life, not just a celebration," she said. "Kwanzaa is to help black Americans relate to their past, in order to understand the present, and especially to deal with the future."

Kwanzaa means "first fruits," or harvest time, a time of the year designated for families to be together and share the fruits of the year. A candle is lit, usually before the dinner meal, on each of the seven days of Kwanzaa.

Each day of Kwanzaa has its own focus.

- Dec. 26 — Unity: striving for and maintaining unity in the family and community.
- Dec. 27 — Self-determi-

nation: Speaking for yourself, instead of being spoken for by others.

- Dec. 28 — Collective work and responsibility: Building and maintaining the community together, making fellow African Americans' problems our own.

- Dec. 29 — Cooperative economics: To build and maintain enterprises and profit from them together.

- Dec. 30 — Purpose: To build and develop the community in order to restore African Americans to their traditional greatness.

- Dec. 31 — Creativity: To do as much as you can to leave the community beautiful.

- Jan. 1. — Faith: To believe with all of your heart in African American people, parents and leaders.

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Douglas Saulsberry performs the Pouring of Libations, paying homage to influential people in one's life, as part of the Kwanzaa celebration in Farmington.

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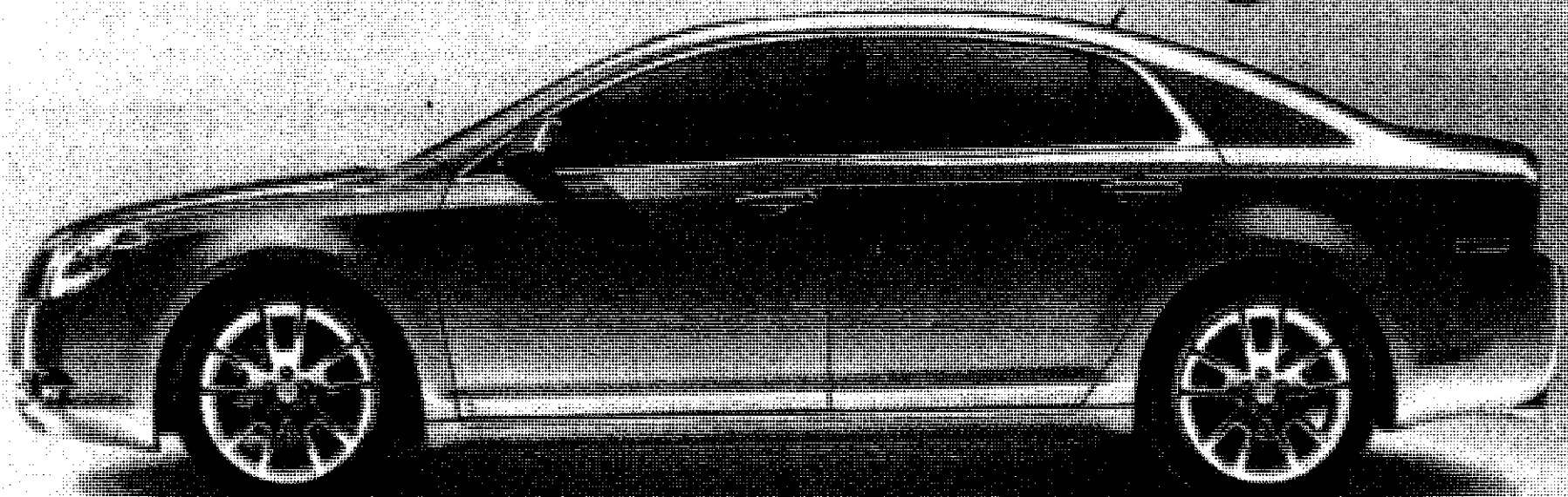
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Company collects coats

Taxfaster of Westland has partnered with One Warm Coat to organize their first coat drive and has teamed up with several Westland and Canton businesses to provide winter wear for those in need now through Jan. 31.

People can drop off items at Taxfaster, 38950 Cherry Hill at John Hix in Westland. Coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots and any winter weather wear for adults and children are needed. Donations are tax deductible and receipts are provided. The items will be distributed to anyone in need along with the Plymouth-Canton High School Clothing Bank and New Dimension Outreach of Westland.

"When I heard that our local schools were in need of winter wear for their students, I simply had to help," said William Elias, founder of Taxfaster.

Helping to promote the coat drive is Towne Money Saver, a small, local, monthly direct mailer, which has donated a full page of ad space in its Westland and Canton edition. Park Avenue \$2.75 Dry Cleaners of Canton is cleaning all of the donated items for free, while Eagle Nationwide Mortgage of Westland also is providing storage and transporting the coats to local charities.

For more information about the coat drive, visit the Taxfaster Web site at www.taxfaster.com.

Party planned for teacher

Parents are planning a tribute to retired Livonia Public Schools music teacher Jon Holfreter at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at Memorial Church of Christ, on Five Mile Road between Farmington and Levan.

Holfreter taught for 22 years before retiring in June and took students to national competitions.

Health program begins

Livonia's 100 Days to Health event kicks off at 9 a.m. Jan. 3 at the Community Recreation Center.

The program is open to residents and nonresidents, 5 and older.

Its primary focus is to help participants, "Get Informed, Get Educated, and Get Healthy," through nutrition seminars, health screenings, youth and adult fitness classes, grocery store tours and more.

For information or to register, call (734) 466-2900.

Police issue tickets

Ignoring the declaration of snow emergency left 195 Livonia residents with tickets following the snowstorm that swept through on Dec. 18.

Livonia police issued the citations to drivers who left their vehicles parked on the street. Under city ordinance, residents have six hours after a snow emergency is declared to remove their vehicles from the street. Those not moved are subject to tickets that include a fine of up to \$100 plus costs and towing or impounding at the owner's

expense.

Trucks and cars left on the street during a snow emergency restrict the ability of emergency vehicles to respond to neighborhoods and obstruct snowplows, resulting in a greater length of time to plow the entire city, according to Mayor Jack Kirksey's office.

Residents and business owners also are required to clear snow and ice from their sidewalks within 24 hours. Those who violate the requirement are subject to a civil infraction and a fine of \$25 for the first infraction, then \$50 per day for subsequent violations.

Men's retreat planned

Men, it's not too early to make plans to attend a men's retreat the weekend of March 6-8. The spiritual retreat weekend will be held at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center, 23333 Schoolcraft, Detroit. For details and reservations, call (734) 261-5321 or (734) 425-5144.

Getting organized

Join the National Association of Professional Organizers Southeast Michigan Chapter in getting organized at a free event noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at IKEA, 41640 Ford, Canton.

"Getting Organized Is Easier Than You Think!" will feature presentations by NAPO-SE-MI members, including informative sessions on organizing principles. Or buy lunch in the cafe and sit with a professional organizer to ask all of your organizing questions.

Go online to www.NAPOMICHIGAN.com for more information. NAPO-SE-MI can help you keep your New Year's resolution and find a professional organizer near you.

Essay contest

What does Dr. King's vision of unity look like? The City of Westland is encouraging local youth to participate in the city's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. poster and essay contest.

Students who attend the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and/or live in Westland can submit a poster which honors Dr. King. Students should use a standard-sized poster board and include their name, address, phone number, as well as the name of their school and grade. Essays cannot exceed 500 words and must also include the contact information.

Posters and essays must be dropped off at Westland's government access channel, WLND, at 33455 W. Warren Road, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or the Bailey Recreation Center at 36651 Ford behind Westland City Hall.

All essays and posters must be received by Jan. 9. The three poster finalists and the essay winner must be available to attend Westland's Martin Luther King Day Ceremony slated for 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at the Annapolis Park Church of Christ, at 30355 Annapolis. For more information, call (734) 467-3200.

Dow Jones Average one way to measure market

Q: Something doesn't make sense to me. Why is the Dow Jones Industrial Average the most-quoted index when in reality it doesn't truly reflect the U.S. stock market?

— Mike

A. Great question. I believe the reason the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is the most-quoted stock market index is because it is the oldest continuing index.

Although most people do not know what the Dow is and how it is computed, most do know that it is a reflection of the stock market.

The Dow Jones Industrial

Average was created more than 100 years ago and initially was represented by 12 stocks from a variety of U.S. industries. Today, the Dow consists of 30 of the largest most widely held companies in the United States. The DJIA index is designed to represent a cross-section of U.S. businesses.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is price weighted, which means that higher-priced stocks tend to influence the index more than lower-priced stocks. Thus, it is possible for the DJIA to move up for the day even though the majority of the Dow 30 stocks have lost money. Many investors are under the false impression that if the Dow goes up, their portfolio has risen as well. This is not the case. The Dow is just 30 stocks and does not reflect what a typical investor would have in

their portfolio. A typical investor is going to have large and small companies, both foreign and domestic, in their portfolio. Therefore, the DJIA is not necessarily reflective of one's portfolio, as only large U.S. companies are reflected in the index.

Typically, when an investor asks me which of the three major indexes, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, NASDAQ or the S&P 500, most reflects the broader U.S. economy, my answer is generally the S&P 500. The S&P 500 contains 500 larger stocks in the United States, thus giving a broader picture of the overall economy.

I caution investors not to merely look at an index as a way to assess their portfolios. Your portfolio should reflect your individual goals and objectives and your risk tolerance level. These items do not come into play when you talk about indexes. Therefore, indexes are important, but they are not the only consideration when it comes to monitoring your portfolio. Good luck!

Every year at this time, I donate my old clothing to a charity. Normally, I get a receipt from the charity and estimate the value of the clothing and that's it. My question is, is that sufficient or should I be doing something more?

— Barb

A. I would recommend that you take one additional step to document your contribution. I would keep a list as to what you are donating and then consider taking a picture of the items donated. That doesn't mean that you have to take a picture of each individual item, but one picture of all the items would be sufficient.

I think a picture, an itemized list and the receipt from the charity is good documentation for the IRS.

For as long as I have been involved in the financial world, I've always encouraged individuals to have a tax file. Saving receipts so you can properly document your deductions is the key toward good tax planning. Not only will saving receipts helpfully prevent you from losing a deduction, but it was also be of invaluable assistance if the IRS contacts you. I've always said that the key to beating an IRS audit is having the proper documentation.

One last note, starting in January you and I are going to start receiving all sorts of information for tax purposes, including W-2s and 1099s. It is important that you have a system to save those documents so you can properly file your 2008 return. In addition, it is a good idea to start a tax file for 2009. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His Web site is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick live on Sundays from noon to 3 p.m., on WDTK-AM (1400). If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please e-mail Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was created more than 100 years ago and initially was represented by 12 stocks from a variety of U.S. industries. Today, the Dow consists of 30 of the largest most widely held companies in the United States. The DJIA index is designed to represent a cross-section of U.S. businesses.



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Presented by
Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.

SIDE NOTES
An estimated 30-40 million Americans grind their teeth when they sleep. Not only does bruxism (tooth-grinding) raise a ruckus, it causes premature tooth wear. In addition to the biting surfaces of grinding molars wearing down, as one might expect, bruxism can also cause tooth loss on the sides of teeth. This bruxism-related loss of tooth material at gum level is caused by "abfraction," which involves flexing of tooth structure. As the affected teeth grind, the force creates tension on one side of the tooth and compression on the other. As a result, notches develop as enamel is lost. Addressing this problem involves using a night mouthguard to prevent tooth-grinding followed by restoration of the lost tooth material that bruxism caused. Bruxism isn't only a nighttime activity. Some tooth-grinders continue this damaging practice throughout the day. Whether you are in our office for bruxism or just for a simple cleaning, our personal, casual, and relaxed style in providing quality dental care will help put you at ease. We'll take the time to get to know your needs, answer your questions about the latest techniques and materials, and make sure that you are comfortable. Find out just how pleasant a visit to the dentist can be—call us at 734-453-9413. Complete family dental care is available at 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth.
P.S. Notches in teeth related to abfraction can be effectively restored with dental bonding.

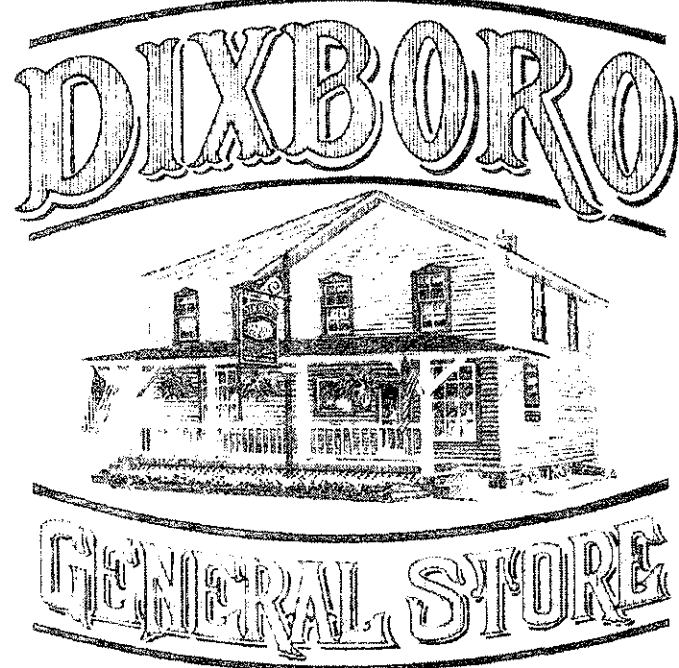
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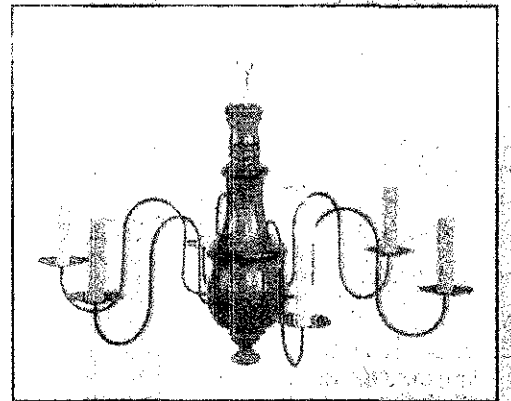
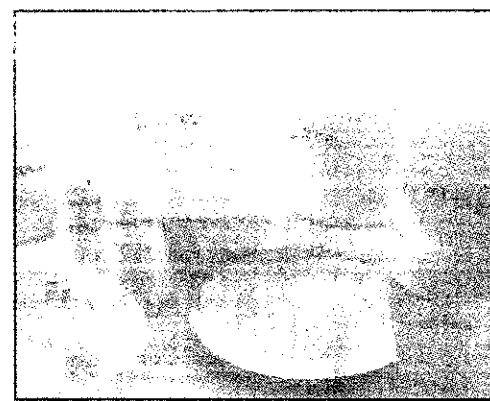
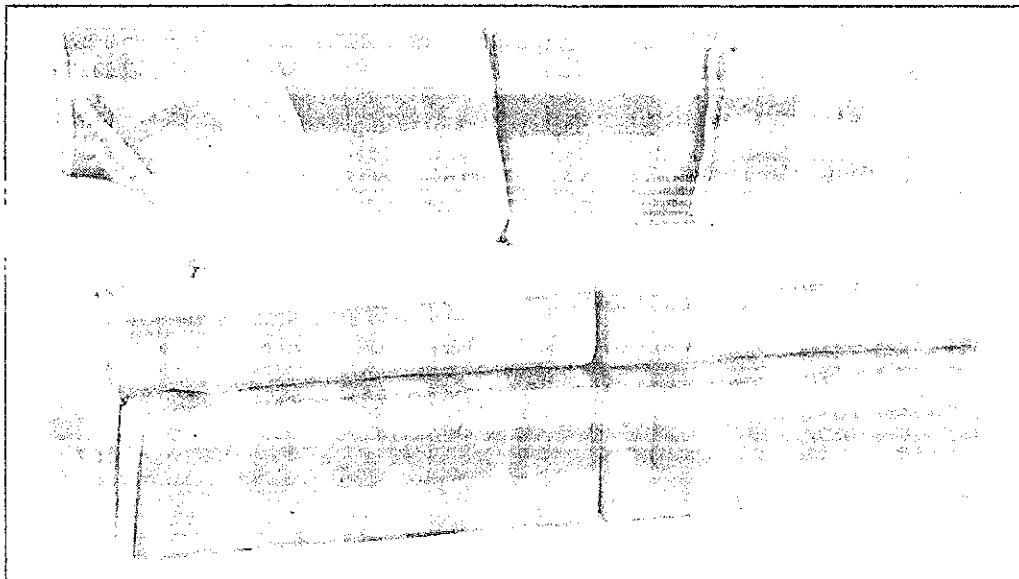
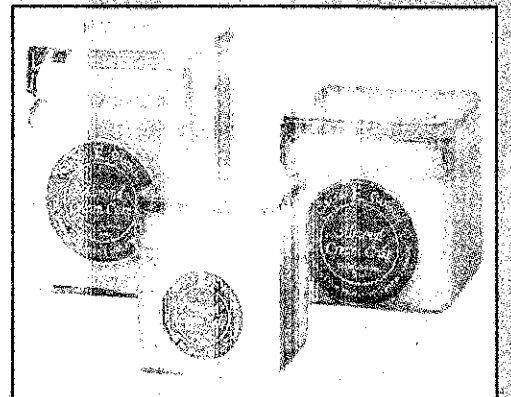
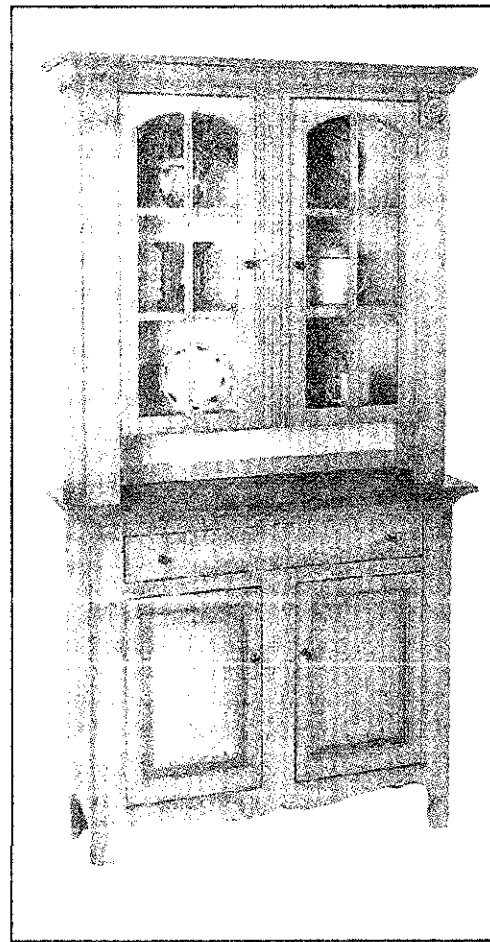
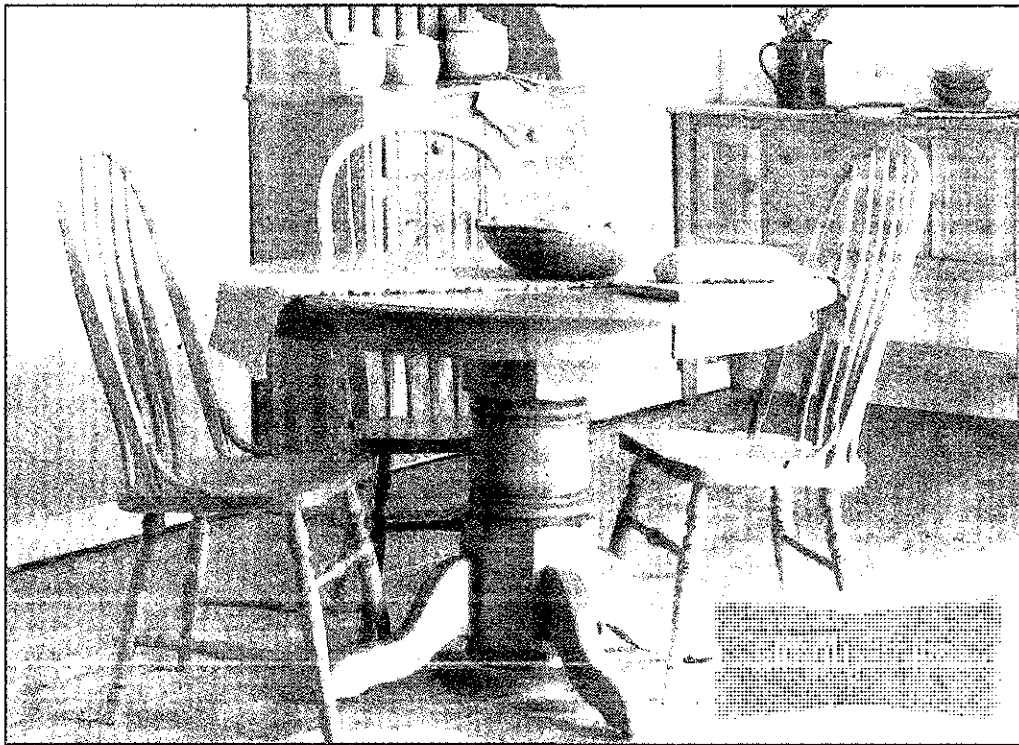
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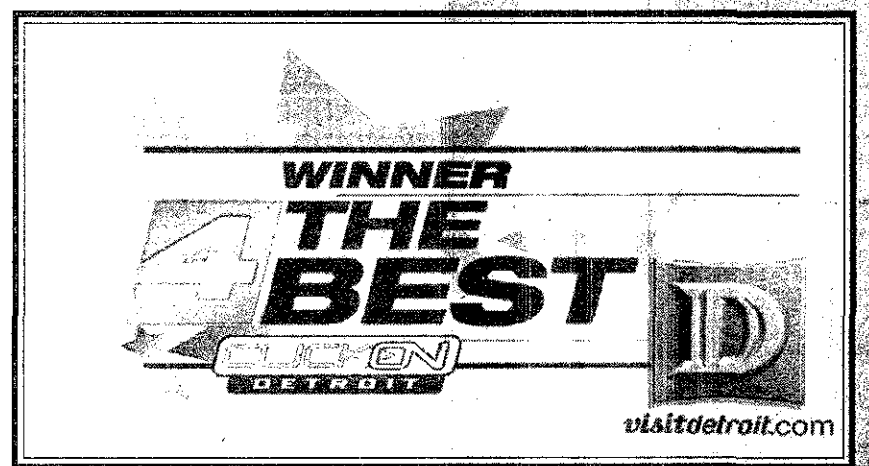
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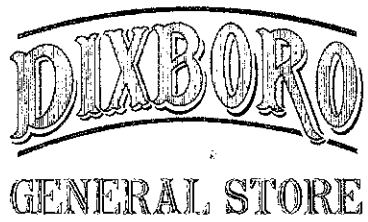
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COMMENTARY

Donating is doable even when your budget is getting tight

The economic downturn is putting many charitable organizations in Michigan and across the country in a difficult predicament. Requests for assistance from those in need are increasing at a time when donations to support charitable services are sinking.

More than 80 percent of food banks in a recent Feeding America survey said that they can't adequately meet the requests of hungry people asking for assistance. As potential donors are having to make their own difficult budget decisions to keep food on the table, gas in their car, and a roof overhead, charitable giving is often the first thing cut from a family budget.

While donating money may be difficult, there are many other ways people can provide assistance to those in need of a helping hand. The following are a few examples of how to make a positive contribution to charitable causes when times may be tough on your own checkbook:

DONATE TOYS, FOOD OR OTHER ITEMS

Many organizations can put "in-kind" gifts to good use, but contact the charity to find out what donated items are actually needed before you give. Donors sometimes think any item they give will

be useful to someone, but the truth is that broken toys are not acceptable presents for any child and soiled or torn clothes will not sell in a thrift store. Disposing of unusable donated items actually adds administrative costs to charities, which become a hindrance to their ability to serve the community.

SHOP THRIFTY

Shopping at a Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul or Goodwill thrift store could help you save money for your family budget while also supporting a good cause. These stores offer good deals on secondhand items, and sales help fund charitable programs.

GET RID OF THAT UNUSED CAR

An unused car or truck could be put to use directly by a charity or provided to a third-party vehicle donation program like Charity Motors, Purple Heart or Volunteers of America that donate proceeds from its resale to support local charitable causes. Make sure you understand how a charity will benefit from the donation and investigate what you can claim as a tax deduction before you donate.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Volunteering your time can be as important as a cash contribution. Volunteering doesn't have to involve direct assistance to those in need (like laddling

soup at a homeless shelter). Assisting with office work or other behind-the-scenes tasks can be just as helpful.

SPEAK OUT

Some charities are looking for advocates who can help advance policies and practices that will contribute to their missions. Charities can't promote political candidates, but they can urge or lobby for public policies that further charitable causes. You may be able to contribute by writing a letter to your congressional representative, calling a state legislator, e-mailing your county commissioner, or speaking at a city council meeting. Your endorsement could also encourage other people to donate their time or money to support a charity.

Even a small cash gift often produces big benefits. Feeding America says that \$1 in cash can help supply up to \$30 worth of food to those in need because the organization has economies of scale not available to the public. If you can afford to give a financial donation — give, but give wisely. Before you donate, check out a charity with your local Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org/charity or by calling (248) 644-9100.

Tim Burns is the public affairs director for the Better Business Bureau serving Eastern Michigan. He can be reached at (248) 593-3253 or www.easternmichiganbbb.org.



Tim Burns

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm
Send correspondence to P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909, or call Constituent Services at (517) 335-7858. The fax number is (517) 335-6863.

Attorney General Mike Cox
Lansing Office: G. Mennen Williams Building, 7th Floor, 525 W. Ottawa St., P.O. Box 30212, Lansing, MI 48909.
Main phone number is (517) 373-1110, Consumer Protection (517) 373-1140, toll free (877) 765-8388, Charitable Trust (517) 373-1152, Franchise Registration (517) 373-7117 and fax (517) 373-3042.
Detroit Office: Cadillac Place, 10th Floor, 3030 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 10-200, Detroit, MI 48202. Phone (313) 456-0240, fax (313) 456-0061.

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Michigan
His Washington, D.C., mailing address is 269 Russell Office Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-2202. Call him at (202) 224-6221. The fax number is (202) 224-1388. He also has offices in Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Room 1860, in Detroit. The local phone number is (313) 226-6020, TTY (800) 851-0030 and fax at (313) 226-6948. He also has a Web site, levin.senate.gov.

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan
In Washington, D.C., the address is 133 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Call her there at (202) 224-4822, TTY (202) 224-2066, or e-mail her at senator@stabenow.senate.gov. In Detroit, her office is at 243 W. Congress, Suite 550. Call (313) 961-4330. She also has a Web site, stabenow.senate.gov.

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, D-Livonia
His Washington, D.C., mailing address is 1632 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Call him at (202) 225-8171 or send a fax by dialing (202) 225-2667. His district office is at 17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 161, Livonia, MI 48152. Call him at (734) 632-0314 or send a fax at (734) 632-0373. He also has a Web site, mccotter.house.gov.

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Sunday, December 28, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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www.hometownlife.com

Walk-on Stewart headed to Texas Bowl with WMU

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Of the seven non-scholarship athletes who attempted to walk on to the Western Michigan University football team in the summer of 2007, only one remains.

Most people who know Plymouth High School graduate Vernon Stewart won't be surprised to find out that he is the sole survivor.

However, there are a few doubters out there who probably are surprised — and those are the ones that have moti-



Stewart

could play Division 1 football, so that's something I think about when I play," Stewart said. "So far, I've proven those people wrong.

"This is something I've wanted to do since I was little and I knew I could do it if I worked

hard." Stewart distributed highlight tapes to several college programs following a stellar prep career at Plymouth, where he earned three varsity letters in football.

He was offered an opportunity to play at Northwood University, but opted to give Division 1 a shot.

"Western's defensive coordinator saw my tapes and said I could walk on," Stewart said. "I had to sit out my freshman year because one of my high school classes didn't clear."

Stewart, who is currently a

junior academically, finally got a chance to show the Western coaches what he could do last summer when he proved to be a big hit on the Broncos' scout team defense — the unit that opposes the No. 1 offense every week in practice.

"Basically, the coaches determine which walk-ons make the team by how they do on the scout teams," Stewart said.

Like father, like son

Stewart is following in the footsteps of his father, Vernon Stewart, who successfully walked on and played for

Eastern Michigan University's football team in the early-80s.

Like his dad, the younger Stewart is a defensive back.

"He tells me to just keep working hard and to make sure I get my school work done," the younger Stewart said, when asked what kind of advice his dad has offered.

On Friday, Stewart and his WMU teammates boarded a plane bound for Houston, Texas, the site of the 2008 Texas Bowl. The Broncos will cap a successful season by squaring

Please see **STEWART, B2**

Sidelines

Langham explodes in Ocelots' loss

Former Salem basketball standout Tayler Langham shot herself into the Schoolcraft College record books in Monday's 112-102 loss to Glendale (Az.) Community College.

The Ocelot sophomore netted 42 points — the second-highest single-game points total in school history. Langham canned 16-of-17 free throws and 13-of-22 field goals.

Langham has made 17 consecutive free throws, a school record, and the Ocelots connected on a school-record 32 freebies against the Gauchos.

The loss dropped the Ocelots to 9-2. They are ranked No. 7 in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II polls. Glendale improved to 7-4. They were the two highest-scoring teams in the country heading into the game.

Antania Shepherd (21 points), April Goins (15 points, 14 rebounds), Jasmine Brown (11 points) and Amber Avery (seven points, 10 rebounds) also excelled for SC.

Melissa Capone and Brittany Lopez both scored 19 points for the winners.

Plymouth YMCA hoop

The Plymouth YMCA winter basketball leagues are forming for children between the ages of 4 and 12.

The winter session will run from Jan. 20 to March 20.

There will be one practice and one game per week. The cost per program is \$79 for program members or \$111 for community members. Programs are filled on a first come-first serve basis.

The registration deadline is Jan. 8. For more information, visit www.ymcadeloit.org or call (734) 453-2904.

Par-fect teacher

Plymouth golf instructor an ace at lowering handicaps

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you're a weekend hacker looking to put a dent in your golf handicap, award-winning instructor Jeff Goble has a two-word, gold-plated piece of advice for you.

"Take lessons," advised Goble, smiling.

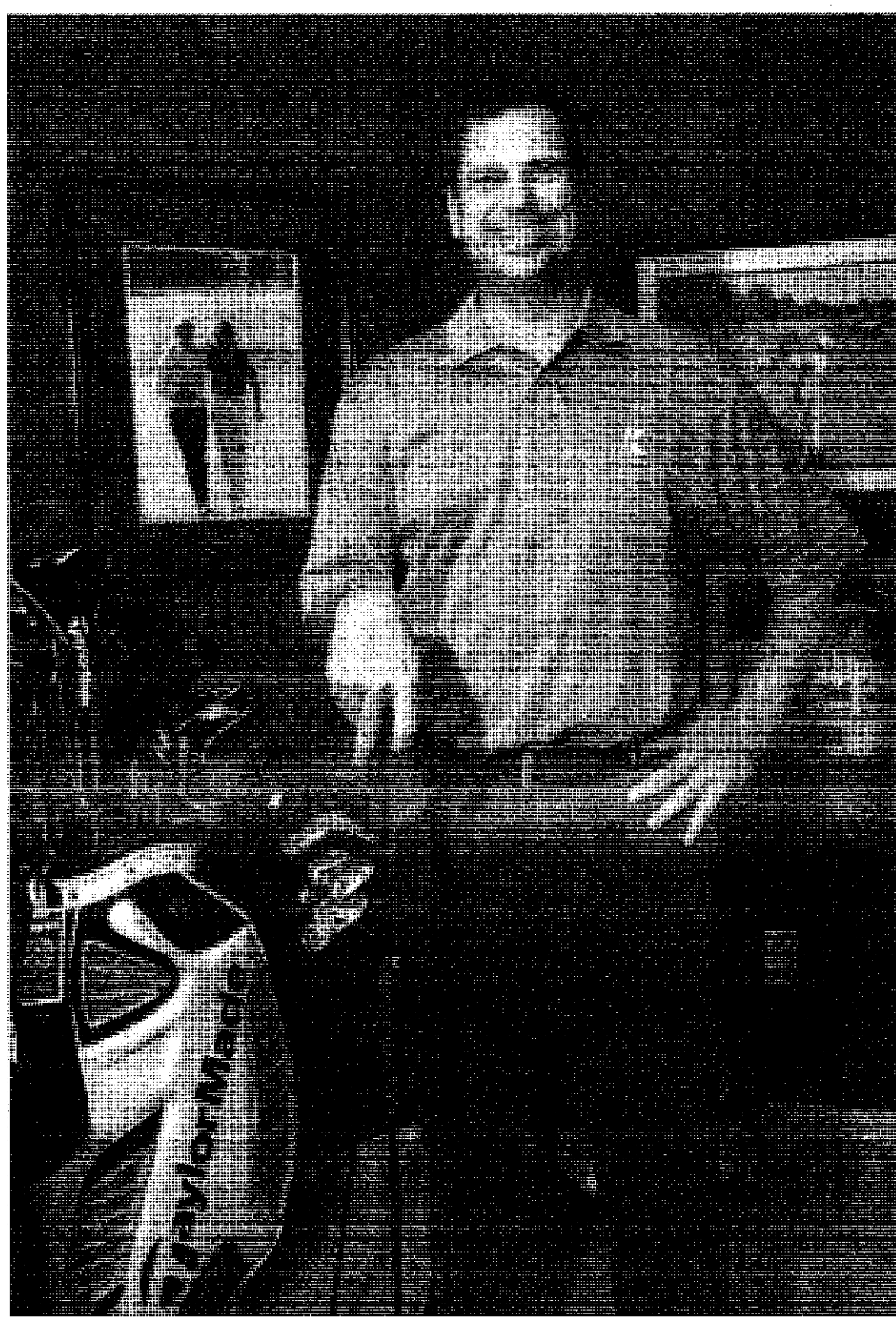
The Plymouth Township resident knows of what he speaks.

Since 2005, Goble has been recognized twice by *Golf Digest*

magazine as one of Michigan's top three golf instructors.

"Don't trust your friends' advice," Goble elaborated. "The one problem in golf is that what seems natural and what seems logical is usually incorrect. You have to approach it from somebody that truly knows what's happening — not from what you've heard on TV or from friends or family because that's usually going to take you down

Please see **GOBLE, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Township resident Jeff Goble has accomplished a childhood dream by becoming a professional golf instructor. Twice in the past four years *Golf Digest* has recognized Goble as one of Michigan's best.

PGA Q&A

Following are the results of a short question-and-answer session with professional golf instructor Jeff Goble:

ED WRIGHT: What advice do you have for someone who suffers from first-tee jitters at golf outings when 100-plus people are watching?

JEFF GOBLE: Don't wait long to hit your shot once you step up to the tee. Step up there and hit it. Standing in a static position for an excessive amount of time makes the muscles tense up. Also, remember that everybody there is probably just as nervous as you are.

EW: Of all the courses you've played, what's your favorite?

JG: It's hard to pick one. Oakland Hills is special. The Treetops courses are special. One I'll never forget is called 'The Bridge' and it's located in New York. It's on an island surrounded by water and it's on a bluff. It's really amazing. Unfortunately, initiation dues are \$750,000, so I don't think I'll be joining anytime soon.

EW: Any humorous anecdotes you can share from one of your lessons?

JG: I've only been hit with a club once by a student and that was by my dad (laughing). I bent down to tee a ball up for him and he caught me right in the forehead. I didn't bleed, so that was good.

RU baseball coach Taylor steps down

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mike Taylor will have to watch his long hoped-for revival of Redford Township baseball from the sidelines.

Taylor, the veteran Redford Union varsity baseball coach and star first baseman for the Panthers in the late 1990s, submitted his letter of resignation in mid-December in order to focus on completing his college education, said athletic director

Brett Steele.

"I hate to lose good people and Mike's been good for our district, good for our program," Steele said. "He's been our baseball coach for a number of years now so it was disappointing to hear."

"But I do understand it. He's at a crossroads right now with his education and things like that and so he's got to try and find and finish that up."

Taylor could not be reached for comment about his decision

to leave the Panthers, the team he handled capably since 2003.

Steele said he knew at the end of the 2008 season that Taylor wasn't certain about returning for a seventh season at the helm.

"Baseball has probably been a little bit of an obstacle for him because he's spent so much time at it," Steele noted. "I think it's a good choice for him to finish that up and move forward on that (college)."

The youthful coach, still in his 20s, wanted to return RU

baseball to the prominence it had in the 1990s when he was part of a team that won five consecutive Mega White titles and (in 1998, when he was a junior) reached the regional finals only to fall to Redford Catholic Central.

Another goal was to prop up the sport among Redford's Little League-age kids and inspire a new wave of baseball players.

Please see **TAYLOR, B2**



Stepping down is Redford Union baseball coach Mike Taylor, a former Panther player. He won't coach in 2009, deciding to focus on finishing his college education.

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GOBLE

FROM PAGE B1

the wrong path and embellish the problem."

And even though you live in Michigan, your favorite course is blanketed in white and the average daily temperature is probably about what Tiger Woods would shoot on the front nine at a local municipal course, don't wait until the first spring thaw to work on your golf game, Goble insisted.

"Now is the time to practice and make the changes that need to be made in your swing," emphasized Goble, the director of instruction at Kendall Golf Academy, which is based at Ypsilanti's Miles of Golf facility. "Summer is the time to make the minor tweaks in your swing, but the off-season is when most of the fixing should go on. That's the way it is with most of the tour players, too.

"We'll have a lot of students come in during the summer months and say, 'Hey, I have a tournament Sunday. Can you fix me?' And it's their first lesson. The best time to fix your swing is during the winter months because you can practice more and focus on what you need to change."

A life-long lover of golf, Goble's career ambitions were molded at an early age.

They were reinforced while working at a golf facility as a teenager.

"I knew by the time I was 10 years old I was going to get into the golf business," he said. "I was a little blind-sided though by the reality of it because my first boss played a lot of golf and went on a lot of vacations.

"As soon as I turned professional, I worked at the Ann Arbor Country Club. I was working 70-plus hours a week and not making much money, so reality hit me pretty hard. But I stuck it out and things have worked out



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The walls of an office in Jeff Goble's Plymouth Township home are decorated with golf-related memorabilia, including one of the Golf Digest magazine covers that recognized him as one of Michigan's best instructors.

pretty good."

Before joining the Kendall Academy in 2006, Goble worked nine years as an instructor at Treetops Resort in Gaylord, where he was a senior instructor for the famed Rick Smith Golf Academy.

"When I started teaching at Treetops, we ran three-day golf schools that would attract people from all over the world," he said. "I loved the job, but I never got to see my students again.

"Being back home now, where I grew up in Ypsilanti, I have an opportunity to see my students on a regular basis, so I can see the benefits of my work."

Working in a sport that is constantly evolving due to improving technology, Goble has more than stayed up to date with the newest innovations.

"One of the latest tools I've been certified to use is the K-Vest software, a three-dimensional program that measures 120 movements in a golf swing per second," Goble said. "There are sensors on the belt strap, on the shoulder strap and on the glove.

It's really revolutionary.

"I also just returned from a certification at Golf Fitness, where I learned that there are some things that players can't do, no matter how we try to explain it. A lot of times there are physical limitations that have to be addressed. It was very insightful and it made me a better instructor."

All the technology in the world can't measure up to an intangible asset all golf instructors need to be equipped with — patience.

"Patience is very important in my line of work," Goble said. "I have more patience than my students. One of the things I understand is how difficult it is to make changes to a swing. The reality is that changes don't typically make us better right away. You have to put time in and understand what we're trying to achieve.

"It can be frustrating in the beginning, but it's worthwhile once a golfer realizes the benefits of the time."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

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.

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.

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

Cheer clinic

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

Check-in will begin at 9 a.m. with the clinic running from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Kids from kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to participate.

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

Precision camps

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

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

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

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

STEWART

FROM PAGE B1

off against up-and-coming Rice on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

"I'm looking forward to it," Stewart said. "We're playing in Reliant Stadium, where the Houston Texans play, so it should be exciting."

Position switch

After playing cornerback most of his football career — he started playing at the age of 7 for the Detroit Cougars — Stewart was shifted to strong

safety prior to this season.

Stewart, whose weight is listed as 190 pounds on the WMU team Web site, has tacked 20 pounds of muscle onto his 5-foot-11 frame since his senior year of high school.

"It took a little time to get used to playing safety, but I actually like it more than cornerback now," he said. "The biggest difference is I have more contact with the offensive linemen and the tight ends, but I can watch the quarterback better now and react to the ball easier."

A redshirt sophomore, Stewart has seen action in

one game this season — the Broncos' home-opener against Northern Illinois.

"I was the wedge-buster on the kick-off team," he said, smiling. "It was pretty exciting. The stadium was packed and the crowd was loud. It was great to be out on the field."

Stewart's prospects for increased playing time his final two years at Western are good, he said.

"I'm third on the depth chart right now, but the two guys ahead of me are seniors," he said.

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TAYLOR

FROM PAGE B1

"It seems like the wheel is starting to come back around," said Taylor in a 2006 Observer article. "Interest is picking up in baseball."

According to Steele, already

dealing with Redford Unified hockey program's demise as well as a string of coaching changes at the varsity and junior varsity levels in recent years, Taylor's resignation creates a void.

Plans are to post the position in January and find out if qualified candidates throw their hat into the ring. Assistant varsity

coach Dennis Rogowski could be one candidate.

"He (Taylor) had great pride in the program," Steele said. "That's what you want leading your program (are) guys who have that vested interest. But I do understand and wish him nothing but the best."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 29
(John Glenn Basketball Classic)
Farmington vs. Crestwood, 11 a.m.
Ferndale vs. Canton, 1 p.m.
Waterford Mott vs. Detroit Central, 3 p.m.
N. Farmington vs. Thurston, 5 p.m.
John Glenn vs. Detroit Prep, 7 p.m.
(Woodhaven Tournament)

Salem vs. Flat Rock, 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30
(John Glenn Basketball Classic)
Wayne vs. N. Farmington, 1 p.m.
Wat. Kettering vs. Thurston, 3 p.m.
John Glenn vs. Ferndale, 5 p.m.
Clarenceville vs. Detroit Central, 7 p.m.
(Woodhaven Tournament)
Salem vs. Ann Arbor, 3 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 29
(Kalamazoo Loy Norrix Tournament)
Ladywood vs. Inkster, 3 p.m.
Loy Norrix vs. McBain, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30
Loy Norrix Tournament, 3 & 6 p.m.
Salem at Detroit Community, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3

Canton at F.H. Mercy, 4 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Saturday, Jan. 3
Ladywood vs. Bloomfield at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
Loy Norrix vs. McBain, 6 p.m.
Salem at Farmington United at Farmington Hills Ice Arena, 5:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Tuesday, Dec. 30
Trenton Invitational Team Dual, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3
Romulus Royal Tournament, 9:30 a.m.

Wyandotte Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
PREP GYMNASTICS
Saturday, Jan. 3
Salem Invitational at Plymouth gym, 10 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 29
(Hope College Russ DeVette Tourney)
Madonna vs. Judson College, 11:16 p.m.
Hope College vs. Deavenport, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30
Hope College Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 3
St. Clair Co. CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
Madonna vs. Marygrove College at U-D Jesuit H.S., 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Sunday, Dec. 28
(Las Vegas Invitational)
Madonna vs. Vanguard (Calif.), TBA
Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 29-30
Madonna at Las Vegas Inv., TBA
Saturday, Jan. 3
St. Clair Co. CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.

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Houle picked to play in national game

Plymouth resident David Houle, an eighth-grade student at Our Lady Good Counsel School in Plymouth, was selected to play in the inaugural 8th Grade All-Star Football Game in San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 4.

David Houle

Houle was one of just eight Michigan eighth-grade players in the state of Michigan to play in the prestigious contest.

Unfortunately, the Michigan players will not be able to compete due to a Michigan High School Athletic Association guideline that prohibits athletes from competing in such events.

If Houle were to play, he would be ineligible to participate in high school sports in Michigan for a minimum of 365 days.

"We wish he could play in the game, but we understand the rules," said Houle's dad, David, a former grid-iron standout at Salem and



Plymouth resident David Houle (55) was selected to play in a prestigious All-Star football game in San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 4. Unfortunately, MHSAA rules prohibit Michigan athletes from playing in national All-Star contests.

Michigan State University. "It's an eighth-grade all-star game, which leads to the question: Where do you draw the line on how young these kids are? He's very, very disappointed, but he's honored just to have been selected."

Houle was selected after organizers of the event watch game film of him in action for OLCG.

The 5-foot-8, 172-pound linebacker will attend Novi Detroit Catholic Central in the fall of 2009.

Nine returning seniors make PCA hoop team a contender

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Led by a senior class of nine seniors who have played together for as long as they can remember, the Plymouth Christian Academy boys basketball team has its sights set on achieving some lofty goals during the 2008-09 season.

Optimism is justified for PCA, which finished 4-16 during the regular season last year before peaking during the post-season and winning a Class D District title.

"With nine seniors who have played together almost forever, our strength will be our experience," said second-year PCA coach Mike Doyle. "We should get stronger as the season goes on. We have a couple of players who are expected to join us in January who should help a lot. "Our No. 1 weakness is probably our rebounding. We just don't have a lot of big guys."

All five Eagle starters are seniors: 5-foot-7 point guard Caleb Middleton, 6-foot shooting guard Spencer Wiard, 6-foot small forward Brent Zinn, 6-3 power forward Stephen Wrobelwski and 6-3 center Reid Barber.

"Caleb is our floor leader," said Doyle. "He's a pass-first guy, but he can shoot, too. He's an extension of the coaching

BOYS PREP HOOP PREVIEW

staff out there.

"Spencer is a great all-around player. He's one of our best defensive players, plus he can shoot threes and drive. And he's one of our best rebounders even though he's a guard.

"Brent is a very strong, athletic player. He's just a great all-around player.

"Stephen is a solid rebounder and Reid is a 10-rebound, 10-points guy every game. He's very, very consistent."

Among the first players off the bench for Doyle will be senior guard Paul Kitt (5-7) and sophomore sharp-shooters Travis DeKruyter (5-7) and Matthew Dodson (5-8).

"Paul is a great on-the-ball defender," said Doyle. "He's very quick, very fast.

"Travis and Matthew are two of our best perimeter shooters. They can really shoot the three."

The Eagles will be one of the deepest teams around thanks to the contributions of Josh Krause, a 5-7 senior guard; John Slater, a 6-3 sophomore forward; Scott Hampson, a 6-2 senior forward; and Jordan Allen, a 5-10 junior guard.

PCA should be bolstered next month by the addition of 6-4 senior forward, Justin Govan, a transfer from Washtenaw Christian. Govan averaged 20 points and 10 rebounds per contest as a junior.

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Excelling at the next level

Former Plymouth High School soccer standout Brittany Hengesh played a key role in Olivet (Ill.) Nazarene College's title-winning effort at the 2008 National Christian College Athletic Association's championship tournament earlier this month in Kissimmee, Fla. Hengesh, a sophomore sweeper, earned the tournament's "Most Valuable Defensive Player" award as Olivet defeated Master's College (Calif.) in the national championship game. Hengesh was also named to the NCCAA Division 1 All-America team.

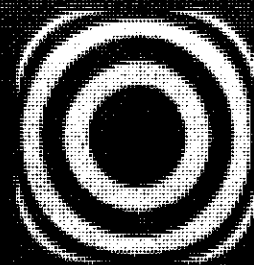
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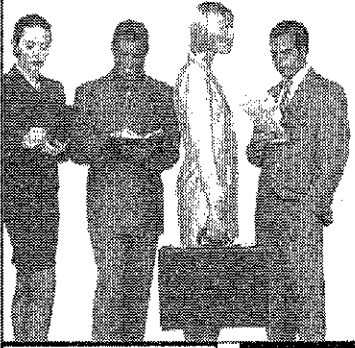
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A new you Start the year by taking care of yourself

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OGE STAFF WRITER

Beverly Price knows the declining economy is out of her control so she's taking care of herself physically, mentally and spiritually to counter the stress. On Jan. 1, she helps others do the same by opening the Inner Door Center in Royal Oak. A registered dietitian and yoga teacher, Price is bringing together multidisciplines from meditation to yoga, psychotherapy, and support groups for eating disorders. Her Reconnect with Food sessions start Jan. 14.

The key to a healthier body and mind is to develop a plan to overcome self destructive behaviors. According to Price, a person's relationship with food parallels every relationship in life, including those with alcohol and people. The Reconnect series incorporates yoga with food facts. For information, visit www.inner-doorcenter.com or call (248) 336-2868.

"We want to help people deal with what's going on in their life. Everything's connected, how you handle money, food. People medicate with food," said Price of Huntington Woods. "At the Inner Door we're looking at more holistic therapy. We teach them to use their wisdom to find their own answers. You did the damage. Don't beat yourself up. What techniques can you incorporate to move forward? Make it a lifelong commitment not just something you're going to do in January. Pay attention to what you eat, exercise, invest in yourself."

One of the first steps is to become physically active. "Not everybody is into the gym. There's dancing and Jazzercise available at local community centers," said

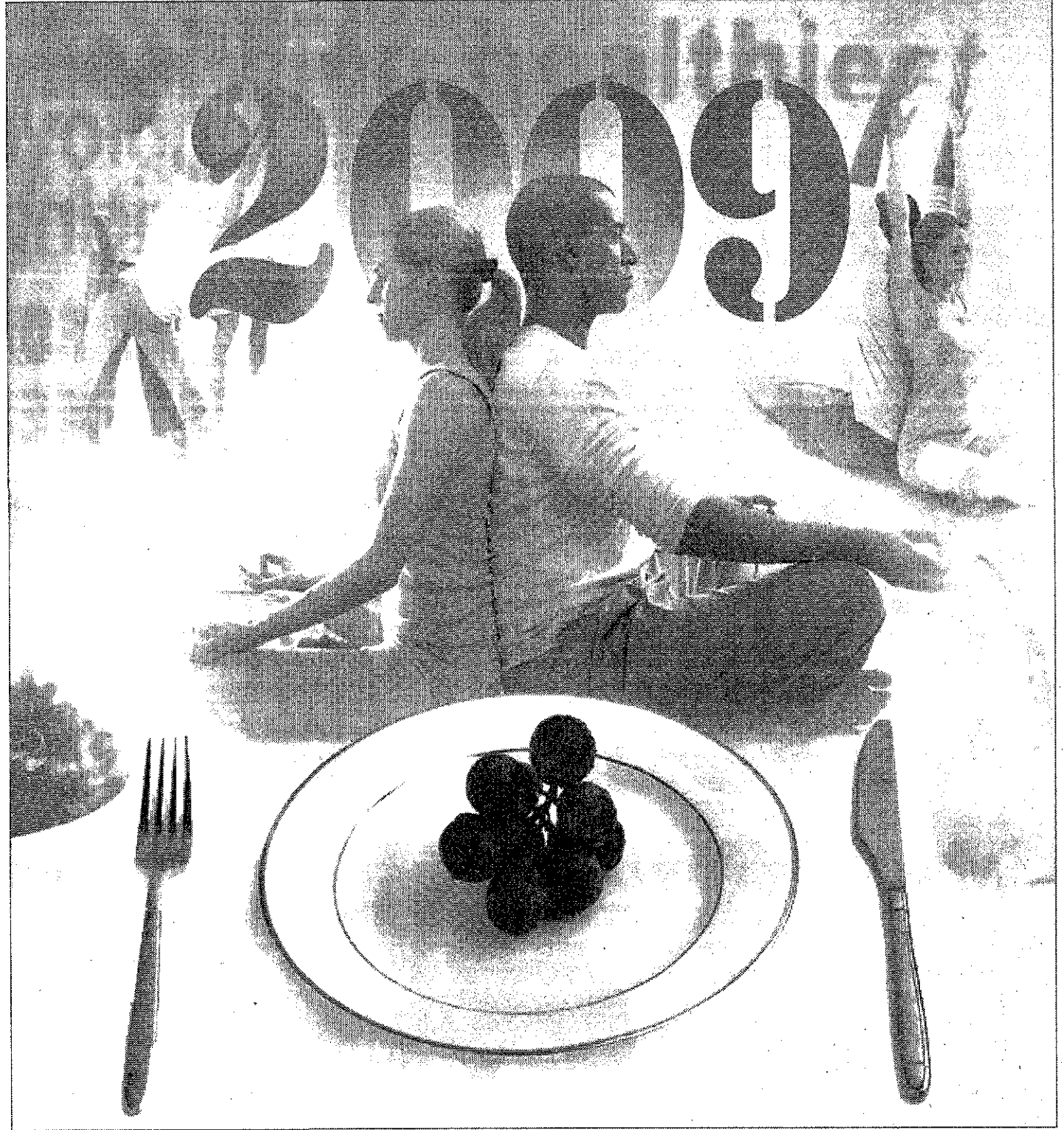
Price. "I'm a big fan of yoga. Yoga is more than exercise. You're getting mental and physical components. The meditative part is working on your mind to decrease anxiety and fear. In this economy people are walking around in fear mode. Yoga helps you focus. The physical part gets your body moving."

Food plays an important role in elevating moods. Price starts the morning with a smoothie made from unsweetened fruit blended with soy milk, rice powder and flax seed meal. Throughout the day she recommends eating less animal protein and more fruits, vegetables, beans, soy and whole grains like brown rice.

"Soups warm and you can add beans and whole grain pastas. It gives you something hearty where you're feeling full but not stuffed," said Price. "For dinner, focus on whole grains, choose leaner meats or eat three meatless meals a week, casseroles, stir fries where you add veggies to bulk things up and fill you."

Ann Cole's weight has gone up and down throughout her life. After reading about Price's Reconnect with Food program she signed up to explore the reasons for what she was putting in her mouth. The series of classes had an effect on the entire family. Daughter Megan, a high school senior, learned how to select the foods she'll eat next fall when away at college. Nate, 14, wanted to know about gaining weight properly to play football at Lahser High School.

"Our children are not overweight. We just want to eat right," said Cole, who teaches at Derby Middle School in Birmingham and lives in Bloomfield Hills with her



husband, John, a runner. "Instead of buying chips, we invest more in nuts and bulk food buying and it's a way to stretch our food dollars and be in control of our daily lives, what goes into our mouths. Eating healthy can actually be a money saver, a way to lose or gain weight. It's about walking, working out, doing yoga, eating well, feeling balanced with all the stressors in our lives."

Sometimes eating well and exercising aren't enough. Dr. Doree-Ann Espiritu is seeing more patients who can't handle the stress of lost jobs and home foreclosures. A board-certified psychiatrist in the Henry Ford Health System, Espiritu says while it helps to have a positive attitude sometimes that's not enough. "It's very important to recognize while it is normal to have adjustment reaction, it's

OK to acknowledge when it affects your patterns of sleeping, eating, motivation. You have to talk with someone," said Espiritu, a Bloomfield Hills resident. "I think there is the stigma to avoid psychiatry but talk to your minister or primary care physician. Reach out. Families can help but sometimes every one is in the same boat. Someone looking from the outside can say this is what you need to do."

"Thinking positively is easier said than done. We need to be more concrete in things and think about the lifelines — family, our health, relationships, co-workers in our lives who help us out, the values we have, our faith. These things will never go away whether we have a job or not. Those are the things we should really hold onto."

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Make a resolution to get healthy by being active, not smoking

It's almost time to make those New Year's resolutions. The American Cancer Society offers several ideas this year focusing on risk factors.

If you're a smoker, quit. There is no right way to stop smoking although it helps to set a date and choose a quit plan beforehand. For more

information, call (800) ACS-2345. Adopt a more physically active lifestyle. For adults that means engaging in at least moderate activity for 30 minutes or more five or more days of the week. For children and adolescents the recommendation is 60 minutes per day of moderate or vigorous physical activity at

least five days a week. Maintain a healthy weight throughout life and eat a variety of foods with an emphasis on plant sources. Include five or more servings of a variety of vegetables and fruits in your diet each day. Choose whole grains rather than processed grains and sugars, and limit your

consumption of red and processed meats. If you drink alcoholic beverages, limit consumption. Men should have no more than two drinks a day, women one drink. Alcohol increases the risk of several cancers including breast cancer in women. Talk with your doctor about regu-

lar cancer screening tests based on your age and personal risk factors. Take the Great American Health Check. Answer a few questions online at www.cancer.org/health-check and receive a personalized cancer prevention action plan that lists the screening tests recommended.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

DECEMBER

Get ready to have a baby

Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the entire experience more rewarding. Childbirth Education Weekday programs held 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays to Jan. 14. There is a fee. Registration required. Call (734) 655-1162.

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.

UPCOMING

Understanding diabetes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts Diabetes Support Group presentations 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 14, and Feb. 11, in the hospital's Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile at LeVan Road, Livonia. Please use the Main Entrance on Five Mile Road. Registered dietitian Katie Dooley presents Understanding Carbohydrates for Better Blood Sugar Control on Jan. 14. On Feb. 11, registered dietitian Judy Swancutt presents Diabetes and Vitamins, Minerals and Herbs: What's Right for You. All are welcome. A new topic is presented on the second Wednesday of each month for adults with diabetes and family members. There is no charge, pre-registration

not required. For information, call (734) 655-8961.

Thyroid cancer support

The group is free and open to all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family members and friends. The next meeting is 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 1641 Charlevoix Drive, Troy. For more information, call Gwynne at (248) 740-9759.

Butterfly ball

The American Lung Association of Michigan has rescheduled its black tie fund-raiser to 6-11 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. Proceeds go to lung health research, education and advocacy. Tickets \$250 per person. The Butterfly Ball will be highlighted by music and will include a cocktail reception, dinner, dancing, and a live auction featuring trips, dinners and a variety of experiences. Sponsorships available. Call Jessica Jimenez, Development Specialist, (248) 784-2018 or jjimenez@alam.org.

ONGOING

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off LeVan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100 for more information, or visit www.stmary-mercy.org.

Caregiver's support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. 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.

Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer support and assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to their loved ones and offers information at meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month 10 a.m. to noon at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue in Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile in Redford. Morning and evening options available. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month, the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. For information or if attending for the first time, call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

Physical performance classes

Incorporates jump-rope training, core work, and functional strength training using dumbbells and body weight for resistance 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays. An Exercise Therapy class for a mid to lower intensity workout that stress functional fitness, core, balance, strength and flexibility 8:45 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays. One hour sessions are offered at Metropolitan Adventist Jr. Academy Gym, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Drop-in sessions \$6 each, 10 sessions \$48. These classes are both lead by Jeanie Weaver with the concept of training

to spare the joints and improve back mobility and strength. She is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957 to register. For information send e-mail to jeanieweaver@charter.net.

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.

Flu shots

Wayne County Department of Public Health offers flu shots for residents at its clinic in Wayne 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday (walk-ins), Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday (by appointment only), at 33030 Van Born at Venoy. The cost of the flu vaccine is \$15. \$35 for pneumonia vaccine is also offered for \$35. Medicare (Part B) and Medicaid are accepted. Vaccines are offered for adults and children. For information about family flu vaccinations at Wayne County's public health clinic locations, call (734) 727-7000. For additional influenza and flu prevention facts, visit www.waynecounty.com/hhsvcs/public/pamphlet.htm.

Flu shots

For adults and children over 6 months of age available at Oakland County Health Division locations at 1200 N. Telegraph in Oakland County Complex Bldg. 36 East in Pontiac; 27725 Greenfield, north of 11 Mile at Cataipa Road in Southfield, and 1010 E. West Maple at Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake.

Hours are noon to 8 p.m. Monday, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Cost is \$11 (cash only). Medicare and Medicaid accepted. Bring photo identification and insurance cards. For information, call (800) 434-3358 or visit www.oakgov.com/health.

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

Arthritis support group

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

Tai Chi classes

At 165 E. Square Lake, Bloomfield Hills (7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday), and 38121 Ann Arbor Road (11 a.m. Wednesday, and 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday). Presented by nonprofit Michigan Tai Chi Association in Livonia. For details, call (734) 591-3530.

Recovery, Inc.

The support group meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at Prince of Peace Church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc. is an international, non-profit, self-help community-based organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve

quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or send e-mail to marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Self-help meetings in Livonia run 7:30 p.m. Monday St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile; 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard. Call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. No charge, contributions collected.

Low vision support group

Meets 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. For information, call Ellen Stross at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 232.

Volunteers needed

For the new Providence Park Hospital in Novi which is scheduled to open Sept. 5. Volunteers needed for variety of activities including responsibilities in the Emergency Center, surgical lounge, pediatric department, gift shop, and visitor services as well as duties in the areas of spiritual care, transporter, clerical, patient greeter. Must be age 18 and older and able to work a minimum of one, four-hour shift per week. To request an application packet, call (248) 465-4096 or send e-mail to volunteerservice@stjohn.org.

Self-defense class

For women and men 11 a.m. the first Saturday of every month at the Sanctuary Chiropractic & Wellness Spa, 35275 Plymouth, Livonia. Call (734) 421-7100. No charge, but a \$5 donation will be sent to a shelter for abused women and children.

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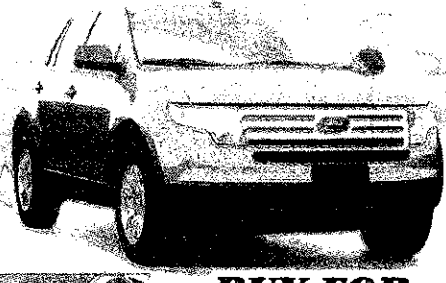
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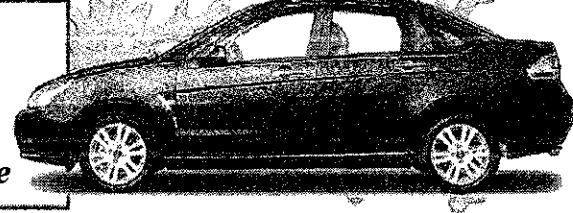
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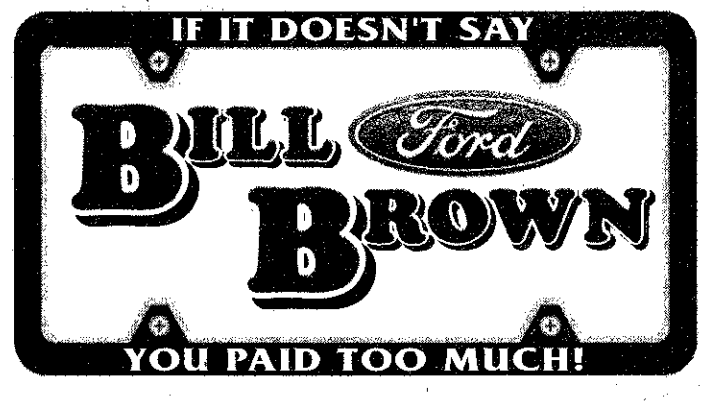
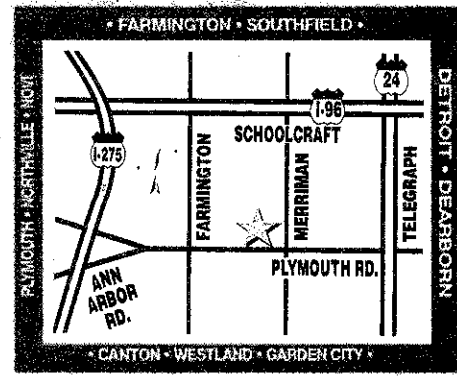
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Essay contest promotes peace

Young people really can make a difference when it comes to creating pathways to peace. During the Vietnam War, students at Schoolcraft



Linda Chomin

College held sit-down strikes in conjunction with protests all over the country until the soldiers came home.

Today, Citizens for Peace is trying to encourage high school and college students in Michigan to become involved by researching the topic of nonviolence and writing an essay.

The concept for the contest came about when Rosemary Doyle noticed no one was checking out books on peace from the Livonia Civic Center Library. The group had donated a collection on the topic as its first project after meeting at the Holiday Inn in Southfield on Veterans Day 2003.

Doyle decided to attend that first gathering in despair over America's invasion of Iraq. Citizens for Peace

believes in finding solutions to conflicts instead of making war. Doyle remembers the tens of thousands of men and women who died in Vietnam. Her husband is a veteran of the Korean War.

"I thought we'd reached a level of civility that we could talk things out," said Doyle of Livonia. "We started talking about forming a grassroots campaign for nonviolence. There are little groups like us all over the country."

Citizens for Peace originally was composed of residents of the 11th Congressional District, but Doyle says the nonpartisan community organization is not stuck on boundaries.

Anyone interested in promoting nonviolence is welcome.

"We're not against war as a protective force," said Doyle, "but we're also involved with restorative practices and nonviolence communication training, a process for schools and even prisons to look at wrong doing. This has been working in Lansing schools for the last five years. Students have to commit to their part in the wrong doing and then the classroom suggests how they can restore the wrongdoing. It gets students to talk about it, how did they feel about the wrongdoing, what was the impact. It's a paradigm shift to think we can solve issues without violence."

Colleen Mills thinks that's a step in the right direction. As president of Citizens for Peace, she's especially proud of the contest to help promote The Season for Nonviolence which runs between the anniversaries of the assassinations of Gandhi on Jan. 30, 2009, and Martin Luther King, Jr. April 4, 2009.

"Gandhi and King were leaders who worked for peace," said Mills of Livonia. "By selecting books from the collection they'll learn about people who devoted their lives to creating a peaceful world. We hope to inspire the students to come up with an essay that inspires other people to move in the direction of nonviolence and peace. We want to raise awareness of how to create nonviolence through respect for others, to have the awareness each individual can create a more peaceful world."

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (313) 222-2241 or lchomin@hometownlife.com.

Start the new year right

Positive thinking key to fresh beginning

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OGE STAFF WRITER

Jeff Kirsch's quick thinking recently turned a negative into a ray of hope for his Sunday school class at Congregation Beit Kodesh in Livonia. It's not always easy to answer children's questions especially in these trying economic times.

One student was concerned about a friend who was celebrating the holidays differently this year because the father lost his job in the auto industry. Unfortunately, the little boy is not alone when it comes to wondering what the new year will bring. Long unemployment lines and home foreclosures have left many fearing the future, but Jan. 1 can be more than just the first day of 2009 by believing anything is possible.

"There are few things guaranteed in life. One thing guaranteed is change. Many times change is good. We just don't see it at the beginning," said Kirsch, education director of Congregation Beit Kodesh and a Farmington Hills resident. "When one door closes another one opens. In many cases, the door that opens is good for you."

Several years ago, Kirsch worked for a company that went out of business. Instead of bemoaning his plight he began looking for a job. Kirsch is now a product support specialist at Compuware where he is able to grow by learning new systems.

"Yes, things happen that we have no control over, but if we keep very positive things will turn around," said Kirsch. "I told the kids at school you prepare for tests and it might not turn out the way you like but it forces you to study harder. Things happen for a reason. It typically makes us a better person but you need an open mind. If you don't you're hurting yourself. You're so full of all the sorrow and problems you're facing and don't see the opportunities waiting for you. I know it's hard when you're out of a



job, money's tight, but you still have the support of family and friends."

Like Kirsch, Colleen Mills sees the glass as half full rather than half empty. As president of Citizens for Peace, she's looking toward a brighter new year.

"With regards to the economy whenever there's something negative, a positive comes out of it because of the awareness," said Mills of Livonia. "It brings out more compassion, more giving and sharing. You've got to have compassion for people losing their homes. For Michigan, we're in a crisis state that's causing us to realign our priorities. People are coming out with

more creative ideas. People are buying Michigan or American products. We're all interconnected. I hope people start caring for one another. Do something for one person. If everyone did something for one person we'd be a lot better off."

Mills is working to promote nonviolence through Citizens for Peace which meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at Unity of Livonia. The group is not connected to the nondenominational church and open to everyone. Mills taught in Detroit Public Schools 35 years and believes children must learn the way to nonviolence when young.

"Peace begins with each individual then the whole energy of peace can happen," said Mills. "They have the choice of escalating violence or moving back from it in their families, neighborhoods, state, nation and world. The question is how do you stay positive with all of the negativity going on. I'm aware people are stressed out, but refuse to let that energy bring me down because you're never going to be able to change things. When you're angry, you might create awareness but not change. There are solutions."

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Network for jobs, write for therapy as New Year begins

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGE STAFF WRITER

If you're still employed when the confetti flies as the clock strikes midnight on Jan. 1, 2009, the time to start looking for your next job is now.

If you're laid off, Michelle Fisher says you should "shout to the world, 'I've lost my job and I need help.'"

"Getting out and talking to people will be the best way to stay positive," said Fisher, coordinator of Careers in Transition, a career ministry at First Congregational Church in downtown Rochester. "People are embarrassed

CAREER MINISTRIES

- St. Andrews Catholic Church, 1400 Inglewood, Rochester; 7 p.m., second and fourth Thursday; (248) 373-0707 or (248) 650-0364
- Southfield Christian School, in the Atrium Board Room, 28600 Lahser, Southfield; 7 p.m., second Wednesday; (248) 336-2080 or (248) 230-4664
- St. Thomas a Becket, 555 N. Lilley, Canton; 7 p.m. every other Tuesday; (734) 495-1691
- First Congregational Church, UCC, 1315 N. Pine, Rochester; 7 p.m. first and third Thursday; (248) 651-6225
- Shrine of the Little Flower, corner Woodward and 12 Mile, Royal Oak; 6:45 p.m. fourth Monday; (248) 541-4122
- Kirk in the Hill Presbyterian Church, 1340 Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills; 7 p.m. Tuesdays; (248) 626-2515
- NorthRidge Church, 49555 N. Territorial, Plymouth; 7 p.m. Mondays; www.northridgechurch.com

when they lose a job and they don't like to tell people. It's human nature. But the more people you tell the

more you can reach out. "I can't stress enough how networking is crucial, no matter what level you're at,

no matter if you think you're not losing your job. The day you start looking for your next job is the day you get a

job. Keep networking."

Fisher, who has worked as a career coach and professional recruiter for 18 years, said that "laundry list" of networking contacts can run the gamut from alumni or trade association members, to neighbors, the family dentist and the banker down the street. She can't underscore enough the value of career ministries like Careers in Transition.

"It's a great opportunity to network with people. I always have people introduce themselves and tell what they are looking for. You'll hear other people say,

Please see **BEGINS, C4**

Book seeks to change double standards when it comes to older woman-younger man couples

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
OGE STAFF WRITER

When Barack Obama takes office in the New Year, an invisible racial barrier to the presidency will fall.

Cyndi Targosz is doing her part to topple another barrier — that of society being judgmental about the older woman-younger man relationship.

"I am really passionate about this," said Targosz, who "has dated several younger men."

"This is not about bashing older men. This is just about changing that double standard, where it's only

OK if an older man dates a younger woman."

Targosz has written *Dating the Younger Man, A Complete Guide to Every Woman's Sweetest Indulgence*.

Published by Adams Media, it was launched earlier this month at Detroit area Borders bookstores.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, she'll be at Borders Express at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi to promote the book; at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, she'll be at Borders at Oakland Mall in Troy. Her exercise and diet books and DVDs also will be available during her appearances.

DEBUNKING MYTHS

The book debunks myths about the older woman-younger man relationship, offers tips on how these relationships can work and sprinkles in real life stories.

One of the biggest myths is that the older woman is a predatory "cougar," she said.

In a nonscientific anonymous cyber survey of both men and women, she found "the ones usually being pursued were the women."

"I was astounded that the majority of the women in my survey did not like the 'cougar' term," she said. Her book uses the term "hot boy



Cyndi Targosz

toy babe" instead for the older woman in such relationships. It matches her term for the younger man as a "boy toy" — a playful, affectionate term, she said.

Another surprise: "People assume that boy toys are young

hunks in their 20s. Not true. I interviewed many in their 30s, 40s and even 70s — again breaking stereotypes."

Please see **COUPLES, C3**

PIANO ACADEMY OPEN TO NEW STUDENTS

The Schoolcraft College Piano Academy has openings for the second semester which begins Jan. 28, 2009. Spaces are available in both the Elementary and Intermediate divisions.

A new class for beginning students is scheduled 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays starting Feb. 3, 2009.

As one of the area's leading centers in piano education, Schoolcraft College has designed a program to teach music at the keyboard to help all students realize their greatest potential for personal and musical growth. Programs accommodate a wide range of ages and ability levels including beginners, intermediate and advanced students.

The Piano Academy's Elementary Division offers students in grades 1-4 a one-hour group lesson and a half-hour private les-

son each week. They develop sight-reading and rhythmic skills, study keyboard theory, improvisation and composition and work to develop efficient practice skills. There are also opportunities to perform for peers and families during the 16-week term. An interview is necessary before enrolling.

The Academy's Intermediate Division offers middle school and high school piano students a combination of 45-minute private lessons every week and once-a-month master classes/group lessons presented by Donald Morelock, professor of music. Students have frequent recital opportunities. An audition is necessary for admission to this program.

Interviews and auditions will be scheduled during January 2009. Call the music department at (734) 462-4403 or e-mail pminnick@schoolcraft.edu for an appointment time.

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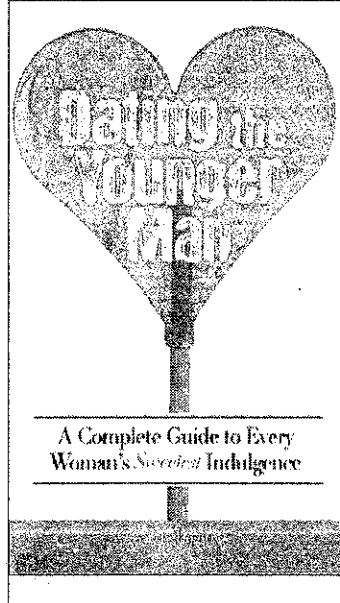
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COUPLES

FROM PAGE C1



The author believes it's time for a new 'ageless attitude.'

REAL PEOPLE TOO

Targosz said most people know about older woman-younger man celebrity couples such as Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher and Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell. But, as women become more financially independent, it's much more common in general, she said. "I did not realize until I starting doing research for the book how prevalent is."

That's another reason she believes that it's time for a new "ageless attitude."

She starts the book by recounting how in the 1940s, her mother initially did not accept her father's marriage

proposal because she was afraid to tell him she was 11 months older.

"How tragic it would be for a man or woman to not take a chance on love because of a negative belief about age," she said. "Age is just a number."

Targosz, of Los Angeles, Calif., grew up in Michigan and lived and worked in Southfield for several years. She is a celebrity image consultant, comedic actress, certified lifestyle consultant and author.

She keeps in touch with many here, including Elaine Traskos, a Wayne County resident and former chairman of

Farmington Hills-based Aco Inc.

"Whether she is conducting a lively self improvement seminar or promoting one of her many books and DVD's, Cyndi truly inspires with her knowledge, insight, humor and energy," said Traskos.

Targosz said she may return to be part of the state's growing film industry.

The book is available for \$12.95 at amazon.com, her Web site starglow.com, Borders and other bookstores.

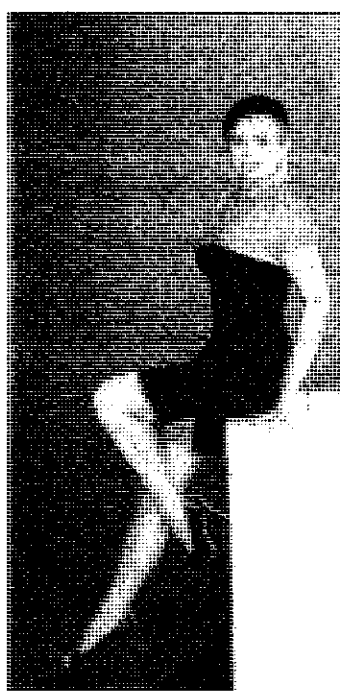
ssteinmueller@hometownlife.com

Girl Scout cookies now available

Thousands of area Girl Scouts are selling cookies through Jan. 19, 2009. For more information on where to buy these traditional treats, call (800) 497-2688.

The cookies will also be available at booths in many community locations from Feb. 27, to March 22, 2009. Each box costs \$3.50. Old favorites including Chocolate Chip (sugar free), Do-Si-Dos, Lemon Chalet Cremes, Samoas, Tagalongs, Thin Mints, and Trefoils are available along with a new variety Dulce de Leche.

The Scouts' annual cookie campaign helps girls, ages 5-17, learn while they learn. Through the program they apply skills executives use every day to manage corporations. Girls learn to set goals, manage resources, launch new products, explore talents, and build self confidence.



Cyndi Targosz believes that 'age is just a number' when it comes to women dating younger men.



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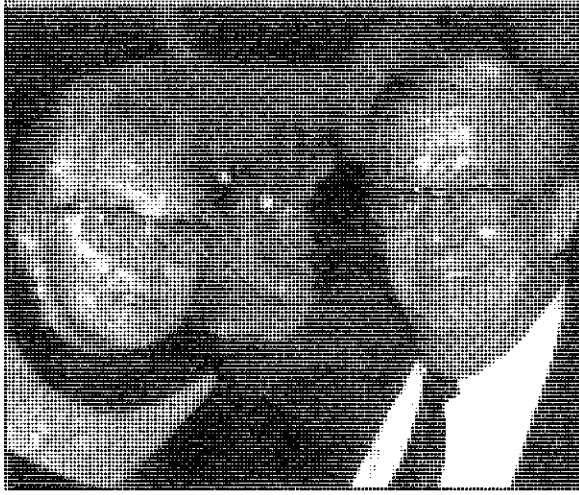
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ANNIVERSARIES

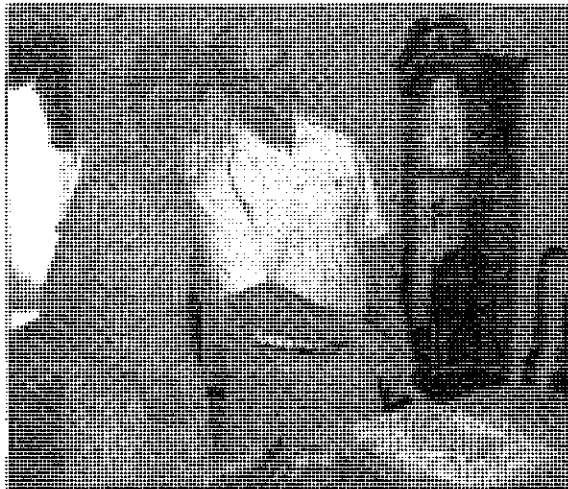
Golden anniversary

Neal and Norma (Kostelac) Keller of Clinton Township, formerly of Livonia, celebrated 50 years of marriage this month. They were married Dec. 13, 1958, in Cassopolis. The couple are the parents of the late Debbie Harb-Keller; Michelle Keller of Livonia, and Robert (Dana) Keller of Clinton Township. Their grandchildren are Tony Harb, Jamie Harb and Jeni Harb. They also have several 'furry children and grandchildren,' including nine cats and one dog. Neal retired from Ford Motor Co., eight years ago. Norma is a homemaker and 'wonderful wife and mother,' says daughter, Michelle. The couple celebrated their marriage milestone together with loved ones at a family dinner earlier this month.



Silver Anniversary

Anthony and Dr. Margery (Macy) Sartori of Livonia celebrated 25 years of marriage this year. They have lived in Livonia for 10 years and have four children: Maria of Grand Rapids; Katerina of Saginaw; and Michaelene and Liliana, both of Livonia. Anthony works as a data base administrator and Margery is a clinical psychologist and professor. To celebrate the occasion, the family hosted a catered barbecue at the Sartori home and their daughters surprised the couple with a stay at the Chateau Chantal Winery in Traverse City.

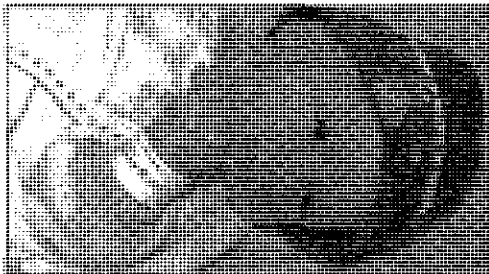


Janet Bennett (left) of Livonia presents the Livonia branch of the American Association of University Women's Salute to Women Award to Ann Taber for her volunteer work in Zimbabwe.

BIRTHS

Sawyer Michael-Steven Rogers

Sawyer Michael-Steven Rogers was born Nov. 29, 2008, at Petoskey Northern Michigan Regional Hospital. The son of Patrick Rogers and Marilea Grom of Vanderbilt, he joins cousins Amber Gelanis, Trevor Gelanis, Tymmarie Grom, Kiera Grom, Jessica Tyer, Gretchen Schoen, Kari Schoen, Nicholas Schoen and Sylvia Rogers. His grandparents are Joseph and Mary Grom of Livonia and Jerry and Joan Rogers of Cheboygan.



Salute to Women luncheon honors local volunteer

Some people go on vacation and come home with memories and photos — not Ann Taber. In 1997 Taber and her husband went to Zimbabwe to see "Animals, Art, and Archeology." One of the tour stops was the Methodist-related Africa University where they inquired about a couple of weeks of volunteering. This snowballed into years of donating their time and the creation of numerous projects to help with the education of the young people in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Taber was recognized for her years of service at the annual Salute to Women luncheon by the Livonia Branch of the American Association of University Women on Saturday, Dec. 13, at Ernesto's in Plymouth.

Taber praised her many friends, family, and many churches for their support of her efforts in Mutare, Zimbabwe. She explained that all public services have collapsed in the last 10 years. Last year at this time, Taber had just returned from Zimbabwe and wrote "It was a jolt to come back from a country whose stores were almost empty, whose people couldn't afford the cost of a can of baked beans, let alone any luxuries, and whose money was virtually valueless to our usual Christmas buying frenzy here in the U.S. We had a huge stack of Christmas catalogs and store ads waiting in the mail for us and all the newspapers and magazines are urging us to buy, buy, buy. As our Christmas season moves into high gear here in the U.S., we need to continue to remember the people of Zimbabwe, as they face a Christmas of desperation, hunger and extreme poverty."

The AAUW presents "A Salute to Women" award each year in recognition of women whose efforts reflect the goals of AAUW and whose contributions enhance the quality of life for women and girls and foster positive societal change. The Livonia Branch has more than 150 members who contribute in a variety of ways to support programs that provide assistance to women and girls through counseling, mentoring, volunteering, donating funds, toys, and needed materials throughout the year. The Salute to Women award highlights one woman as an example of the importance of making a difference in our world.

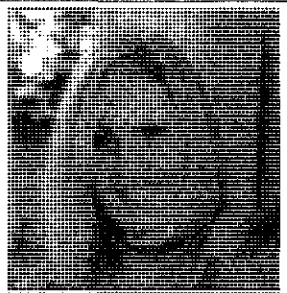
Taber saw a need and had the background of being a librarian, media specialist and reading teacher for 29 years in the Willow Run Schools. She has selflessly worked to create the first school library in Zimbabwe that has more than 10,000 books. Her work provides salaries, medical supplies, uniforms, tuition, and a meal a day for the students in Mutare.

Taber has been a friend of AAUW member Pat Smith for 55 years. In her accep-

Taber and her husband plan to return to Zimbabwe in January. For more information about her work and supporting the effort, visit <http://annmorristaber.net>.

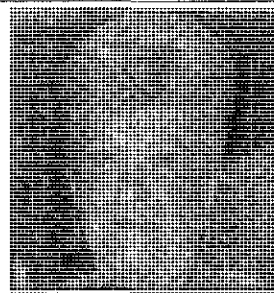
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BEVERLY MARIE CHAMBERS
Age 89. December 22, 2008. Wife of the late Frank Loving mother of Henry (Cheryl), Sue (Mike) Janczarek and Bill. Proud grandmother of Edmund, Jeffrey, Tina Caiger, Lee Pratt, Colin, Sarah, and Devin, and great-grandmother of Michael, Jeremy, Heather, Tessa, and Nolan. Visitation Sunday 4-8 p.m. with a Scripture Service at 7 p.m. at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, Livonia. Funeral Service Monday 9:30 a.m. at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the S. Jude Children's Hospital in her honor.



CAROLE R. MERKEL

Age 71, of Bay Colony, Naples, Florida formerly of Evergreen, Colorado died Sunday at home. Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, she attended Pennsylvania State University. She is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and was named in "Who's Who at Penn State" and as an alumnus was the President of the KKG house board at the University of Colorado. Carole was a leader in the Junior League in Reading, Pennsylvania, Birmingham, Michigan, and Denver, Colorado. She was named Junior League Denver Sustainer of the Year in 1983 for her groundbreaking initiation of multiple county mental health awareness training. Philanthropic endeavors also included fund raising to launch the Birmingham, Michigan "Bargain Box"; founding the Evergreen, Colorado "Art for the Mountain Community"; as well as launching Evergreen, Colorado's "Mountain Area Families in Action" an organizer of drug and alcohol free events. Family: Husband of 52 years, Paul Peter (Pete); son Brad and his wife Mina and two grandchildren of Sao Paulo, Brazil; son David deceased; daughter Susan Kennedy and her husband Tim and three grandchildren of Hellertown, Pennsylvania; brother Bill deceased; sister Susan Szentaszloi of Quakertown, Pennsylvania; brother David Ruff of York, Pennsylvania. Services: 2:00 pm Sunday, December 28 at the Naples United Church of Christ, 5200 Crayton Road, Naples, Florida, 34103. Contributions: In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the Naples United Church of Christ, Memorial Garden Fund. Or Avow Hospice, 1095 Whipoorwill lane, Naples, Florida 34105

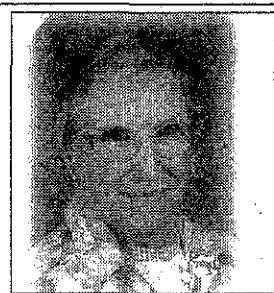


LORETTA WATTERS (FLYNN) BEACH

Age 81, December 25, 2008. Of Rochester, formerly of Pleasant Ridge and Ferndale. Beloved wife of the late Gerald Watters and the late Ronald Beach. Loving mother of Gary Watters (Susan), Kenneth Watters (Ellen), David Watters (Darlene) and Kyle Ann Markey (Daniel). Dear grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother of six. Visitation Sunday 2:30-8pm at Price Funeral Home, 3725 Rochester Road (between Big Beaver and Wattle Roads), Troy, 248-689-0700. Funeral Monday 10am at funeral home. Interment White Chapel Memorial Cemetery, Troy. Memorials to O.P.C.-Older Persons Commission-Rochester. Share memories with the online guest book at www.pricefuneralhome.net.

DORIS V. GRACE (NEE IHLENFELDT)
December 25, 2008. Age 88. Preceded in death by her husband Bud and son Gary. Loving mother of Lynn (Louisa), Scott (Andrea) and daughter-in-law of Rita. Dearest grandmother of Paul (Suzanne), Briar, Ashley (E.J. Young), Lauren (Adam Colton), Elizabeth, and great-grandmother of Joseph Ryan. After graduating from Dearborn High School in 1937, she earned a teaching degree at Eastern Normal College. Doris taught 2nd grade at Treadwell Elementary School in Inkster. She married Bud Grace in 1939. During World War II, she worked in San Diego as a "Rosie the Riveter." After the War, they moved to Florida and raised their first two sons. In 1958, the family moved to Livonia to go into the restaurant business. They operated Daly Drive-Ins in Livonia and Plymouth, until their retirement. Bud and Doris always enjoyed traveling, and after seeing all 50 states, visited well over 100 countries on all continents. Both always received their greatest joy in helping others. For many years, Bud and Doris worked closely with the Livonia Goodfellows. Her last major activity was as a volunteer with the Livonia Clothing Depot. Visitation Monday 3-9 p.m. at the Neely-Turowski Funeral Home, 30200 Five Mile (between Merriam and Middlebelt). Funeral Service Tuesday 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment Parkview Memorial Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Livonia Goodfellows.
www.neely-turowski.com

NINA M. WILLETT
December 25, 2008 of Ann Arbor. Leave a note of condolence at www.uhtfh.com.



HELEN WUNCH

Age 87, of Port Huron, went home to be with the Lord Monday, December 22, 2008. Mrs. Wunch was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham for 40 years. She is survived by three children, Linda Sbraccia of Ferndale, John (Jodi) Wunch of Port Huron, and Chris (Mary) Wunch of Cleveland, Georgia; six grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; a brother, William Starr, and a sister, Sally Laird. She was preceded in death by her husband, John E. Wunch on June 8, 2004. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, December 29, 2008 in First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. Memorials may be made to the church. To send condolences, visit pollockrandallfuneralhome.com.

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BONNIE M. RADCLIFFE
Age 97, of Farmington Hills, died on December 19, 2008. She was born August 3, 1911 in Tamaqua, PA to Howard J. & Flossie (Kline) Heilner. She married Harold Radcliffe, who preceded her in death in 1974. She is survived by many nieces, nephews & cousins. Memorial services 11am Friday, December 26 at Niblack Funeral Home, with her nephew Rev. Ron Heilner officiating.
www.niblackfuneralhome.com

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

BEGINS

FROM PAGE C1

"I have a lead for you." The group meets at 7 p.m., the first and third Thursday of the month at the church, 1315 Pine. The group is open to the public and offers job-seeking advice, job leads, networking support and guest lectures. Participants have heard presentations on avoiding home foreclosure, financial planning, writing resumes, job interviewing and more. Fisher's e-mail distribution goes out to about 400 people and provides links to other job ministries.

FULFILLING A NEED

Four men, all "high level executives," according to Fisher, started the outreach eight years ago when they found themselves suddenly out of jobs. Fisher, a Waterford resident and member of the congregation, became the group's facilitator four years ago.

Since then she has seen the concept spread to other churches in the tri-county area. "It's growing. There are quite a few now," she said. "I tell the people who attend that I'm trying to teach you how to be your own recruiter. You've got to have a lot of balls in the air — five or six opportunities you're working on."

Fisher said it's not enough to spend time combing the Internet for job leads. She recommends that job-seekers, both employed and unem-

ployed, submit resumes even if the targeted business has no posted openings.

Persistence, a positive attitude and a willingness to interview for all opportunities can mean the difference between a paycheck and unemployment.

"Turning down an interview because you don't think the salary will be there is a big mistake. I've sent people on interviews and the interviewer has said 'I don't think this is right for you, however, we have something else that might be a better fit.' You always need practice interviewing."

"And the more positive you can be, the better. If you take a negative attitude into a company, it will show," Fisher added.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Writing may be the ticket to flushing out those negative feelings. It may even lead to a new avocation or freelance work.

"One of the greatest ways to start off the New Year is to write," said Mary Edwards, a Detroit resident who leads a widows support group in Southfield and a writer's group in Dearborn. "Writing is therapy. Everyone may not be a writer, but everyone has a story to tell. As an author of six books, I find writing to be very therapeutic."

Edwards was the only Detroit-area writer published in the first *Chicken Soup For the African American Soul*. She has since judged stories for the *Chicken Soup* book

series and coaches writers about submitting material.

"Because I saw the opportunity to tell my writers guild and others about this experience, many folks asked me to help them write winning stories. And I did. Several of them managed to get into the book," she said. "In 2006, *Chicken Soup for the African American Women's Soul* was published. Several of my writers submitted their stories. Two were selected. I also have a writer in *Chicken Soup for the Working Mother's Soul*, *Chicken Soup for the Caregivers Soul* and *Chicken Soup for the Twins Soul*."

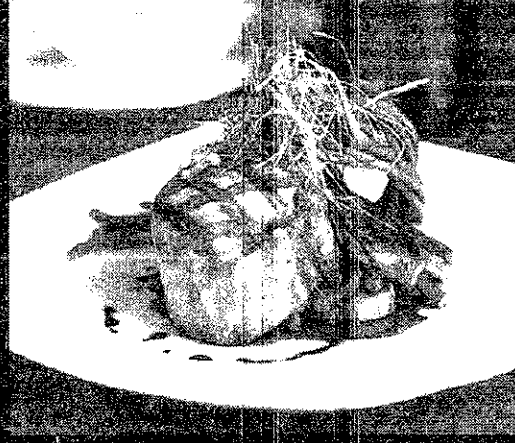
One of her group members turned her writing into a business.

"She is a new writer. She took a buyout from the auto industry and started her own writing ministry," Edwards said. "School teachers are losing their jobs and a lot find writing can be a second income. It has been for me."

The *Chicken Soup* book series is looking for stories on a variety of topics this year. A sampling of titles include: "What I learned from the Dog," "Tough Economic Times," "Thanks, Mom," "Dysfunctional Families," "Miracles," and more. Find a complete list at www.chickensoup.com.

Edwards' next workshop, designed to help writers publish in the *Chicken Soup* series, is 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at her home, 19025 Windemere in Detroit. The fee is \$35. Call (313) 341-4487.

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center cut fillet of beef*, garlic herb grilled, pinot noir reduction, sweet potato bacon dauphinoise
 certified organic chicken breast, risotto style, root vegetables, tarragon brown butter jus
 half lamb rack*, goat cheese crusted, sweet jalapeno spiced garlic jus, sweet potato bacon dauphinoise
 wild alaskan salmon char-grilled*, creamy multi-grain risotto, smoked red pepper coulis
 butternut squash tortelacci, five spice cream sauce
 duet of petite fillet of beef, herb butter poached cold water lobster tail,
 bacon - lobster - butternut squash ragout, pinot noir reduction (add \$29)

finish

chocolate tastes trio
 warm flourless dark chocolate cake, white chocolate - raspberry gelato, milk chocolate - berry parfait

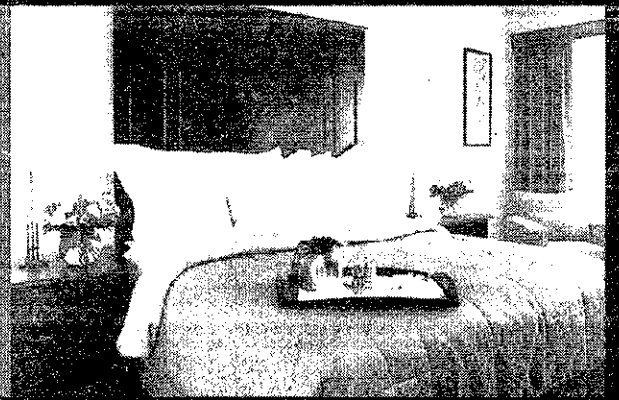
\$50.00 per person

FOR DINNER RESERVATIONS, PHONE 734-357-5700.

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 friends to come
 "under the tracks" to
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 on Sheldon Road
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Five

RESTAURANT

LOCATED WITHIN THE INN AT ST. JOHN'S
 44045 FIVE MILE ROAD AT SHELDON ROAD IN PLYMOUTH

Doctors – posed and exposed on calendar

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Some Botsford Hospital surgeons and anesthesiologists wanted to poke light-hearted fun at themselves for a good cause.

So, they posed for a 2009 calendar to benefit the new Botsford Cancer Center, which is located on the historic Botsford Inn property on Grand River in Farmington Hills.

From brawny to slim, most of the docs at least partially exposed their chests, as they suited up for the theme of the month — whether it was a leprechaun outfit for March,

The calendar, which costs \$15, is available from the hospital gift shop or by contacting www.botsford.org/physicians. Or call the hospital main line at (248) 471-8000.

a raincoat for April or beach accessories for June.

The man behind the idea was Dr. Eugene Laveroni. "He worked hard to make this happen while generally having no free time, due to a very busy schedule, even personally paying for the printing fees," said Laveroni's wife, Gail. "I am very proud of him."

Laveroni, medical director of surgical services who specializes in peripheral vascular surgery, is depicted with a Santa cap as Dr. December.

TIME DONATED

The Botsford operating room nurses, staff and physicians donated their own time to make this happen — and they had a lot of fun doing it, Gail said.

Dr. Warren Brandes, an ear, nose and throat specialist, called it "a light-hearted approach" to an otherwise serious subject — cancer.

"We are just human beings," Brandes said.

The medical staff pictured even took time to sign autographs when the calendar was first introduced to the public.

"We autographed the photos," said Dr. Homer Linard, an orthopedic surgeon, who is Dr. August.

They enjoyed the notoriety in order to spur calendar sales.

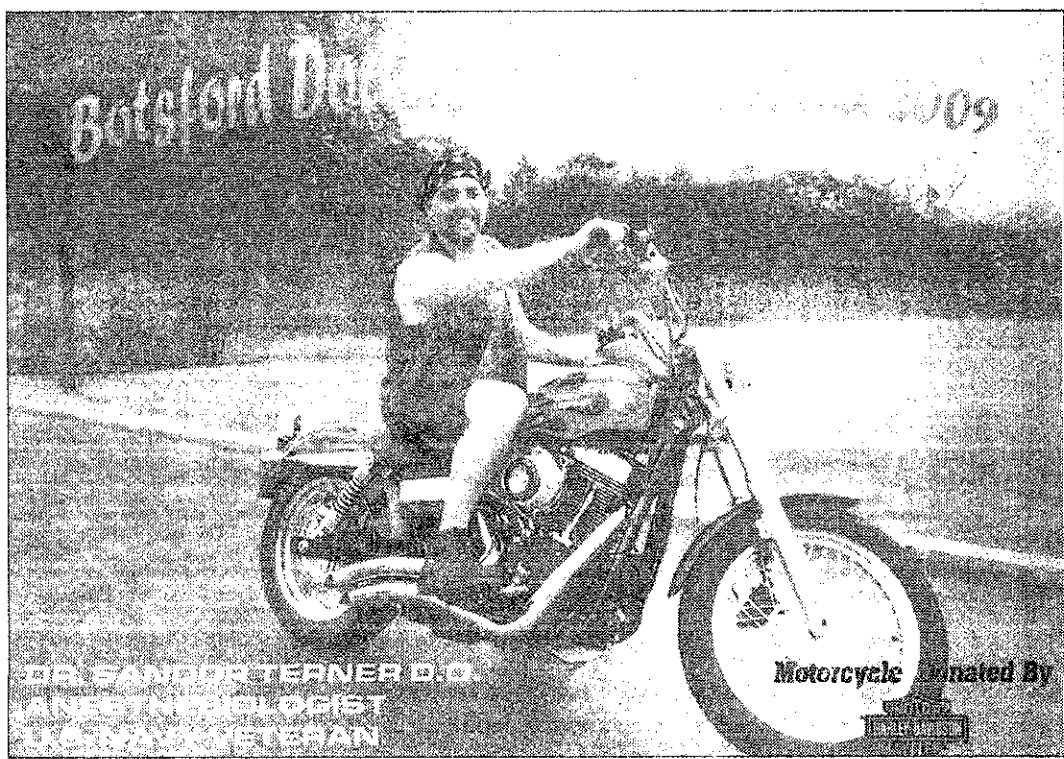
ABOUT THE CENTER

The center is a 30,000-square-foot building which features state-of-the-art equipment, "green construction," to help the environment, and an inviting atmosphere for patients of cancer treatment.

It has radiation oncology, incorporated medical oncology and 19 infusion stations. It opens in early January.

The calendar, which costs \$15, is available from the hospital gift shop or by contacting www.botsford.org/physicians. Or, call the hospital main line at (248) 471-8000.

sbuck@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2014



With his chest partially exposed under a sleeveless black vest, the tattooed Dr. Sandor Turner, an anesthesiologist at Botsford Hospital, who is also a U. S. Navy veteran, graces the cover of a new 2009 calendar. He is shown on a motorcycle supplied by Harley Davidson.



Dr. Warren Brandes, a Botsford Hospital doctor who specializes in otolaryngology and oral facial plastic surgery is Dr. July in a new 2009 calendar. He gladly donned an Uncle Sam outfit with a bow tie in the true spirit of celebrating Independence Day.

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Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860

UNEXPLAINED SHOULDER PAIN

The diagnosis of shoulder pain requires the doctor to evaluate if the problem is osteoarthritis, a rotator cuff tear, a supraspinatus tendonitis, or an inflammatory condition such as rheumatoid arthritis or polymyalgia rheumatica. Other considerations include an osteoporotic fracture or a possible cancer.

The history and examination as well as imaging studies such as x-ray, ultrasound, CT, or MRI allow a physician to make a diagnosis. At times, laboratory tests are helpful.

However, despite an orderly and thorough evaluation, the doctor faces occasions in which no diagnosis is evident. What does this absence of an answer mean to the patient?

First, it is important for the patient to know what he does not have. The absence of a condition that could lead to serious or long term impairment, means the patient can remain active with no concern that use will damage the shoulder.

Second, the doctor can feel free to treat the shoulder pain and focus on providing the best combination of medication to give the patient reasonable relief.

A patient should not feel that the failure of the doctor to provide a diagnosis means the time and money spent on appointments, special studies and laboratory testing is a waste. Knowing what the problem is not, is as valuable as giving the shoulder pain a label that one can look up on the internet.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
(734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at the Cultural Center, to consider the following:

Z 09-01 980 W. Ann Arbor Rd.
Non-Use Variance Requested
Additional Wall Sign
Zoned: ARC, Ann Arbor Road Corridor
Applicant: Allied Signs, Inc.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Published: Sunday, December 28, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

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

Published: December 28, 2008

SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on January 13, 2009 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI 48184. 734-728-8204.

A107-Bret Pöllington- Household Items
A145B- Randall Frye- TV, Microwave, Fax Machine
A209-Debra Rivers-Household Items
A320- Brienne Ritchie-Household Items
A405- Jesse Hallberg- Household Items
B133- Randall Frye- Fax Machine, Shop Vac, 20 boxes
B143- John Parry-Household Items
E108-Naheda Abdallah-Household Items
E155- Donald Quarles- 2 Dressers, Mattress, Record Player
RV10-Randolph Valentino- 1960 Grey Cadillac
RV11-Randolph Valentino-Ford F-7
RV30-Charles- Briggs- Vehicle

Published: December 28, 2008

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT AND DISCONTINUANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY

In accordance with the provisions of Section 18, chapter 1 and 3, Act 283 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended, the County of Wayne, Michigan, has determined that it was in the best interest of the public to absolutely abandon and discontinued that the following described alley right-of-way, subject to a reservation of an easement for public utilities, county storm water conveyance and county drain purposes, situated in the Township of Redford, Wayne County, Michigan, by Wayne County Commission Resolution Number 2008-780 adopted on December 4, 2008.

The alley, 20 feet wide, dedicated to the use of the public in GRAYTON, being a subdivision of part of the E. 1/2 of E. 1/2 of S.E. 1/4 of Sec. 29, T18S, R 10E, Redford Township, Wayne County, Michigan, recorded in Liber 48 of Plats on Page 22, Wayne County Records, abutting and to the East of Lots 181 through 197, inclusive, and abutting and to the West of Lots 210 to 243, inclusive; Abutting and to the South of Wadsworth Avenue, (platted as Isabelle Avenue, 50 feet wide), abutting and to the North of Lot 204 and abutting the East line of the portion of the previously vacated 20 foot wide East/West alley.

True copies of this notice are served and published in accordance with the provisions of said Act No. 283 of 1909, as amended.

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
Real Estate, 3rd Floor
Attention: Sandra M. Martin
415 Clifford Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Published: December 21 & 28 & January 4, 2009

Daily Specials: 25c Wings ALL DAY EVERYDAY!!

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

Monday: 1/2 off pizza

Tuesday: Burritos \$7.95 all day
• Open Mic 11pm - 2am
• Domestic Pints \$3.99 - close

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

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

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

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

Lunch 11am - 5pm
20% OFF
Total Food Bill
*Excludes Alcohol. Not to be used with other offers or daily specials. Dine in only.

Dinner
Buy Entrée \$9.95 or more,
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As seen in the Yellow Pages

Class action lawsuit sparks furnace repair

The following is an e-mail description of a serious furnace problem, which is located in the furnace room of many American homes, and yet many homeowners don't even know they have it. Sarah and Bob wrote:

"We have the Consumers Energy Appliance Insurance Plan — we heard you recommend it on your show — and called them when our 10-year-old Bryant gas furnace wouldn't start. Consumers is a little difficult to get hold of because you have to call a general number and it takes some choices before you get to the appliance insurance line. They said they would send someone out, but when the service man called we couldn't get to the phone and he didn't leave a phone number to call him back. So, by 8 p.m. that same evening I called Consumers and they said the service man will only call once and so we would just have to wait even though it was very cold that night. She said it was too bad we hadn't answered the phone!



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

"I told her we were senior citizens but she didn't give us any reassurance. But then we were surprised when a service man did call at approximately 10 p.m. that same evening and came right over to temporarily repair the furnace. In a few days another Consumers service man came over with a part for the furnace and we were told that these Bryant furnaces were part of a class action suit! We should have the company that installed it check it out thoroughly because two flames were blue and one was yellow and there was water in the exhaust pipe.

"Well, the company that installed it didn't give us much reassurance and would only give us \$400 toward the repair, so we called Haley in Dexter and they were totally aware of the problem with these furnaces and made a date to repair the secondary heat exchanger. They want to repair it before the end of the year because everything will be covered! It will be an all-day job because they have to gut the furnace.

"I researched the class action suit on the Internet and indeed our model number was listed as one that would be covered. We had never received any letters about this because it was not a "recall." We were just curious as to your knowledge of this class action suit regarding a polypropylene-laminated secondary heat exchanger. Perhaps you have discussed it on your show and we missed it, but since owners don't receive any letters as to the problem, maybe you could make them aware of it. Thanks."

Thank you Sarah and Bob for making people aware through this newspaper column. The Web site for our readers is www.lief-fcabraser.com/furnace.htm.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to applidr@twml.rr.com

SIMPLY SELF STORAGE
HUGE AUCTION SALE - CASH ONLY

Notice: Jan 12, 2009, at or after 9:30 AM
Location: Simply Self Storage
11960 Farmington Rd
Livonia, MI 48150
734-425-9610

Unit # 123 Andrea Watkins, House hold goods
Unit # 133 Andrea Watkins, House hold goods
Unit # 531a Lauri Denis, House hold goods
Unit # 702 Guy Humeniuk, House hold goods
Unit # 215 Carrie Hall, House hold goods
Unit # 759 A and B Michael Strauss, House hold goods

Publish: December 28, 2008

PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 12, 2009, in the **First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

HIDDEN COVE MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PDD) - CONSIDER REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A MINOR PDD AS PERMITTED IN SECTION 27.04 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE INCLUSIVE OF PARCEL NO(S): 052 99 0016 711, 052 99 0016 713, 052 99 0016 715 (451 LOTZ S.), 052 99 0016 717. Property is located north of Cherry Hill Road and west of Lotz Road.

Hidden Cove Assisted Living Facility 052-PDD-077

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, January 8, 2009 in order to be included in the materials to be reviewed.

Greg Green, Vice-Chairman

Publish: December 28, 2008

SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1,622nd REGULAR MEETING

LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL DECEMBER 3, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Present: Thomas Robinson, Don Knapp, Terry Godfroid-Marecki, James McCann, Joe Laura, Brian Meakin, and Laura Toy. Absent: None.

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

#524-08 Resolution by Knapp and Robinson, unanimously adopted, approving the minutes of the 1,621st Regular Meeting of the Council held November 19, 2008, as submitted.

McCann wished his grandson, Kaiden, a Happy 1st Birthday on December 4, 2008. He also wished his son a Happy 19th Birthday on December 3, 2008.

Mayor Jack Kirksey mentioned that this Saturday the Goodfellows will be selling newspapers so that "no child will be without a Christmas". It is especially important this year with the economy. The tree lighting ceremony was yesterday, and the Mayor encouraged citizens to visit both sides of City Hall in the evening to view the lights made possible by Bright House donating funds to cover the costs. Late this afternoon, under the leadership of Chairman, Jack Engbretson, of the new Brownfield Authority, the group reviewed the Brownfield Plan and associated Reimbursement Plan and approved both. The Council will be giving final approval to the Plan.

There were many discussions by Council, Law, and Mayor Kirksey regarding the Agreement. Sean Kavanagh stated that any changes to the site plan will go back to Council for approval.

Council President Toy relinquished the gavel to Council Vice President Godfroid-Marecki at 8:35 p.m. to speak to the above item.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION:

Don Kolhoff, 14066 Mayfield, stated that this Saturday, December 6, 2008, at 4:00 p.m., the Livonia Symphony Orchestra is having a concert at the Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium at Clarenceville High School. Tickets can be obtained at the Livonia libraries, Livonia Drugs, and at the door for \$17.00 per adult and \$5.00 for students or children.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:
AYES: Knapp, Toy, McCann, Laura, Meakin, and Godfroid-Marecki.
NAYS: Robinson.

Council President Toy resumed the gavel at 8:51 p.m.

President Laura Toy announced the annual Gleaners Food Drive on December 18, 2008 at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus on Farmington Road.

There were many discussions by Council and Mayor Kirksey regarding the providers.

Vice President Godfroid-Marecki mentioned the Christmas Walk this Saturday, December 6, 2008. Tickets can be obtained at the Main Library and Community Resources.

The following items were received and filed:

A revised Livonia Marketplace Planned General Development Agreement between the City of Livonia and Livonia Phoenix, LLC, received December 2, 2008.

#537-08 Resolution by Knapp and McCann, unanimously adopted, referring to the Mayor for his report and recommendation regarding the issue of how to proceed if the City decides to open up the field of Deferred Compensation providers and whether there are certain restrictions in the relationships with current providers that would limit the City's options. (CR 331-08)

A communication from the Civil Service Department, dated September 30, 2008, regarding an Administrative Response to Council Resolution #330-08 on the subject of the City of Livonia's Deferred Compensation Plan providers. (CR 331-08)

There were many discussions by Council and Mayor Kirksey regarding the providers.

A communication from Alicia F. Washeleski, Plante Moran CRESA, LLC, dated November 17, 2008, with an attached Proposal Breakdown and Bid Analysis Post Clarifications sheet on the subject of the General Contractor selection for the new 16th District Court building. (CR 93-07)

#538-08 Resolution by Meakin and Laura, unanimously adopted, authorizing the Administration to enter into negotiations regarding a proposed contract with the Dailey Company, 179 Northpointe Drive, Lake Orion, MI 48359, to serve as General Contractor and complete all work required in connection with the construction of the new 16th District Court building. (CR 93-07)

At the direction of the Chair, Item #12, regarding a request for approval of the Livonia Marketplace Planned General Development Agreement, was removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to the Regular portion of the Agenda.

#539-08 Resolution by Meakin and McCann, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action in connection with a request from T & T Land Clearing, LLC to lease approximately 17.28 acres for a wood recycling operation from the Livonia DPW Yard. (CR 1134-96)

The following resolutions were offered by Laura and McCann:

#525-08 Approving a request submitted by Lori Johnson and Nancy Bingham, Cookie Walk Coordinators, Timothy Lutheran Church, to display 18" x 24" signs at various locations in the City advertising their 2nd annual Christmas Cookie Walk fundraiser on Saturday, December 13, 2008; FURTHER, signs will be displayed from Sunday, December 7, 2008, and removed no later than Sunday, December 14, 2008.

#540-08 Resolution by Meakin and Laura, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action regarding the matter of establishing an additional Capital Improvement Fund for maintenance equipment at the golf courses. (CR 213-01)

#541-08 Resolution by Meakin and Laura, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action regarding whether an addition to a building within a designated historic district would require permission from the Historic Preservation Commission, as well as questions concerning Greenmead, Greenmead 2000, ordinance amendments and the Historic Preservation Commission. (CR 734-97)

#526-08 Approving the designation of authorized depositories to allow the City to collect property tax payments and water bills, as well as purchase Certificates of Deposit at these financial institutions in accordance with Chapter VII, Section 11, of the City Charter.

#542-08 Resolution by Meakin and Godfroid-Marecki, approving increases in use fees and charges for the Playground Program, effective December 1, 2008; FURTHER, a one-time material fee of \$10.00 per participant shall be paid to cover the costs of a t-shirt, specialized crafts and special theme parties. (CR 664-03)

There were many discussions by Council regarding the increases.

Council President Toy relinquished the gavel to Council Vice President Godfroid-Marecki at 9:32 p.m. to speak to the above item.

#527-08 Approving the Specialized Services Transportation Operating Assistance Program third party agreement for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 between the City of Livonia and SMART utilizing Grant Funds to be used for the Livonia Community Transit Program to provide lift-equipped transportation to senior and disabled residents of the City.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:
AYES: Knapp, McCann, Meakin, and Godfroid-Marecki.
NAYS: Robinson, Toy, and Laura.

Council President Toy resumed the gavel at 9:37 p.m.

#528-08 Approving a one-year extension of the contract with D'Angelo Brothers, Inc., 25543 Ranchwood, Farmington Hills, MI 48335, from December 1, 2008 through November 30, 2009, to perform water main taps and service connections, 3/4" to 2", at various locations in the City, at the unit prices submitted on February 11, 2005, with a cap of \$4,000.00 retainage. (CR 525-07)

#543-08 Resolution by Meakin and McCann, approving an increase in usage fees for pavilion rentals at Rotary Park and other parks, effective December 1, 2008; FURTHER, the electricity fee is eliminated. (CR 664-03)

#529-08 Approving a one-year extension of the contract with Vanguard Utility Service, Inc., 1421 West 9th Street, Owensboro, KY 42301, for the period through December 31, 2009, to test, repair, and calibrate large commercial water meters, at various locations in the City, at the unit prices submitted in February of 2007; FURTHER, approving unit prices for all meter sizes requested plus an additional \$8,000.00 to purchase repair parts from budgeted funds. (CR 589-07)

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:
AYES: Knapp, Godfroid-Marecki, McCann, and Meakin.
NAYS: Robinson, Laura, and Toy.

#530-08 Accepting the lowest unit price bids meeting all specifications of All-Pro, 24166 Haggerty Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335, to supply Parks and Recreation Department (Community Recreation Center) with seven (7) Ellipticals or Octane Pro 3700 Cross Trainers based on a total price of \$23,765.00, less trade-in of \$5,100.00, for a net amount of \$18,665.00; and six (6) Model Matrix T5 Treadmills based on a total price of \$24,300.00, less trade-in of \$3,125.00, for a net amount of \$21,175.00; Fitness Things, 1160 West Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170, to supply one (1) Model Cybex Total Body Arc Trainer based on a total price of \$5,288.85, less trade-in of \$400.00, for a net amount of \$4,888.85; and Star Trac, 14410 Myford Road, Irvine, CA 92606, to supply sixteen (16) Spinner NXT Studio Cycles in the amount of \$15,300.00 for a grand total of \$60,028.85 from budgeted funds; FURTHER, rejecting the bids of Fitness Things and Fitness Lifestyles for sixteen (16) Studio Cycles as they did not meet the specifications of the bid.

#544-08 Resolution by Knapp and Godfroid-Marecki, approving an increase in greens fees at Fox Creek, Idyl Wyld and Whispering Willows Golf Courses, effective December 1, 2008.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:
AYES: Knapp, Godfroid-Marecki, McCann, and Meakin.
NAYS: Robinson, Laura, and Toy.

#531-08 Accepting the lowest unit price bids meeting all specifications of Kelgraphics, Mr. Charles Kelly, 110 W. River St., Cadillac, MI 49601, for eight (8) items of clothing; Monroe Sports Varsity Athletic, Mr. Jerry Angel, 1307 W. Seventh St., Monroe, MI 48161, for eighteen (18) items of clothing; and World Promotional Products, Ms. Amber Canales, 3002 Dow Ave., Suite 122, Tustin, CA 92780, for two (2) items of clothing to supply Parks and Recreation Department for the 2009 Fiscal Year; FURTHER, authorizing the purchases from budgeted funds.

#545-08 Resolution by Meakin and Knapp, approving the increases in Capital Improvement Fund Contributions for improvements and purchases at Fox Creek, Idyl Wyld and Whispering Willows Golf Courses, effective December 1, 2008.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:
AYES: Knapp, Godfroid-Marecki, McCann, and Meakin.
NAYS: Robinson, Laura, and Toy.

#532-08 Determining to advise the Wayne County Department of Public Services (Permit Section) that the City of Livonia approved storm sewer site plans and will accept jurisdiction and maintenance of the storm sewer (at no cost to the County) as part of the development of the Speedway SuperAmerica Store No. 8800 located at 33405 Plymouth Road, on the S.W. corner of Plymouth and Farmington Roads, in the N.E. 1/4 of Section 33; FURTHER, that the Speedway SuperAmerica LLC will reimburse the City for any maintenance, as necessary.

#546-08 Resolution by Knapp and Meakin, amending the Golf Course Section of the City of Livonia's Four-Category Fees/Waivers Grid Policy as well as eliminating reference to the Ice Arena, effective December 1, 2008. (CR 660-03)

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:
AYES: Knapp, Godfroid-Marecki, McCann, and Meakin.
NAYS: Robinson, Laura, and Toy.

#533-08 Approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Wayne, the City of Westland, and the City of Livonia to resurface Joy Road from Middlebelt Road to Inkster Road, with the City of Livonia's participation estimated at \$48,088.00, or 4%, and expenditures being made upon receipt of invoices from Wayne County.

#547-08 Resolution by Godfroid-Marecki and Knapp, unanimously adopted, supporting and approving the request of Linear Mold & Engineering, Inc. to obtain tax relief for their property located at 12926 Stark Road under the Wayne County TURBO (Transforming Underdeveloped Residential and Business Opportunities) Development Program. (CR 601-08)

#548-08 Resolution by Knapp and Robinson, unanimously adopted, approving the Bylaws of the Board of the City of Livonia Brownfield Redevelopment Authority ("Brownfield Board"), adopted November 24, 2008, to constitute the rules governing procedures and holding of regular meetings set forth in Section 5(5) of Act No. 361 of Public Acts of 1996 of the State of Michigan, as amended.

#549-08 Resolution by McCann and Robinson, unanimously adopted, referring to the Legislative Committee for its report and recommendation on the subject matter of creating a Northeast Livonia Redevelopment Authority/Corridor.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None.

By Meakin and McCann, unanimously adopted, adjourning this 1,622nd Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia at 9:54 p.m. on December 3, 2008.

LINDA GRIMSBY, CITY CLERK

*The foregoing is a summary of the Council's proceedings in synopsis form as authorized by CR 1158-88. The full text of the official minutes of this meeting is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and is available to the public upon request.



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Friday, January 16, 2009 • 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
 Detroit Marriott • 200 W. Big Beaver Road • Troy, Michigan
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Mechanical Engineers

Work with leaders in military systems to develop and integrate wheeled and tracked vehicle systems. Responsibilities include development, design and integration of the mobility, weapon, survivability, structures, auxiliary, crew, mechanical, and mission system components. The candidate will be responsible for the assimilation of the design requirements, exploring concept solutions, conducting trade studies, developing selected designs, overseeing hardware prototype build, and verification of the design performance characteristics through test validation in preparation for field tests and production. A BSME plus a minimum of 2 years' design experience or equivalent technical degree and experience is required. Pro-E knowledge is desired.

Designers

Must work with engineers and drafters to design and develop subsystems and component parts, which can include, but are not limited to, powertrain, suspension, survivability, structures, auxiliary automotive, mechanical, and/or electrical. The candidate is responsible for the documentation, analysis, layout, and design, up to and including final engineering drawings. Proficiency in Pro-E, 3-D and solid modeling is required, proficiency in CADD5; an AA degree plus a minimum of 5 years' design experience or equivalent work experience is required.

Checker

Ensures the accuracy, completeness, and sound design of engineering documentation to prescribed standards and contractual requirements. Exercises authority to reject incorrect documentation in terms of technical content, standards, and specifications. Supports Model and Drafting/ Drawing Standards and reference manual revisions. Interprets applicable model and drawing standard requirements and assesses the quality of the technical backup data. Must have proficiency in Pro-E with 6 years' mechanical design experience and checking experience. Must be familiar with ASME Y14.100, ASME Y14.41, and proficient with GD & T applications.

Project Engineers

Responsibilities include the technical coordination, lead, and execution of proposals, designs, and development projects (e.g. powertrain, suspension, survivability, structures, auxiliary automotive, mechanical, and/or electrical). As a member of an engineering team, the project engineer is the primary technical point of contact to the customer and is responsible for the project's overall technical compliance. A Bachelor's Degree with 11 years of experience or a Master's Degree with a minimum 9 years' as a project engineer is required.

Electrical Engineers (Mobile, Power Generation and Management, FPGA Logic, Motion Control, Hybrid Electric Automotive, High Voltage Testing)

Requires a broad knowledge of systems and components

for electrical/electronic embedded and test hardware for military systems and vehicles. Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering and 2+ years' experience.

Quality Engineers

Uses a wide range of mechanical or electrical engineering and quality skills to research/review technical design development activities, test, and support documentation for mechanical, digital & analog integration of systems and subsystems. Routine interaction with all levels of management and the customer. Develops quality systems and procedures to monitor design assurance activities. Develops quality provisions, specification, and validation requirements.

Program Manager

Responsible for managing one or more programs. Manage any or all forms of contracts. Oversee program budget and schedules. Has primary responsibilities for program growth; may be responsible for developing and marketing new technology or follow-on business acquisition. Accountable for all schedules, quality, profit, performance, and customer satisfaction with respect to relevant program. Manage departmental personnel, budgets, and administration.

Program Control Analyst

Develop and monitor Earned Value Management (EVM) baselines (budgets, management reserve, undistributed budget, network schedules, and scope changes) for all EVM and other engineering contracts. Analyze cost and schedule variances, determine root causes, program impact, and report contract performance to internal and external customers. Develop and assist in implementation of corrective action strategy for cost and schedule issues. Interact with Program Managers and Control Account Managers to guide problem resolution. Ensure data integrity and quality of all performance reporting submitted to both internal and external customers. Make presentations to management on contract performance status and implications of problems/ issues. Prior EVM experience is required.

Configuration Data Management Specialist

A minimum of 10 years of experience working in a CDM environment of which 5 or more years is spent in supporting a project in the DoD acquisition environment, or an equivalent mix of project and CDM Core staff experience. Three years of related work experience in a manufacturing or engineering environment with a demonstrated understanding of functional interrelationship of contract administration, design engineering, manufacturing, quality and logistics are required. Must have extensive knowledge of identification, change control, status accounting and audit requirements and procedures. Requires excellent knowledge of CDM computer applications (i.e. CDM systems, CCC, SUN, PC, UNIX) and be thoroughly skilled in their operation.

Specialty Engineers (Senior Reliability/Maintainability, Quality)

Requires strong/broad background in reliability/probability with application to complex military or aerospace systems; Bachelor's in ME, EE, Math or Physics.

Systems Engineers

Requires knowledge in one or more of the following: weapon systems, requirements analysis and performance optimization; vehicle design and physical architectures, embedded system integration, architectures and interfaces, C4ISR, sensor integration, survivability suites, ballistic fire control, integrated diagnostics, control systems, operations research, requirements management, objective oriented modeling. Requires a Bachelor's or Master's in Engineering or related technical field.

Supply Chain

Responsible for gathering, analyzing, and presenting program data across all systems platforms within a particular program; the development and implementation of tools and procedures to aid in the strategic execution of materials procurement; and guiding and instructing key members of the supply chain organization in proper and efficient use of company technological and systems assets. Requires B.S. degree in Business, Finance, or Information Systems; strong analytical, communication (written & verbal) and excellent presentation skills. Strong technical skills in an information systems discipline with the ability to perform financial analysis.

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ADA UPDATE -- WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU



WORKWISE
by
Mildred L. Culp

If you want to change industries, move into one that's growing and almost crying out for new employees. But new employees are one thing; career-changers, another. Energy is one of few receptive industries. Although it doesn't publish statistics on numbers being hired, it provides welcome relief to refugees of declining industries.

A note of caution comes from Gretchen Krueger, author of "Opportunities in Petroleum Careers" (McGraw-Hill, \$14.95). You must be able to weather the industry's cycles. Self-promotion will help you bore your way into the industry and related industries should prospects with your employer dim.

HIRING

William Pike is editor-in-chief/editorial director at Hart Energy Publishing L.L.P., a Houston publishing house employing 125 people largely covering the oil and gas industry. He reports that, for several years, the industry has been investing tremendous effort in hiring and retaining new people. While there are numerous opportunities for engineers of all kinds, with the possible exception of aeronautical, he comments that opportunities in the "support infrastructure are often overlooked. These include accounting, HR and IT, (the last) increasingly important as we move into digital

operations."

Zeffrey Lucas confirms Pike's report of the commitment to hiring. He is president of operations in the Americas for Production Services Network Inc. (PSN), which has almost 8,000 employees worldwide, with 2,000 in North America. This global energy and gas service provider, headquartered in Aberdeen, Scotland, draws employees from the military, not just because of their skill sets and technical training, but because of their work ethic. "We've been actively pursuing them," Lucas states. They take on a wide range of functions, from accounting to commercial planning.

Another company, Petrobeam Inc., in Raleigh, N.C., and on Long Island, brings people from wide-ranging industries, such as pharmaceuticals and software development, according to G.R. ("Bud") Brainerd, president and CEO. He explains that this privately-held start-up, opened in 2005, has 17 employees developing a technology -- a process that will be implemented throughout the petroleum industry. They are lab technicians, executive assistants to engineers, AR and AP workers, and engineering techs with background in electrical engineering, plumbing and metalworking.

RESISTANCE/RETENTION

Career-changers, if you believe these three leaders, encounter very little resistance in the process of being hired, retained or promoted. Brainerd, in fact, observes that resistance in his company doesn't exist: "We're looking for people from non-petroleum industries, because since we're integrating a technology that's been around for a long time into a new industry, we need people who can think outside of

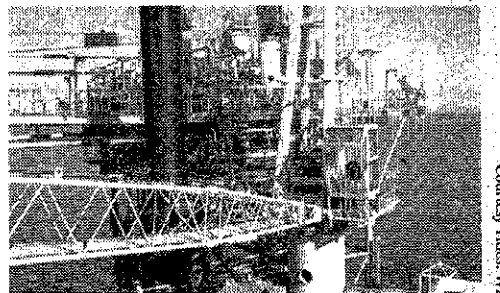
the petroleum box. They're a tremendous advantage to us, because they come without pre-conceived ideas and concepts that we often have to challenge." For example, he cites the company's director of operations, with a decade in investment banking and previous experience as an engineer developing a production plant for a non-woven fiber, a new product line. His combined engineering, start-up and financial experience was unbeatable.

Pike says that well-qualified people with good employment records encounter little resistance. However, employees at PSN find a different workflow. "It's a very fast-paced group that typically has a lot of irons in the fire," Lucas observes. "It's not just an 8:00 to 5:00 (job), because the workload comes and goes."

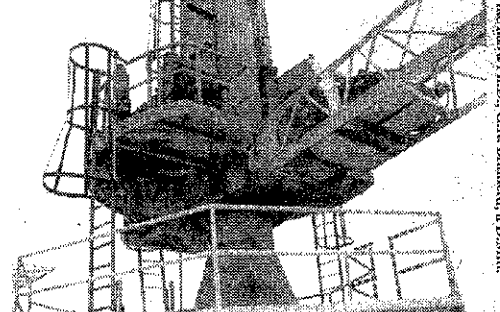
Compensation has a lot to do with retention industry-wide. Employee ownership rules at Petrobeam, where 13 employees are participating and the remaining four are relatively new. PSN tailors its benefits to the individual. Pike notes that support "salaries are highly competitive" for career-changers.

If you have doubts about the viability of the industry for you, consider what Brainerd says about the equal importance of skill set and team skill: "A person with great skills who can't work in a team environment is really of no value in our organization. A person with great team skills -- the ability to get along, interact, cooperate as a colleague -- we can teach."

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. E-mail your questions to culp@workwise.net. Copyright 2008 Passage Media.)



This jack-up rig services an oil and gas platform in the Gulf of Mexico.



A crane and pedestal sit atop an oil and gas platform in the Gulf of Mexico. Both are staffed by employees of Production Services Network Inc., of Aberdeen, Scotland, whose North American employees number approximately 2,000.

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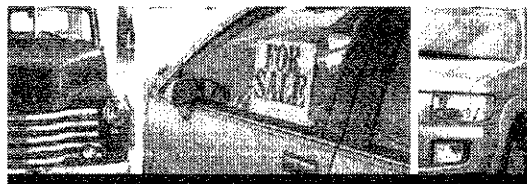
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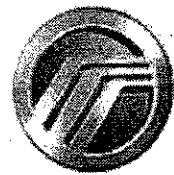
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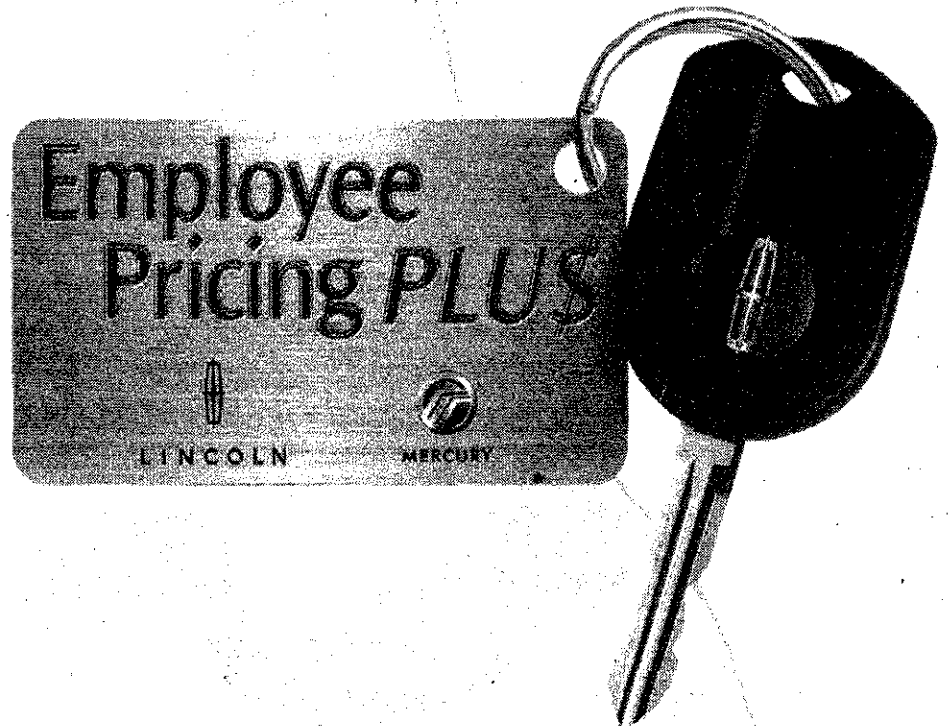
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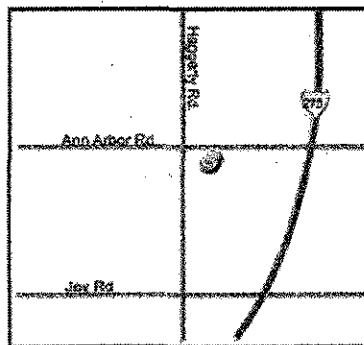


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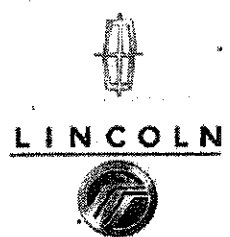


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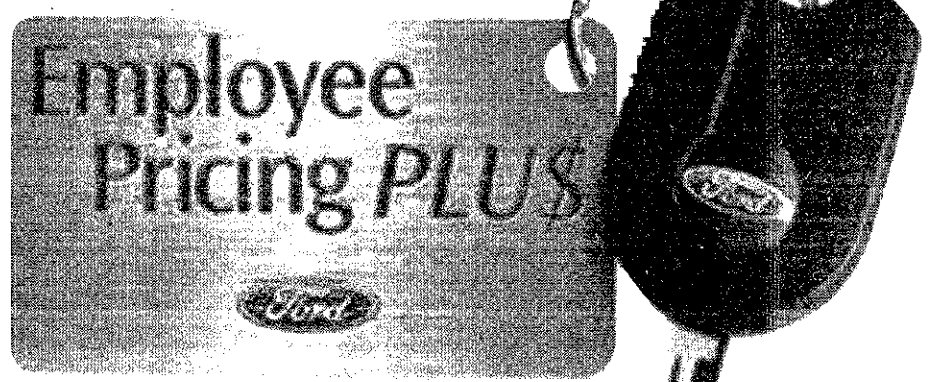
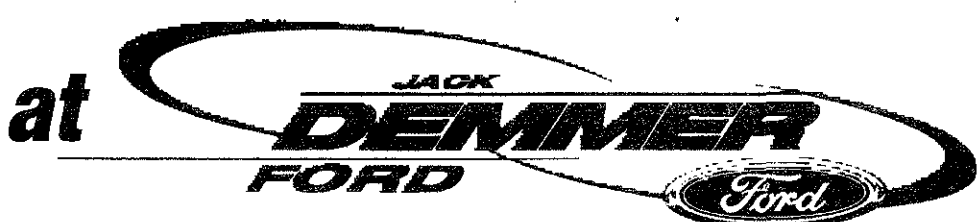
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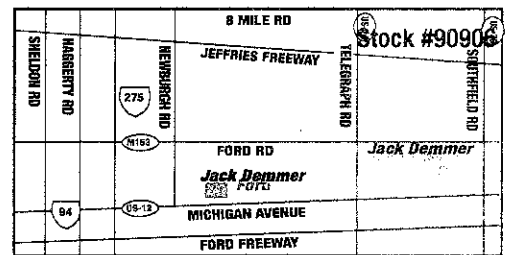
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