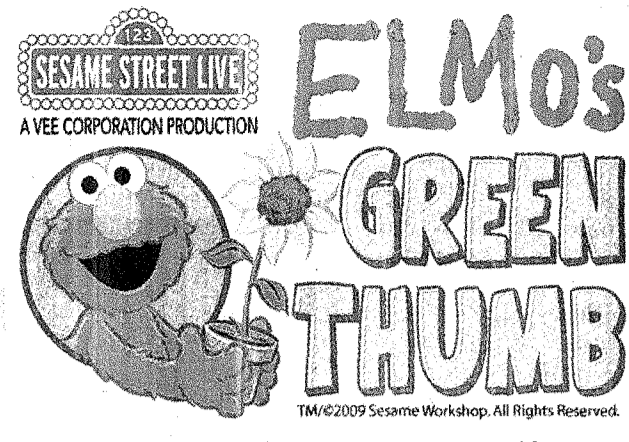


# Happy New Year

## WESTLAND OBSERVER

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### IN BRIEF

#### Stand by

Bright House Networks announced this week the negotiations over cable fees continue with Fox Broadcasting Co. The contract expires Dec. 31. They hope there will not be an interruption in programming.

A statement from Bright House on Monday read:

"Our organization continues to negotiate in good faith and is confident that we will reach agreement. Please understand, should Fox stop transmitting their signal to us and go off the air, that would be Fox's choice to do so, not Bright House Networks'.

"It is not unusual for programmers to keep their channel available to our customers while good faith negotiations continue. It is our hope that if the deal cannot be finalized by Jan. 1, Fox would decide to keep their programming available under current terms so no one misses any programming. If you wish to let Fox know your concerns, please call WJBK-TV directly at (248) 557-2000."

Bright House serves cable subscribers in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Novi and Redford.

#### Zumba is back

Try Zumba for free at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road, Westland.

Zumba is a fusion of Latin and international music and dance themes that creates a dynamic, exciting, effective and fun fitness system. The routines feature aerobic/fitness interval training with a combination of fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body.

Bring a bottle of water and a towel.

An eight-week class is offered 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 13 through March 3. The cost is \$48 for Westland residents, \$53 for nonresidents. Drop-in students are welcome.

To register, call (734) 722-7620 or stop by the Bailey Center 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. For more information, visit [www.zumba-detroit.com](http://www.zumba-detroit.com) or [www.elementsofexercise.com](http://www.elementsofexercise.com).

#### Y open house

The Livonia Family YMCA will hold an open house 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

The whole family can come into the facility for free to swim, participate in sports clinics, sample group fitness classes and/or work out in the Wellness Center.

The Livonia Family YMCA is at 14255 Stark in Livonia. For more information including times for events and clinics, visit [www.ymcadetroit.org](http://www.ymcadetroit.org) or call (734) 261-2161.

## Churches doing more with less



Mary Anne Daily sorts clothing in the John Bolde Memorial Food Depot at the St. Mary Community Outreach Center in Westland.

### Requests for help up; attendance remains steady

BY KAREN SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Christmas is over, but the giving season doesn't end for churches.

Year-round, area churches provide food, monetary assistance — even counseling — to those in need. And, with the Detroit area recently posting the highest unemployment rate of 49 metropolitan areas with a Census 2000 population of one million or more, several of those churches are doing more than ever to help.

Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia and Fair Haven Baptist Church in Westland both recently started new programs to assist the hungry, and St. Robert Bellarmine in Redford recently held a series of seminars for the unemployed and now offers a support group for people who have lost their jobs.

The churches assist not only their own members but people who come in off the street, even though some of those congregations are struggling themselves.

#### 'A GREAT OPPORTUNITY'

"People of faith see it as a great



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wendy Gerstenberger and Beth LaBelle ready food for pickup at Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia. The new Angel Food Ministries program, started just six months ago, already assists 130 families.

opportunity to partner with people to find hope," said Robert Hegdal, pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Redford, which is looking into providing classes in managing finances in troubling times.

Mt. Hope Congregational's new Angel Food Ministries program, started just six months ago, already assists 130 families, pastor Steve Schafer said.

The John Bolde Memorial Food Depot at the St. Mary Community Outreach Center in Westland has

given out 163,132 pounds of food this year, assisting more than 30 families a day.

Connection Church in Canton has experienced a 55-percent increase in demand for its Open Door Ministry, a distribution center that serves families in need from Canton, Westland, Livonia, Garden City, Plymouth and other communities.

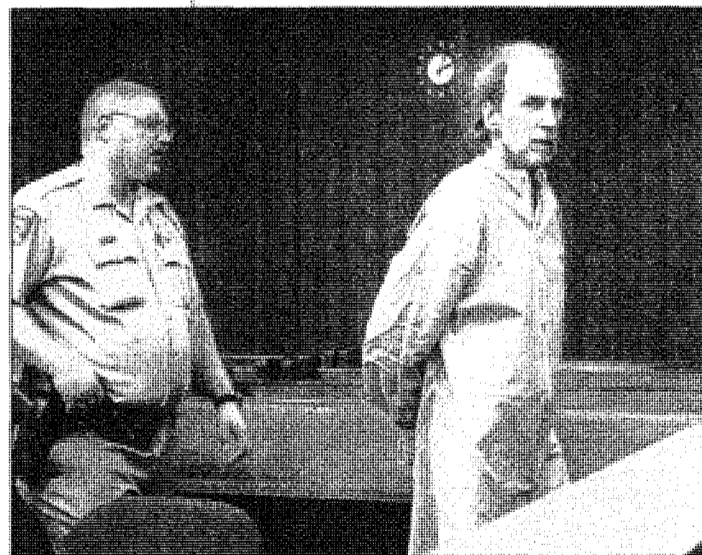
"The number of families looking for help has just gone way up," said Steve Darr, director of Open Door Ministry. "They have either been

laid off or their hours have been cut — and some have disabilities."

#### HELPING MEMBERS

One Sunday in early December, lifechurch of Canton, part of the rapidly growing Evangelical Covenant Church, reached out to its own members, placing baskets inside curtained areas of the auditorium and inviting attendees to go inside. Those who have survived tough times could

Please see **CHURCHES, A12**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Earl Edward McClellan returns to a 16th District Court holding cell after arraignment.

## Man arraigned in roommate's beating death

A 60-year-old Livonia man was arraigned Monday in the beating death of his 67-year-old roommate whose body was found in his home Christmas Day, Detective Sgt. Mike Killingbeck said.

The deceased, Geoffrey Charlesworth, was tied by duct tape to a chair and beaten with a pipe wrench over the course of several days, Killingbeck said. Police believe the beatings started Dec. 21 and Charlesworth died sometime between Dec. 23 and noon Dec. 25 when officers found his body, Killingbeck said.

An autopsy was unable to determine the exact time and day of death, Detective Jessica Sabbadin said. However, it is believed Charlesworth was dead at least a day before his body was found, she said.

The motive for the killing appears to have been money, the sum of which was under

\$100, Sabbadin said.

The suspect, Earl Edward McClellan, was arraigned in 16th District Court, Livonia, on charges of felony homicide and habitual fourth, which means he had a criminal record, Killingbeck said. That record included mostly drug-related and theft charges, Sabbadin said. He is being held without bond, awaiting a Jan. 7 preliminary exam.

Police were called to the home the men shared for about a year in the 9800 block of Auburndale when relatives of the suspect were unable to contact him. Officers suspected something was wrong after they questioned McClellan upon his answering the door. McClellan let officers in, and they found the body in a back bedroom, Killingbeck said.

—By Karen Smith

### Index

APARTMENTS	B10
AUTOMOTIVE	B11
CAREER BUILDER	B9
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	B10
FILE	B6
FOOD	B7
OBITUARIES	B4
PUBLIC SAFETY	A4
REAL ESTATE	B9
SPORTS	B1
STRICTLY BUSINESS	A6

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## Not all the news was bad in '09

Challenging and redefining, 2009 was a harbinger of "the new normal" in Michigan. Families making do with less, government downsizing and schools undertaking the painful process of contraction. But the economic downturn was only part of the story. Michigan is full of hearty people who are at their best in trying times and many of their stories unfolded on our pages. Here is a look at some of the top stories of 2009.

#### TRIUMPH

A dance instructor at the Livonia Senior Center followed her dream despite losing a foot. Barb Duka of Westland continued to lead a group of about 35 people at the Livonia Senior Center, wearing a blue smock embroidered with flowers and ladybugs, reflective of the spring in her step. "Heel, heel, toe, toe, step together, quarter turn, heel, heel, toe, toe, step together, angle up," Duka chants, keeping the group in rhythm. Duka's lower leg had to be amputated due to an infection, but she never lost her indomitable spirit.



FILE PHOTO

Barb Duka (with microphone) calls out instruction to the 35 dancers at the Livonia Senior Center.

"I was never the type to be depressed," Duka said. "I wanted to know 'what's next, when am I coming back.' They made me a leg, and I just took off like a bat out of hell."

Please see **2009, A12**

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# Youngsters present holiday pageant

It's become a holiday tradition for Anne McKolay's kindergarten classes - a musical that includes songs and performances celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

The Schweitzer Elementary youngsters took to the stage at Stockmeyer Auditorium on the campus of Wayne Memorial High School to present their Winter Holidays Pageant. This is the eighth year McKolay has had youngsters do the show for their families and friends.

For the Hanukkah celebration, children sang and danced to *I Have a Little Dreidel*. They also sang *Celebrate Kwanzaa* and recited the seven Swahili words and their English equivalent words that represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

The Christmas program began with a short play set to the poem *'Twas the Night before Christmas*, followed by a



The youngsters sing and dance to "I Have a Little Dreidel."

chant, *Call Rudolf*. The entire class then sang *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* and presented it in sign language. The youngsters ended the program by singing *What a Wonderful*

*World and Catch a Falling Star* before leading the audience in a rousing sing-along of several traditional holiday songs.

Schweitzer Elementary is in Westland.



Kindergartners from Schweitzer Elementary School in Westland observed all of the December holidays, including Christmas, during their recent Winter Holidays Pageant. Playing the lead was Nathaniel Miller as Santa Claus.

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# Two men charged in Dillon recall effort

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A preliminary examination has been scheduled for Tuesday for two men charged with falsifying names on petitions to recall Michigan House Speaker Andy Dillon.

Harvey Robinson, 39, of Redford and Michael Bastianelli of Westland have

been charged on two felony counts each — uttering and publishing and violating state election laws on petition gathering. Both were arraigned in Livonia 16th District Court and released on \$20,000 personal bond.

Robinson is accused of paying homeless people to forge names of Redford residents, obtained from a telephone book, on the

petitions, said Nick DeLeeuw, spokesman for the Michigan Attorney General's office.

Bastianelli is charged with personally forging names on the petitions, said DeLeeuw.

Dillon, D-Redford, easily withstood the November 2008 recall effort. Michigan State Police reported they had been investigating allegations that signatures on the recall peti-

tions were phony since May 2008.

State police reported that the two men faked signatures of Redford-area residents who hadn't actually signed the petitions. The Michigan Attorney General's office had reviewed the case and no further charges were anticipated.

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# Forgotten Harvest gets chickens from Kroger

Kroger has donated 8,000 pounds of frozen chicken to Forgotten Harvest as part of the grocer's Bringing Hope to the Table campaign to help feed the hungry.

The contribution was made possible due to a donation by Orland, Ind.-based Miller

Amish Country Poultry, a distributor of chicken to Kroger's Michigan stores.

A partner since 2000, 76 Kroger stores in the Detroit tri-county area help support Forgotten Harvest through food and monetary donations. Kroger estimates

it will donate 3.4 million pounds of food to Forgotten Harvest in 2009.

"Thanks to Miller Amish Country Poultry's generosity, Kroger's chicken donation to Forgotten Harvest will provide 8,000 meals to those in need," said Rick Going, presi-

dent of Kroger's Michigan Division. "As food assistance continues to grow in Michigan, contributions from organizations, such as Miller Amish Country Poultry and Kroger are so essential."

"We are honored to have the opportunity to make this food donation to Kroger to help those in need this winter season," added Len Neeb, manager at Miller Amish Country Poultry. "Our company has a deep-rooted tradition of giving back to those less fortunate and we are grateful for this opportunity."

Forgotten Harvest is appreciative of the support from both businesses.

"We're pleased to see Kroger and Miller Amish Country Poultry working together to come to the aid of families who face real hunger because of their economic hardships," said Susan Goodell, president and CEO of Forgotten Harvest. "This help will make a difference in people's lives this winter."

**Does your New Year's Resolution include health, diet or exercise? The key is better sleep!**

**YES, you can buy a good night's sleep, supporting better health and weight loss!**

Experts agree that good health depends on seven to eight hours of high quality uninterrupted sleep each night. According to the New York Times, "a chronic shortage of sleep has been linked to serious physical illnesses including heart disease, diabetes and obesity." Moodiness, depression and poor concentration are other common side effects.

"Good health depends on seven to eight hours of high quality uninterrupted sleep"

With half of New Year's resolutions including weight loss this year, it's important to know that sleep is a key ingredient for success. A sixteen year study by Case Western Reserve University showed that lower levels of sleep cause large weight gains—as much as 33 pounds or more for women sleeping 5 hours per night. Sleeping seven hours a night helps to regulate the chemicals that impact fat metabolism and overeating. The National Sleep Foundation reports that 60% of us have sleep disturbance two or more nights each week, and 40% struggle with drowsiness during the day because of sleep problems.

"Lower levels of sleep cause large weight gains—as much as 33 pounds or more"

The answer may be as simple as a new mattress—as long as it is the right mattress for your body. Hundreds of people have already discovered the great benefits of the unique "sleep diagnostic system" offered at the new Art Van Pure Sleep store on Ford Road in Canton. Pure Sleep creates the right "sleep system" for you, including the proper mattress and foundation for proper support and comfort, the correct pillow to ensure correct spinal alignment, and a mattress protector to provide a clean and healthy sleeping environment.

"60% of us have sleep disturbance two or more nights each week"

"The #1 reason for poor sleep is stress, closely followed by the tossing and turning that comes from the wrong mattress or pillow. If you aren't waking up feeling refreshed and renewed, you are probably sleeping on the wrong mattress" said Vice President of Operations Steve Glucksman. "In just a few minutes, our sleep diagnostic system fits you with the right mattress, foundation and pillow for your own unique body and sleep style. It takes the guess work out of choosing a mattress and brings in the science of sleep."

"The staff at Pure Sleep is specially trained and committed to finding the right sleep system to give you a great night's sleep and get you on your way to better health" said Glucksman. But what about the cost? "Rest assured, we have the buying power of Michigan's #1 Mattress Retailer, Art Van - guaranteeing the lowest prices, best selection and complete satisfaction for every person we serve."

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**CLARIFICATION**

Readers trying to contact the Lighthouse Home Missions about donations or volunteering at the Warming Center will find that it is closed through Jan. 4. Calls should be directed to Thelma Ivey at (734) 261-0275. After January, call the Lighthouse Home Missions at (734) 326-3885.

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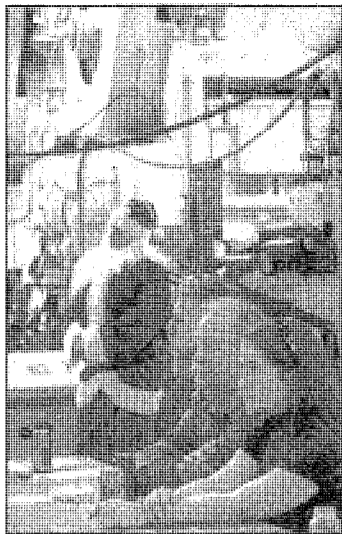
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# Alpha Stamping celebrates past, diversifies for the future



Jeff Washelewski, Fred Spring, Brandi Spring and Santa Claus listen to Bob Baar talk about an improving outlook for the company, now branching out beyond the auto industry.

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Alpha Stamping Plant epitomizes what is happening to manufacturers and industrial plants.

The Livonia company once created washers for Ford Motor Co. as Washers Inc. Today the plant has retrooled, venturing into other economic sectors ranging from fastener assemblies and stampings to engineering solutions.

Alpha celebrated its 50th anniversary Dec. 23 at its building located at Farmington and Glendale, but actually company officials called it a "50/52" celebration after paperwork was found that indicated articles of incorporation were filed with the state in 1957.

Purchasing manager Bob Baar reminded everyone of the company's history. In 1957, a household income averaged \$4,500 a year and a house cost \$12,000. Whether it is 50 or 52 years, it is "an awfully long time to do business," Baar said.

"In the late '70s and early '80s, things were bleak, but we got through it," Baar said. "We did what we had to do. We survived."

Alpha Stamping is a manufacturer of specialty metal fasteners serving the automotive industry and a leading independent manufacturer of washers serving the North American market, according to the company's Web site.

The company offers a full line of automotive washer products and specializes in the manufacture of keps washers, the most technically challenging washers to manufacture. ASC also offers a wide range of brackets, nut-and-bolt assemblies and stampings.

On Dec. 23, company officials recognized employees who worked for the company for 10 years and longer. Attending the luncheon were Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, state Sen. Glenn



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christine Strumbos thanks everyone for their years of service to the company. Behind her are some of the employees who have 30 or more years of service.

Anderson, D-Westland, state Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, and Livonia Treasurer Dennis Wright.

Anderson and Walsh presented a resolution from the state, while Kirksey presented one from the city.

Nick Strumbos, president and CEO of Alpha, later said one of the more significant changes for the company was the move to manufacture spring seats for the Ford Explorer about 20 years ago, according to Strumbos.

"We looked at an axle assembly," Strumbos said. "A clip was welded to an axle, and we designed a slot and circle that mirrored each other, and attached the brake line to the spring seat. That saved Ford Motor Co. some money. We designed some stampings to work with that."

That move also made the vehicle two pounds lighter, Strumbos said. Today the company that at one time furnished Ford with its washers exclusively now provides

the company with assemblies and materials in plants worldwide in Europe, Mexico and Brazil.

To develop ideas, Strumbos met with Bob Stewart, director of engineering. "We take a piece of metal and we can install a bolt and a nut and make it a one-piece assembly," Strumbos said about the stamping process.

Today the company is working for engineering solutions, developing "value-added" parts for manufacturers so that companies can save money by using Alpha's parts, Strumbos said. "Value-added is the way to survive," Strumbos said.

Strumbos said the company just completed a difficult year, but the future looks bright for Alpha.

"We're getting through some steel contracts and working with our suppliers," Strumbos said. The company was down to about 40 workers earlier this year, but now things are turning around, he said.

The company plans to continue its focus on engineering solutions, Strumbos said. "We go into the plant and design a fix for it," he said.

Chuck Dardas, chief operating officer, said the company will continue to pursue emerging markets to survive and thrive, looking into the construction trades, such as bridge building and infrastructure programs, and manufacturers of large equipment such as Caterpillar and John Deere.

"We're an engineering solutions company," Dardas said. "We work with engineers to come up with ideas and solutions." Dardas added that the company has 11 patents.

Strumbos believes the company has the brainpower and workers to succeed. "We just have good people," Strumbos said. "Unless you have the people who can stretch and reach (your goals), you can't do it."

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Water main break

The southbound curb lane on Wayne Road at Fairchild was being excavated Tuesday morning as workers tried to locate a break in the water main that runs under the roadway.

"It's a break. We've opened up the right lane and we're digging to find it," said Westland Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford.

Since Wayne Road is a county road, Wayne County Roads engineering staff came out to review the situation.

"Wayne County asked us to use a special slurry (to repair the road)," said Buford. "Traffic will be disrupted. Hopefully we will only shut down the southbound curb lane."

The water began leaking on Sunday and DPS staff turned down the water pressure rather than shutting the main, which has kept the water on for nearby residents.

"We thought it was a leaking gate valve. It's possibly the main that supplies Fairchild between Wayne Road and Wildwood," said Buford.

### Christmas tree composting

The city of Livonia's recycling and compost service will collect Christmas trees for composting on residents' regularly scheduled collection day the week of Jan. 4-8.

All decorations must be removed and the tree should not be in a plastic bag.

For further information on yard waste collection and other refuse/recycling services, contact the Livonia Sanitation Department at (734) 466-2588.

### School officer

A police officer will continue to be assigned to Westland John Glenn High School under an agreement between the Westland police department and Wayne-Westland Schools.

The agreement calls for the cost of the school resource officer to be divided between the schools and the city. An officer has been assigned full time at the high school since 2007.

Currently, Officer Dan Serrano is assigned as the SRO and reports directly to Lt. Dan Karrick, who heads the Detective Bureau. "Having

an officer assigned to the high school full time has been an extraordinary arrangement," Mayor William Wild said. "Not only is he able to respond to the concerns of students, teachers and parents more quickly, but he is able to bring with him the full resources of the Westland Police Department."

### YMCA hosts blood drive

The Livonia Family YMCA will host an American Red Cross blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2. The YMCA is at 14255 Stark Road in Livonia. For more information, visit [www.ymcadetroit.org](http://www.ymcadetroit.org) or call (734) 261-2161.

### Inauguration

Mayor William Wild and four council members will be sworn in during a public inauguration ceremony at 6 p.m. Monday at the Bailey Recreation Center, behind City Hall.

Wild will be sworn in for his first full four-year term as mayor. He was appointed mayor, served one year and then was elected to serve the two years remaining on the term.

Council members taking office will include incumbent Dewey Reeves, Christine Cicirelli Bryant, Meriem Kadi and Adam Hammons. All will be sworn in for four-year terms except Hammons, who will serve for two years.

The public is invited to the ceremony. The first meeting of the new council will take place at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

### Donations sought

The Blue Barrel collects new and gently used items which are directly delivered to those in need. This year, the group is donating items to the First Step Domestic Violence Shelter and Detroit Rescue Mission. All donations received and purchased, are sorted, packed and delivered by volunteers in their own vehicles.

The deadline for making donations has been extended until Friday, Jan. 1. Donations of clothing, food, toiletries and other items can be dropped at Chatters Bar and Grill, 7640 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

For questions or to arrange pickup, send e-mail to [thebluebarrel@wowway.com](mailto:thebluebarrel@wowway.com).

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Cell phone store hit by armed robber

**GARDEN CITY**  
**Armed robbery**

A man who needed a credit check to buy a new cell phone but presented no identification robbed the Sprint by Digicon store at 155 N. Inkster in Garden City about 7 p.m. Dec. 23.

When the man was denied a phone, he told the clerk that he would get his friend to help him buy a phone.

The man waited until the manager left and then re-entered the store. He approached the counter, pulled out a handgun and robbed the clerk.

"Don't do anything stupid," the suspect said to the clerk.

He then rummaged through drawers for money.

The clerk waited about 15 minutes until her manager returned to call the police because she said that she didn't know what to do.

"Do what you gotta do, girl," the suspect said as he left the store. He fled east, south of Inkster and west on Cherry Hill.

The man is described as black, with short hair, 25-30 years old, about 5-foot-6 and weighing about 190 pounds.

### Stolen car

The police found no shattered glass in the 33300 block of Florence where a man reported that his 2002 Chevy Blazer was stolen from his driveway. The owner said that he has the only set of keys. The report didn't indicate if the vehicle was locked.

### LIVONIA

#### Retail fraud

A 42-year-old Detroit man was arrested on a charge of retail fraud II early Tuesday after he stole five DVD players from Meijer at Schoolcraft and Middlebelt roads. The man was arrested by police at 3:20 a.m. as he was getting into his truck in the Meijer parking lot. Meijer security officers had been watching the man and called police after he left the store without paying for the items, which totaled \$233.

A 32-year-old Detroit man was arrested at 3:30 p.m. Monday after he tried to steal nearly \$400 of merchandise from Sears on Seven Mile. The man had hidden a man's watch, women's jewelry and a portable MP3 player in his jacket pockets while trying on clothes in the fitting room. The man was stopped by loss prevention officers after he left the store without paying for the items.

### Home invasion

Officers are investigating the break-in of a home in the 9900 block of Arcola sometime between Christmas Eve and Monday. The homeowner returned to the residence Monday after being out of town and discovered a kitchen window broken and a 32-inch flat screen TV missing. The thief had removed a screen and thrown a rock through the window to break it. He cut himself as he crawled through the broken glass. Blood was found at the scene.

### Larceny from auto

A woman's purse containing \$60 cash and credit cards was stolen from a Saturn parked at 32000 Plymouth Road sometime between 12:45 and 3:50 p.m. Monday. The vehicle had been locked. The perpetrator broke the passenger side front window to gain access to the vehicle.

### WESTLAND

#### Retail fraud

A New Boston woman was arrested for shoplifting and drug possession at Meijer, 37201 Warren, Monday. A store employee told police that he saw the woman select three facial creams, take them to another aisle and remove the items from the boxes before putting them into her purse.

The woman then selected five other items from different aisles including moist wipes and shoe inserts, which were also concealed in her purse as she left the store. The employee said the woman was stopped and the items valued at \$71 were recovered.

The officer also confiscated numerous partially smoked marijuana cigarettes and rolling papers from the woman's

### purse. Break-in

A resident in the 35000 block of June told police Monday that someone had stolen a compound miter saw, two chainsaws, a welder, cordless tool set and a reciprocating saw valued at \$1,578 from his unlocked garage. He said the dashboard of his truck was also damaged in an apparent attempt to steal the radio.

The man told police he has had several previous break-ins, most recently on Nov. 22.

### Attempted auto theft

On Monday, a resident of an apartment at 7600 Nankin Court told police that someone had attempted to steal his 2004 Chevrolet Impala. The driver's door lock and the ignition on the vehicle had been damaged.

### REDFORD

#### Break-in

Police responded to a breaking and entering of M and R Mechanical Services, 13040 Inkster Road, about 6:30 p.m. Dec. 25 that was just discovered.

The owner said that someone broke a window to gain entry into the business. The suspects stole all of the vehicle keys as well as some wrapped Christmas presents.

They left the building by stealing a van and ramming open the front gate. The van was later recovered by the Detroit Police Department and was impounded. Tools were also stolen from the business.

### Home invasion

A man who was house sitting a home in the 25200 block of Schoolcraft reported that someone broke in sometime before 8 p.m. Sunday.

He said that a door that he left locked was found open when he returned. He also found a side door damaged.

Someone rummaged through drawers but did not steal the electronics or weapons inside the home.

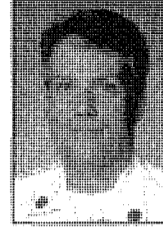
Some coins were stolen.

- Compiled by Observer staff writers

## Ring in the new year with fire safety

BY TOM KIURSKI

As another year begins, we are all making promises to lose weight, clean the basement and make more meals at home. While these are good things to do, we must also consider being more fire safe in the new year. Here are a few tips to get you started:



Tom Kiurski

- Make sure you have a working smoke alarm on every level of the home and outside of sleeping areas. Pick one day each month (the first of the month, for example) to test all the smoke alarms in your home and mark it on your calendars. Never "borrow" batteries from smoke alarms for other purposes and replace any smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old.

- Take out your fire extinguisher and go over how to use it with family members over the age of 12. Show them where it is kept, how to get to it and how to use it correctly. Go over the A, B and C classes of fire with them (ordinary combustibles, flammable liquids and energized electrical equipment, respectively) and the proper way to use the extinguisher. The acronym P-A-S-S is a great memory aid to remember how to use it during an emergency (Pull the pin, Aim the nozzle at the base of the flames, Squeeze the handle/button, and Sweep from side to side).

- If you don't have a home escape plan, make one up with your family. The plan should include two ways out of every room in the home, an outside family meeting place, the location of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, the family

first aid kit and the disaster kit. The most important part of this is to practice the plan at least twice a year. Make it a fun time, with milk and a cookie for everyone after the drill is done.

- Have a mini course on kitchen fire safety with all members of the home who cook. Explain that taking out the pan, lid and large oven mitt are the first steps to take when cooking in case an unwanted fire happens. Discuss the three main ways to put out an unwanted kitchen fire, which are: put one hand in the oven mitt and slide the lid over the pan and turn the heat off to the burner, pour baking soda on the fire, and use the appropriate type of fire extinguisher. Calling 9-1-1 should be the first step to get help on the way. If young children are in the home, cooking should be done on back burners, with pot handles turned in to keep kids from reaching up and pulling hot objects onto themselves.

- Have children practice the safety behaviors to take when clothes catch on fire (Stop, Drop and Roll) and when they are in a smoke-filled building (Crawl Low Under Smoke). Adults can get in on the fun and practice with them ... it's fun!

- When you go out with your family, point out the emergency exits in the buildings you frequent. Explain that these may be closer than the main entrance and should be used during an emergency. Too many people use the main entrance, passing exits and wasting valuable time.

There you have it — another New Year's resolution. This one is pretty easy to stick to, doesn't take a lot of your time and even burns a few calories in the process!

Tom Kiurski is training coordinator for the Livonia Fire Department.

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In the meantime, we are having a major sale to keep from having to move everything.

Over the years, we've had many requests for the "playhouse" so we'll have a silent auction for it along with the sentry that watched over your children all these years: "Joe the Bear."

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Looking for new ways to get healthy in 2010? Check back Jan. 7 for the next "Today's Health, the road to a new you" special page!

# TODAY'S HEALTH

## THE ROAD TO A NEW YOU

### HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN MOTIVATION — AND REWARD — FOR A NEW YOU IN 2010

If you're like many people, you might have a history of unmet New Year's resolutions. It's common to set big goals and then disappoint yourself by falling short. A wise and more positive approach is to set a series of small, realistic goals that deliver easy successes and quick rewards.

If taking better care of yourself is one of your resolutions, aromatherapy can help strengthen your resolve, make your efforts enjoyable and reward your successes. "Applications of 100 percent pure essential oils (which are distilled from aromatic plants) provide true aromatherapy benefits, as opposed to synthetically perfumed products," says Tom Havran, aromatherapy expert at Aura Cacia. Havran suggests trying these aromatherapy applications as original and effective motivational treats for your senses. They can reward and inspire you along the way, too.

#### "New you" shower wash

Every day of the year, not just Jan. 1, is a chance for a new beginning. How about some fresh inspiration every morning with a natural, home-crafted shower wash that is much less expensive than synthetically-fragranced, chemical-laden bath products?

Start with 4 ounces of unscented oil-based liquid soap. Add 36 drops of an invigorating essential oil, such as peppermint, rosemary, tangerine or grapefruit. For fun, try some unique combinations. For example, mix equal parts (9 drops each) of peppermint, rosemary, tangerine and grapefruit oils. If you prefer a more invigorating blend, bump up the peppermint and use less grapefruit. Use a bath sponge or loofah to work up the fragrant lather. Here's another tip: follow up your shower with an all-over application of jojoba oil to still-wet skin - it's the best, most natural moisturizer you'll ever use.

Start with a spray bottle and 4 ounces of water. Add 36 drops of centering, purifying oils like sandalwood, tea tree, sweet orange and eucalyptus. Again, have fun with various combinations of all or just a couple essential oils. Shake well, spritz the mat and wipe clean.

#### Warming muscle soother

A great after-exercise massage oil will reward you for your workout and inspire you to maintain your exercise routine. It not only gives you something to look forward to after your hard work, but helps eliminate any soreness you may have from overdoing it.

First, choose a skin care oil as the base. For a short, friction-generating massage use a light, easily absorbed base oil like grapeseed or jojoba. For a longer massage with extended glide, choose from heavier oils such as sweet almond or apricot kernel. Start with 2 ounces of base oil. Add 18 drops of warming, soothing oils, such as nutmeg, cardamom or eucalyptus.

Havran recommends keeping the eucalyptus drops equal or less to any combination of the other essential oils, but ultimately, it's your personal preference and pleasure.

Along with your other healthy New Year's resolutions, these are just a few ideas to help motivate, reward and pamper yourself at the start of another year. To learn more about using aromatherapy and essential oils, go online and visit www.auracacia.com.

— Courtesy ARAccontent

#### Clean practice mat spray

If shaping up and managing stress are part of your New Year's resolutions, this is the time to sign up for a yoga or Pilates class. A natural spray of purifying and deodorizing essential oils will help you care for your yoga or Pilates mat while providing an aroma that centers your attention on your practice.

Meditative oils will inspire you to breathe deeply and immerse yourself in your poses, truly connecting body and spirit, which is what these practices are all about.

#### ADVERTISING FEATURE

### Local Promotion

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Kick-start your New Year's weight loss with classes at Body Fit in downtown Northville inside Northville Square. Try Body Fit's signature workout, FitBarre, a fusion of ballet, Pilates, yoga and weight training that quickly and effectively helps you develop a strong, sexy body. Boot camp workouts in four-week sessions are also available.

Call 248-305-8414 or visit www.bodyfitmi.com.

### HEALTHIER FOOD HABITS

All the gravy has been ladled. The cookies have crumbled. The red and green candies are on the clearance rack.

That can only mean one thing: people all over the country are resolving to eat better, if not less often. The start of the New Year — and with it, a new decade — means that consumers are focusing on their resolutions to live a healthier lifestyle for themselves, their loved ones, and, for that matter, the planet.

Indeed, there is no time like the present to follow up on your pledge to finally shed those nagging extra pounds, add healthier foods to your diet or slowly incorporate natural, organic and sustainable products into your shopping lists. January is the high point of the year for making such changes.

The hardest part about New Year's resolutions, of course, isn't making them, it's keeping them.

To that end, changing a diet or lifestyle should not be viewed from the outset as a hurdle or a chore. Making it easy, affordable — and fun — helps make a resolution stick.



#### BYOT — Bring your own treats

Why be tempted when standing in front of a vending machine filled with chips, snack cakes and puffs or when scanning the menu at a quick-service restaurant? Controlling your diet means literally and figuratively controlling what you eat.

By packing a lunch with portioned servings, such as a sandwich made with lean protein, snacks like bagged pretzels, pretzel chips or veggie crisps and some fresh fruit, you can ensure a healthier meal and snack, and at the same time save on the extra expense of eating away from home. For variety — and fun — mix it up with a variety of foods.

#### Good for you and green

Feel good about yourself and what you're doing for the planet by doing more with less. Use a non-disposable container to pack smaller portions of healthy snacks to contain calories, costs and waste. You can also take advantage of packaged products designed to be at once better for you, flavorful and eco-friendly. Snyder's of Hanover, for its part, recently introduced the markets first 100 percent compostable outer bags for its 22 count variety sacks of 100 calorie pretzels and 1 ounce pretzel sandwiches.

Make the last day of every month a reward day, and that way, you'll be surprised that you're still focused on eating healthy when Memorial Day rolls around.

— Courtesy of ARAccontent

#### Buddy system

Teamwork can really

#### The next best thing — or maybe just the best thing.

We've all seen illustrations along the lines of "eat this . . . not that," that show a bag of chips which should be replaced by, say, a raw handful of vegetables. But for those of us who like to crunch on some salty snacks as we unwind after a busy day or eat lunch in the middle of the day, such substitutions can seem more like a penalty than a reward.

If you're feeling that way, look for foods that offer some attributes of traditionally craved snacks. Snyder's of Hanover, for instance, recently introduced new Pretzel Chips that offer the hearty flavor of fresh pretzels along with the slight, crisp texture of traditional potato chips with less than 1 gram of fat per serving. Pretzel Chips, in Original and Garden Veggie, also fit into any resolutions to go natural for 2010: the products are all natural, with no trans fats.

There are many other quick and rewarding substitutions that can be made when the craving for something crunchy and satisfying starts in earnest, from fruit and vegetable crisps to 100-calorie packs. Meantime, if it's something sweet you're craving, seek out portion-controlled 100-calorie ice cream novelties or grab a square or two of antioxidant-rich dark chocolate.

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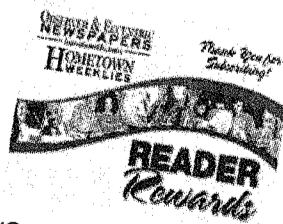
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# Local Strictly Business

## Father takes time into his own hands

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

**Father Time:** I am the master of all things timey. For me time is but a vast cavern where past, present, and future converge. I can remember any event past or future as if it is right now; because as far as I'm concerned it is right now. Without me the fabric of time and space would crumble.

**Observer:** How did you first decide to open your business?

**Father Time:** Someone had to do it. I got with Baby New Year and we decided to end old years and begin new years our own way.

**Observer:** What makes your business unique?

**Father Time:** How much more unique do you want than someone who controls time? Even Baby New Year can't do his job unless I do mine. The only other one with this much power might be Mother Nature. I'd argue the point with her, but she has lightning bolts and thunderclaps and things like that. It's not worth the headache.

**Observer:** How has it changed since you opened?

**Father Time:** That's the beauty of this job - it doesn't change all that much. In an age when the world is in chaos, this job stays the same: Controlling time. It starts Jan. 1, and ends Dec. 31. I control 60 seconds a minute, 60 minutes an hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.

**Observer:** How has the economy affected your business?

**Father Time:** Unfortunately, it has affected it in a negative way. With the economy being what it is for some people, all they have is time.

**Observer:** Do you have any funny tidbits you could pass on to other business owners?

**Father Time:** Well, there was the Millennium. Baby New Year and I talked it over and decided to confuse the heck out of everyone about whether



Father Time (with the beard) is often paired with Baby New Year, particularly around Jan. 1.

### IT'S ABOUT TIME

- **Business Name and address:** Time, Ltd., Anywhere, Anytime, 12345
- **Your name and title:** Father Time
- **Business opened when? When else? At the beginning of time**
- **Number of Employees:** 2 (Baby New Year chips in once a year)
- **Hours of operation:** Mostly the last minute of the year, while the ball drops
- **Your business specialty:** Telling time
- **Facebook Page:** <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/pages/Father-Time/>

the year 2000 was the last year of the old millennium or the first year of the new one. We had a lot of fun with that one.

**Observer:** What else interests you?

**Father Time:** Riding my pet dinosaur, chariot races in ancient Rome, flying my alien saucer around, watching the Nebraska Cornhuskers in their glory days, my new polar bear fur coat, I once thwarted Hitler's plans for

world domination.

**Observer:** What's in store for the future of your business?

**Father Time:** Well, since I control time, it has no meaning to me, so I never get any older. And, of course, neither does Baby New Year (lol). I feel very fortunate to have had this job for as long as I have, and look forward to holding onto it for ... well, all time.

## Previous decade has seen more lows than highs

It's the time of year when I like to look back over the last year and then look forward to the new year. However, since this is the end of the decade, I would like to take a step back and look at a couple of prevalent themes since the year 2000. We have been on an incredible ride over the last 10 years and despite everything our economy has experienced, we still find ourselves the largest, most prosperous nation in the world. Looking back at the decade, I remember the fear of the Y2K problem.

Over the last decade, we have experienced a variety of fears. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 sent shock waves throughout our country and the world. Not only did we fear for our safety, but for our financial markets. Following the terrorist attacks, for the first time since 1933, the stock market was closed for four straight days. When trading resumed Sept. 17, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell nearly 700 points. Fear had gripped investors.

Fear was also felt throughout this year and last as our financial system began coming apart at the seams. Whether it was the bursting of the real estate bubble, the bankruptcy of Bear Stearns, Lehman Bros., Chrysler and General Motors, or the collapse of the U.S. banking industry, there is no doubt that fear played a major role in our personal financial affairs over the last decade.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

The company filed for bankruptcy in December 2001. A variety of criminal charges followed in 2002, in which many top Enron executives were sentenced to substantial prison terms. And with the demise of Enron came the demise of one of the biggest accounting firms in the world. Arthur Andersen, one of the top five accounting firms, went out of business because of its bad behavior.

The decade also saw many individuals and institutions in the financial world admit to bad behavior. Whether it was mutual funds admitting to unacceptable behavior, mortgage companies with exotic products taking advantage of people or the numerous corporate scandals, including Tyco and WorldCom, we have seen enough bad behavior over the last decade to last a lifetime. Don't forget that the poster child of bad behavior was Bernie Madoff. Unfortunately, he wasn't the only one who took advantage of investors. Over the last year or so, there have been far too many financial advisers who have taken advantage

of their clients.

There is no doubt that the decade of the 2000s has been difficult for investors. After all, this decade brought us two major meltdowns in the stock market — the bursting of the tech bubble at the beginning and the bursting of the real estate bubble and its corresponding effects at the end. However, there is reason for hope.

The United States has been through many major crises in its history. Whether it was the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War I, World War II or Vietnam, citizens have lived through difficult periods. The common thread that runs through every crisis is the country has survived and even thrived.

I have no doubt we will get through this present crisis and that our economy will once again be able to grow.

I hope the new year and the new decade will bring better times for you and me. I do not think it will be easy and I believe there is more difficulty to come, however, I am an eternal optimist and I do believe better days are ahead.

Happy New Year and may the 2010 see all of our dreams come true.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [monymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:monymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

### BUSINESS MILESTONES

#### TRW raises new term loans

TRW Automotive Holdings Corp. of Livonia, which specializes in active and passive safety systems, has raised \$400 million of new term loans of which \$225 million matures on May 30, 2015, and \$175 million matures on May 30, 2016, both subject to certain conditions. Proceeds from the new \$400 million term loans, together with cash on hand were used to repay the outstanding balances of previously existing term loans, which had earlier maturities than the newly issued term loans.

#### Livonia landscaper honored

Paramount Landscaping Inc., owned and operated by Stephen J. Simon of Livonia, was recognized for outstanding achievement in the field of landscape design and construction at the 2009 Michigan Green Industry Association Environmental Improvement Awards Banquet held at the Southfield Westin.

Paramount Landscaping received Gold Awards in two categories for the Ferresheth Residence of Northville. Paramount Landscaping has been in business since 1986.

#### Software company one of 500 largest

WorkForce Software Inc. of Livonia, which specializes in workforce management solutions for organizations with complex labor requirements and compliance concerns, has been included in Software Magazine's Software 500 ranking of the world's largest software and service providers, now in its 27th year.

The 2009 Software 500 results show that revenue growth in the software and services industry was healthy with total Software 500 revenue of \$491.3 billion worldwide for 2008

representing 8.8-percent growth from the previous year," said John P. Desmond, editor of Software Magazine and Softwaremag.com.

The Software 500 is a revenue-based ranking of the world's largest software and services suppliers targeting medium to large enterprises, their IT professionals, software developers and business managers involved in software and services purchasing.

The ranking is based on total worldwide software and services revenue for 2008.

"WorkForce Software is excited to be recognized as one of Software Magazine's Software 500 and we are proud of what our team has accomplished," said Kevin Choksi, president and CEO of WorkForce Software.

#### RS Electronics USA employees honored

RS Electronics USA of Livonia, a distributor of industrial electronics, recently inducted five long-time employees into the company's Silver Service Gallery. The gallery is located at the company headquarters and features portraits of employees who have served RS for 25 years or more.

The 2009 inductees were: Michele Newman and Carol Robbins, both of purchasing; Jerry Walter, inside sales; Nancy Gumtow, finance; and Phil Brown, operations.

The inductees were honored at a ceremony led by Howard Taxe, president. "The Silver Anniversary event is a very special day at RS," Taxe said. "It enables me to publicly acknowledge the dedication and commitment that our 25-year employees have given to our organization. These people are critically important to the success of our business and I recognize and appreciate the contributions that they have given to us."

RS Electronics was founded in 1929.

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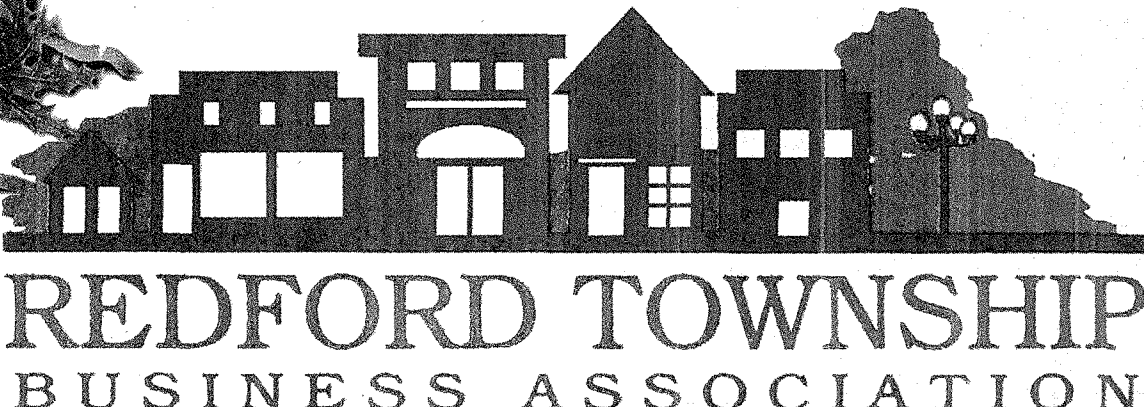
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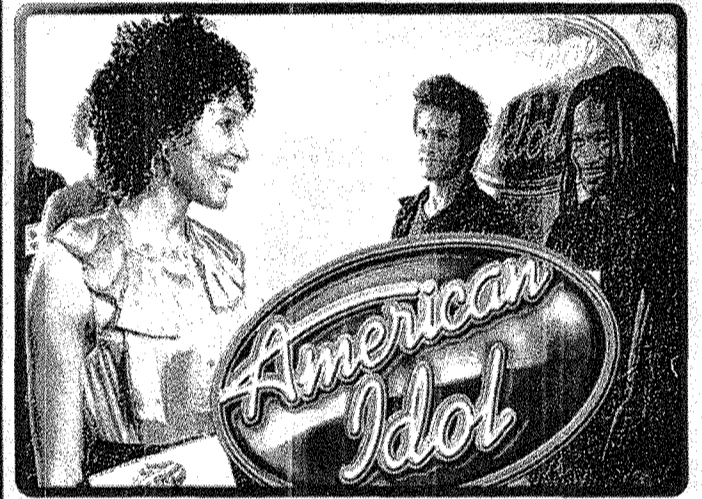
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## TO KEEP FOX ON BRIGHT HOUSE NETWORKS



# Rain or shine, this weather guy keeps it real

BY STACY JENKINS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It seems Paul Gross had a forecast for his life at an early age — and he's never let his focus veer off the radar.

The Farmington Hills resident and WDIV-Channel 4 meteorologist and executive producer of weather is one of those high-energy, driven people who is taking life as it comes — challenges, blessings and all.

His career, his family, his battle with cancer, and his first book about Michigan weather all have the common thread of ambition. This likable weather guy jokes that he probably isn't good looking enough to be on TV, but oh, well — he's not going anywhere. He loves his job and it shows.

## FEAR TO FASCINATION

His passion for weather started as an intense fear of storms when he was a boy.

"In second grade, a teacher took me to the school library and showed me some books about weather," said Gross. "The more I read, the more I understood; the more I understood, the less scary (storms) were. At that point, I decided I wanted to be a weatherman."

Twenty-seven years into his career, Gross is still fascinated by the weather.

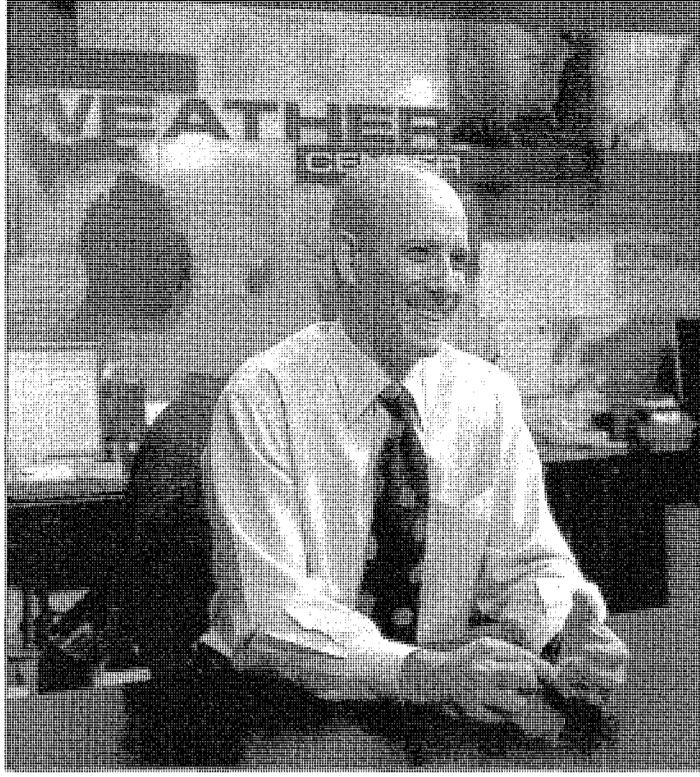
"I'm always looking at the sky," he said. "You can have the most powerful computers in the world, but nothing replaces looking out the window to see what's happening right now and seeing how the computer models are handling what's happening right now."

Gross selects the computer models that best reflect the weather patterns and he uses them to create forecasts, maps and other graphics.

"If the average person understood what we did to predict the weather, they'd have a better appreciation of what we do," said Gross.

Being able to interpret the weather patterns and communicate them to the public is key, he added. He has been recognized by the American Meteorological Society for his ability to communicate science in weathercasts.

Part of that ability comes from



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paul Gross of Farmington Hills talks about his career and his new book during a recent interview in the Channel 4 studios in Detroit.

knowing his forecasts are important to people.

"The thing I love about (forecasting) the weather, it's the one part of the newscast that people use the information we are providing," said Gross. "I consider it a public service and it's an important one."

Another part of it comes from within.

"As a kid, I learned that if I worked hard enough, people would inherently trust me. My childhood dream was that people would trust my weather forecasts. That's something I take a tremendous amount of pride in. Not many kids get to grow up and be what they wanted to be — when they dreamed about it at age 7."

Gross, 48, was born in Detroit, raised in Oak Park, then Bloomfield Township and graduated from Andover High School in 1979. He graduated from the meteorology program at the University of Michigan and was a weather intern at WDIV-TV during college. He "paid his dues" and worked seven days a week between three different stations in Detroit and Lansing.

He married his wife, Nancy, on Oct. 13, 1990 — "a perfect

October day." They have two sons, Jared and Adam, who attend North Farmington High School.

## WEATHER PRO

Gross's job has led him to some interesting places, from the courtroom as an expert witness in "some significant cases," to the pitcher's mound at Comerica Park during the 2005 Major League Baseball All Star game.

He was the official weather consultant to MLB Commissioner Bud Selig. It was the middle of the eighth inning and the rain was about 10 or 15 minutes away. Gross found himself briefing the umpires on the mound.

It was quite an experience for this baseball fan. He was thrilled when he glanced at all of his favorite players in the American League dugout.

Another thrill came when the Detroit Tigers made it to the World Series in 2006. Yes, he was called upon to help out with weather predictions for game time.

"It was just nuts," he recalled — a major rain system occurred between two of the World Series games.

## EXTREME MICHIGAN WEATHER

Paul Gross has written a book, *Extreme Michigan Weather: The Wild World of the Great Lakes State*, published by the University of Michigan Press, due out in May. Gross said it's the first truly comprehensive book solely dedicated to Michigan weather.

"It delves into the mysteries of the weather we have here, including tornadoes, floods, snowstorms, heat waves — we get every type of weather, even the remnants of hurricanes," he said.

One chapter offers an unbiased, scientific perspective on global warming. Gross has been recognized nationally for his ability to explain global warming from a scientific view.

He also includes a chart of some 30,000 statistics — record highs and record lows, record rain and record snow for every day of the year for 22 Michigan cities. Some records date back 125 years. So, what is Gross's favorite weather? "Sunny, 75 to 80 degrees; 40 percent humidity and a light wind, less than 10 miles per hour — perfect for golf and softball."

What's his most dreaded extreme weather? "My fear is that a tornado will strike a school building during school hours."

For a preview of the book release date, e-mail [extrememichigan-weather@grossweather.com](mailto:extrememichigan-weather@grossweather.com).

"It started within one hour of Game 1 ending and ended within one hour of the start of Game 2," said Gross.

Standing in the umpire's room behind home plate, Gross will never forget giving his weather report to Tigers manager Jim Leyland and St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa, along with MLB officials and umpires.

Gross is also the weather consultant for the University of

Michigan football program and the Detroit Lions. He does it on a volunteer basis.

"They're my hometown teams," he said.

Gross is proud of another aspect of his career, too. He helped get Michigan law to require schools to conduct tornado drills twice a year. The law is known as "The Gross Weather Bill."

"That is one of the greatest accomplishments of my entire career," he said.

## A SURVIVOR

Gross's determination and drive brought him through the dark, scary storm known as cancer when he was 27 years old. He had no history of cancer in his family, he ate the right foods and

got the right amount of exercise.

"I was probably the healthiest person you could know, and the least likely to get cancer," he said.

It was testicular cancer that required surgery and chemotherapy. He recovered quickly and returned to work, wearing a wig. For each round of chemo, he was off from work for just nine days.

"The key to getting through it was to lead as normal and productive a life as possible," he said. "I could not go home and just be on a couch for six months."

His advice to any cancer patient is to allow people to help and to try to keep some sense of normalcy "to help get through the battle."

[sjenkins@hometownlife.com](mailto:sjenkins@hometownlife.com) | (313) 222-2369

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. The public auction will be at the Simply Self Storage, located at 11960 Farmington Rd. Livonia, MI 48150. Date of sale: 1/14/2010 on or after 9:30 a.m.

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Publish: December 31, 2009 and January 7, 2010

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## WHERE DO YOU FIT?

YOU are invited to an exciting new series of personal stories, talks, and testimonies which will help you answer that question for yourself. The series, "WHY BE CATHOLIC?," begins on January 5, 2010, with noted author and speaker, Steve Ray, who, after more than 39 years as a Baptist fundamentalist and bible scholar, converted to Catholicism in 1994, abandoned his multi-million dollar business, and devoted himself to helping the faith thrive throughout the world. Ray will awaken your interest in all faiths with his spirited explanation of what helped him find HIS place in God's puzzle. Don't miss this dynamic evening. No charge, no reservations, no pressure — just a chance to listen, reflect, and perhaps ask questions.

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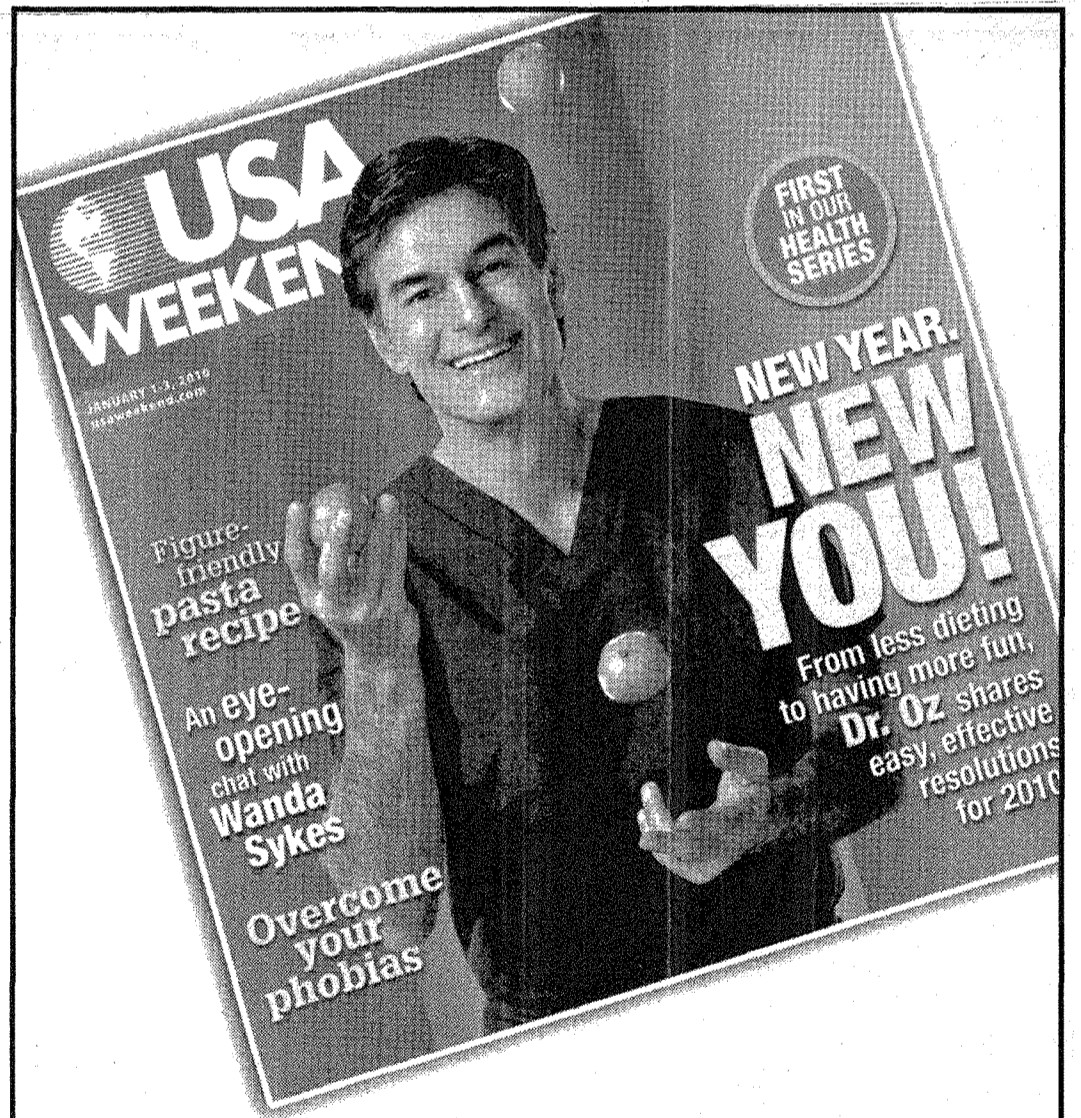
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## 16 healthy tips for feeling better

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This Sunday in...

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

# Let's hold state lawmakers accountable

Another year has passed, yet little was accomplished in the Michigan Legislature to solve some of the state's most serious problems.

We encourage voters to hold lawmakers accountable in 2010, an election year.

Instead of just complaining about our state government, voters need to take action — writing or e-mailing state senators and representatives and then voting them out of office in November if they haven't

done their jobs.

The state needs to reform the way it pays for essential services, such as public safety and education, now and into the future. It needs to do more to attract and retain businesses that will put Michigan residents back to work. It needs to fix its roads.

We can't afford to keep putting off finding permanent solutions to these problems that threaten the state's economic recovery.

Education funding reform can start with the state aligning its budget year with that of school districts so schools know how much money they'll have at the start of each school year.

This school year, the Livonia school board will lay off teachers in January for the first time ever because of unexpected midyear state funding cuts totaling \$8 million.

Wayne-Westland Community

Schools will close six elementary schools next school year, the result of having to plug a \$10 million hole in its budget.

Other state budgetary reform can include a serious attempt at getting local units of government, including school districts, to share services to reduce the overall cost of government to taxpayers.

Michigan has a lot going for it, including its unparalleled natural

resources, cool cities, great downtowns and resilient residents.

But unless state lawmakers do their jobs, Michigan will continue to spiral downward, losing more jobs, more educated workers and more families who value education to other states.

Let's hold state lawmakers accountable in 2010 and not let another year pass without their solving the problems that are holding Michigan back.

# Our goal: Provide readers with the local news they've come to expect

There are two things that happen Dec. 31— the crystal ball drops at the stroke of midnight in Times Square and people make their annual New Year's resolutions.

Only about 40 percent of adults still bother making resolutions, and it's the long haul that proves the most difficult.

Studies show that 71 percent of participants kept their resolutions for two weeks, 64 percent for a month and 50 percent for three months.

It goes without saying that most resolutions are easier announced than done. People want to lose weight, give up smoking, get finances in

order, but without a target, it's all for naught.

We are not experts, but we think common sense is the best path to follow. Decide what you want to accomplish and then come up with a game plan that's manageable. We all know it took baby steps to learn to walk, and

such is the case with a resolution. Start small.

That said, we have decided to make a resolution. It's one that we believe will serve us well in 2010. But instead of calling it a resolution, we're calling it our goal. This year has been difficult for all of us. The economy has taken its toll

on us, but even with limited resources, we have continued to cover our communities the way the dailies cover the city.

Our goal for 2010 is to continue to provide you with the local news you have come to expect. It is why we are here and it is what we do best. We have never strayed from that

and we won't. We fill a news niche that we know is needed.

And while we continue to provide you with your local news, we hope that you will show your support for us. The *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* are committed to you, our readers and your community.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### What is your New Year's resolution?

This question was asked at the Redford Public Library, Livonia Civic Center Library and at the Maplewood Center in Garden City.

			
<b>No. "I never follow them."</b> Amos Hammack Redford	<b>"I'm going to find work."</b> Judy Jones Redford	<b>"I have a New Year's resolution to be happy."</b> Shirley Daymon Garden City	<b>"To follow the Lord more closely. That's it."</b> Ed Catterall Dearborn
			
<b>"To lose weight. No, I don't make them every year. I have enough blood under the bridge to know not to."</b> Gary Green Livonia	<b>"I really don't (have one), but I have a New Year's wish for good health for my family."</b> Patty Kreitmeyer Westland	<b>"I'm going to be successful in college."</b> Brandon Jones, starting at Oakland University Redford	<b>"Same as it's been the last 20 years, to lose 10 pounds and exercise more."</b> Sylvia Kaponi Livonia
			
<b>"Clean it out and get rid of it."</b> Renae Taylor Garden City	<b>"I'm going to lose 40 pounds and save some money."</b> Carita Burton, with daughter Makayla, 2 Detroit	<b>"My resolution is to pass my test for nursing."</b> Antoinette Dalmeida Westland	<b>"Just to be the best possible person I can be every day."</b> Jennifer Harper Plymouth

# Ring in the new year with style

BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK  
CORRESPONDENT

Whether you're planning a quiet night at home or a blow-out bash this New Year's Eve, why not amp up your attire for the occasion? From casual to cocktail, here's a look at some ways to make sure your 2010 has a stylish start.

## GOING OUT GLAM

If you've got an invitation to one of the many upscale parties around town, like the 22nd Annual New Year's Eve Gala at Laurel Manor in Livonia, you'll want to pile on the sparkle. Most parties with dinner and dancing, whether they're at a casino, country club or nightclub, call for semi-formal attire.

According to Arlette Stobbe, owner of Bella Mia Dressed Up in Plymouth (853 W. Ann Arbor Trail), cocktail dresses with embellishments are a great choice for women.

"Bugle beads and sequin appliques in bright colors dress them up," she said.

Yet Stobbe conceded many people are foregoing fancy fetes this year in favor of low-key New Year's Eve celebrations such as dinner dates or house parties.

"We're not seeing too many people looking for formal dresses, but that's not a reason why you still can't put some glitz and glam into New Year's Eve to make it special from other nights of the year," she said.

## LOW-KEY FUN

If you're checking out a screening of *Avatar* or attending the Village Theatre at Cherry Hill's "Putting on the Glitz" comedy show, Stobbe recommends a bright top, like a sequined camisole by Free People (\$48), worn with skinny black pants or jeans and strappy heels.

Or, buy a statement necklace that can make an old silk tee or cocktail dress look new again. Stobbe recommends Gamela Designs, created by local twins Diana and Julie Verdugo. The line includes bold necklaces made from materials like peacock feathers, fringe, hardware, chunky stones, chains and ribbons, available at Bella Mia Dressed Up and online at [www.gameladesigns.com](http://www.gameladesigns.com).

For men, a velvet blazer with jeans offers a timely take on the dinner jacket look.

## ACTIVE ATTIRE

A popular genre of New Year's Eve parties offer activities other than dancing. These include bowling at Westland Bowl, roller skating at Bonaventure Family Skate Center in Farmington Hills or fam-



This Cable & Guage floral print beaded cardigan from Parisian at Laurel Park Place (\$68) will add sparkle to your New Year's Eve.

ily friendly fun at Northville Nite. Even if you're planning to tote toddlers through a maze of inflatables or break a sweat on the roller rink, you can still take your outfit up a notch.

Try jeans and a sparkly sweater, like a Cable & Guage floral print beaded cardigan from Parisian at Laurel Park Place (\$68). Or a tunic top with 'liquid leggings' — stretchy pants with a satin sheen — like the Kenzie brand at Bella Mia Dressed Up (\$39).

"They are very comfortable and add some pizzazz to your outfit," Stobbe said. "They would be perfect for an active night out."

## COZY AT HOME

Sometimes the best option is to watch the ball drop in Times Square from the

comfort of your own couch. If this is your plan, be sure to pick up a batch of bubbly to pop at midnight. Wine Barrel Plus in Livonia, located at 30303 Plymouth Road, offers a wide selection of champagne and sparkling wine in its 30,000 bottle cellar. The family-owned business, in metro Detroit since 1944, has everything from an extremely rare 1979 Salon Brut Blanc De Blancs (\$979.93) to "very nice" Nicolas Feuillatte (\$29.99).

And why not splurge on a new pair of pajamas for your at-home toast? Check out the P.J. Salvage Lace Corset Cami (\$38) paired with the line's Lace Cuff Capri (\$48) or Cupid Cupcake Pajama Pant (\$44) at Von Maur at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. For men, Intimo's Satin Stripe Silk Pajamas (\$150) will add a little luxury to a night in.

## MALLS & MAINSTREETS BRIEFS

### Super Pampering

Tamara Spa+Wellness in Farmington Hills will celebrate Super Bowl XLIV with special packages for couples on Feb. 10. Men can watch the game in the spa's lounge on overstuffed leather chairs while enjoying snacks and ice-cold refreshments, 'first down' neck, back and shoulder massages, and 'touch-down' hand and foot massages. Meanwhile, women can score a 'quarterback sack' of savings with a Super Bowl package, complete with European spa facial, Swedish body massage, manicure, pedicure and spa lunch with champagne. Call (248) 855-0474 for prices and reservations.

### First Friday Art Walk

Because News Year's Day falls on the First Friday in January, the First Friday Art Walk will run 6-9 p.m., the second Friday, Jan. 8, 2010, in downtown Northville. As guests stroll along the streets of downtown Northville's growing art district, they will enjoy a night filled with art exhibits, art demonstrations

and related events. Many of the participating establishments along the walk will offer complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages for their guests as they browse or shop. Participating First Friday Art Walk galleries include Art House, 215 W. Cady; Northville Gallery, 123 E. Main; Starring The Gallery, 118 W. Main; and Solid Grounds CoffeeHouse, which will showcase student artwork from the Art Institute of Michigan, as well as work from Darwin, a Mexican artist who creates canvas paintings. For more information on participants, visit <http://downtownnorthville.com/WhatsGoingOn/FirstFridays.htm>.

### Make-over event

The Bobbi Brown Cosmetics team at Nordstrom, in Somerset Collection North, Troy, wants to give you a new look for the new year. They'll show you techniques and tips Friday-Saturday, Jan. 8-9, 2010. Make an appointment for a one on one consultation with the Bobbi Brown team at (248) 816-5100, Ext. 1417.

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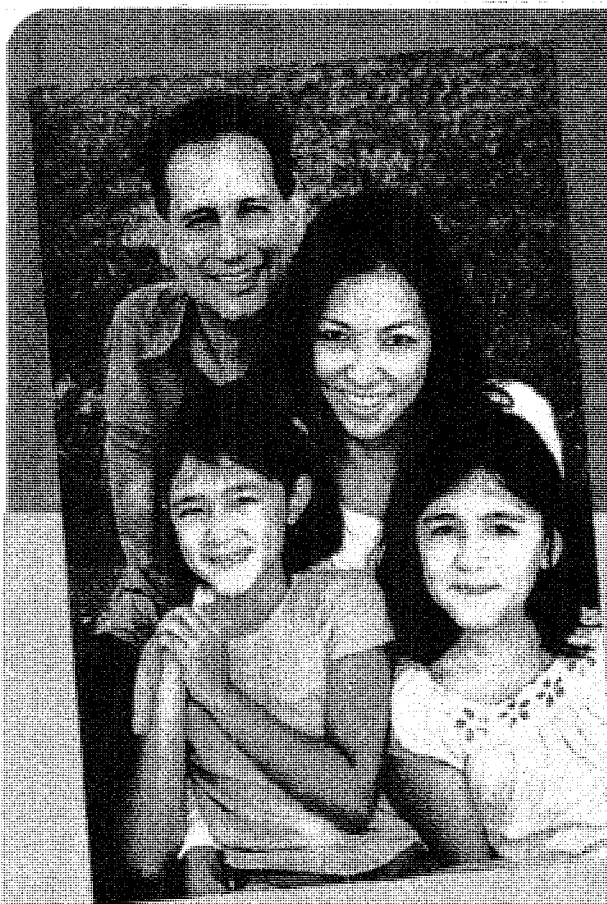
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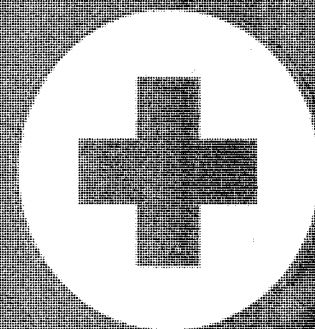
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2009

FROM PAGE A1

HOSPITAL EXPANDS

St. Joseph Mercy Health System in Canton unveiled in December its new Center for Advanced Medicine and Surgery, a project that marked a \$43 million investment in the facility near Canton Center and Palmer roads. It is the first time a facility in southeast Michigan will offer cancer patients a radiation therapy using RapidArc technology, a state-of-the-art, tumor-fighting system with improved precision and speed.

PROPERTY SWAP

After several years of going back and forth about a property swap, Garden City schools and the city of Garden City sealed the deal in October. The school district gave the city the former Maplewood School and a portion of the property it sits on in exchange for the community pool at Garden City High School. The board also approved a lease agreement which provides three classrooms that are being remod-

eled to house the district's Discovery Center. The district is leasing the rooms for \$1 a year as long as the city owns the building.

PLAKAS RETIRES

Garden City Mayor Jim Plakas retires from local politics.

"It was a very difficult decision for me to make," Plakas said, on his decision not to run for re-election. "I know I disappointed my supporters, but given family considerations, the time has come after all these years



Plakas

to return to being just a private citizen."

Plakas was the longest serving elected official in Garden City history, having begun his career on the council in 1968.

SCHOOLS TO CLOSE, LAY OFF STAFF

Wayne-Westland schools announced it will close six elementary schools at the end of the current school year as

the district works to trim costs and move to a four-tiered educational program. The closings were part of a plan to trim \$12 million from its budget. The school closings will save \$5 million, leaving \$7 million to come from other areas.

Livonia Public Schools pink-slipped 83 members of its teachers union in December, the first midyear layoffs in recent memory, because of unexpected cuts in state funding totaling \$8 million. The layoffs will be effective Jan. 29 before the start of the second semester.

RECYCLING

Westland's recycling program proved to be a hit with residents.

Since the city began its curbside recycling program in July, an average of 20 percent of the city's solid waste has been recycled for a \$38,400 savings in tipping fees. That's in addition to nearly \$16,000 savings from yard waste diverted from the solid waste landfill.

In fact, in the first three weeks of the city's new curbside recycling program saw approximately 550 tons of recyclable materials collected, which is

more than one million pounds of trash diverted from the landfill.

SHOOTING

A robbery suspect with a criminal record was killed and a Plymouth Township police officer was wounded when gunfire erupted as plainclothes officers tried to arrest the suspect after the holdup of a cell phone retailer in late October.

The officer was wounded in the right shoulder and the left hand.

The shooting happened at a Wireless USA store. Mary Jane Radloff, the owner of the adjacent Salon MJ, said:

"This is like way too close for comfort here."

HOLLYWOOD

A touch of Hollywood appeared in Redford Township as special effects company Reel Action FX opened in July. The company provides pyrotechnic services to the fledgling film industry in Michigan and business soon skyrocketed.

"Anybody who wants to film guns, or have a car blown up, comes to us," said Patrick Potochick, a 1979 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School, who parlayed a background in firearms and police work into an exploding business.

TRAGEDY

A car-train collision in Canton claimed five young lives in July. Investigators said the driver of a Ford Fusion tried to beat an oncoming, 530-ton Amtrak train traveling nearly 70 mph at the Canton Township railroad crossing at Hannan. Video footage obtained by a local company showed the driver trying to get around another car and then the crossing gate and being struck shortly after noon, police said.

The impact was such that the train ended up pushing the car nearly a mile.

The victims ranged in age from 14 to 21 and their deaths set off a period of reflection and mourning in the Detroit area.

"Obviously, this is a tremendous tragedy," said Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy.

CHURCHES

FROM PAGE A1

place donations in certain baskets, but assistant pastor Mike Rice said "those in need or hurting" could take a \$100 Meijer gift card from other baskets.

It was the church's way of helping its members during a time when many are facing unprecedented difficulties.

St. Robert Bellarmine has had a "significant increase" in the number of those asking for food, gas cards and money, said the Rev. Richard Leliaert, pastor. He said the need may even be greater than churches know. "There are so many people hurting out there, but they're reluctant to ask for help," he said.

The Rev. Paul Bersche of The Crossing Church in Farmington said he is noticing more referrals for services such as counseling, food assistance and job searches.

"I'm doing a lot more counseling," Bersche said. "The stress of the times comes out in problems that may have already been there in families, but are exacerbated by the times."

ATTENDANCE STEADY

But while churches have seen an increase in requests for assistance, they haven't seen an increase in the number of people sitting in their pews on Sunday mornings — even though the expectation might be that people are more inclined to seek a relationship with God during times of trouble.

Most area churches interviewed for this story report their attendance and membership remain steady. Or, if their attendance is up, they attributed it to something else, like a new pastor. Some, like Mt. Hope and St. Robert Bellarmine, have lost families to other states, where the job market is better.

However, the economy has impacted church contributions. At Fair Haven, where the church's 1,100-seat auditorium continues to be close to full for Sunday morning service, collections have declined 25 percent from three years ago.

Clarenceville United Methodist in Livonia is struggling to keep its lights on, said pastor Beth Librande.

Yet, it continues to offer a food

bank for the community and congregation, providing approximately three families a week with supplemental groceries.

Garden City Presbyterian Church is small — its average Sunday attendance is 100-110 people — but pastor Herschel Ele said his congregation is "stepping up to the plate" to help the less fortunate.

Church members took food to pantries early this month, where they found empty shelves. "We're glad to be a part of the effort," he said. "We try to do what we can."

SCREENING MEASURES

Since churches are doing more charity work with fewer contributions, some, like Fair Haven, have begun screening recipients.

"We'd deliver food and five other groups were helping them," said the Rev. Bob McDonald, pastor of Fair Haven. "We want to take care of their needs, not their wants. If someone comes by and asks for gas money, we give them a job to do around the church. Then we'll take them to get the gas. A lot of them walk away."

The John Bolde Memorial Food Depot restricts families to coming once every two months, using a card system to track the number of visits.

In some cases, someone who receives assistance with food or money from a church also finds that church can fill another need.

An unemployed man who landed a job after receiving gas money for the job interview from Faith Bible Church in Livonia is now worshipping there, said Tim Terhune, senior pastor.

That's what motivates churches to continue to help — even when their own resources are stretched.

"I think that people are struggling, not sure what they are looking for," said Hegdal of St. John's Lutheran in Redford. "People know there is an emptiness in their lives, but do not know how to fill it. We help people figure out how to be on that journey of discovery and walk with them toward belief and hope in the midst of unbelief."

Observer staff writers Darrell Clem, Stacy Jenkins, Sue Mason, LeAnne Rogers and Larry Ruehlen contributed to this report.

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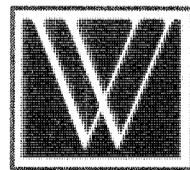
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## Bear-ing down

Clarenceville grad Tim Shaw excels on NFL special teams

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Here today, gone tomorrow? It's an old adage that certainly pertains to the business of the National Football League.

Livonia Clarenceville High grad and former Penn State linebacker Tim Shaw would be the first to attest to that.

Shaw, who has found his niche as a valuable special teams performer, is with his third NFL team in three years.

Ironically, Shaw returns home this Sunday to Detroit's Ford Field wearing the opposing team's jersey - No. 58 of the Chicago Bears.

And it will be a family reunion of sorts.

"I've actually seen a game at Ford Field - Thanksgiving between the Lions and the Packers," said the 6-foot-1,

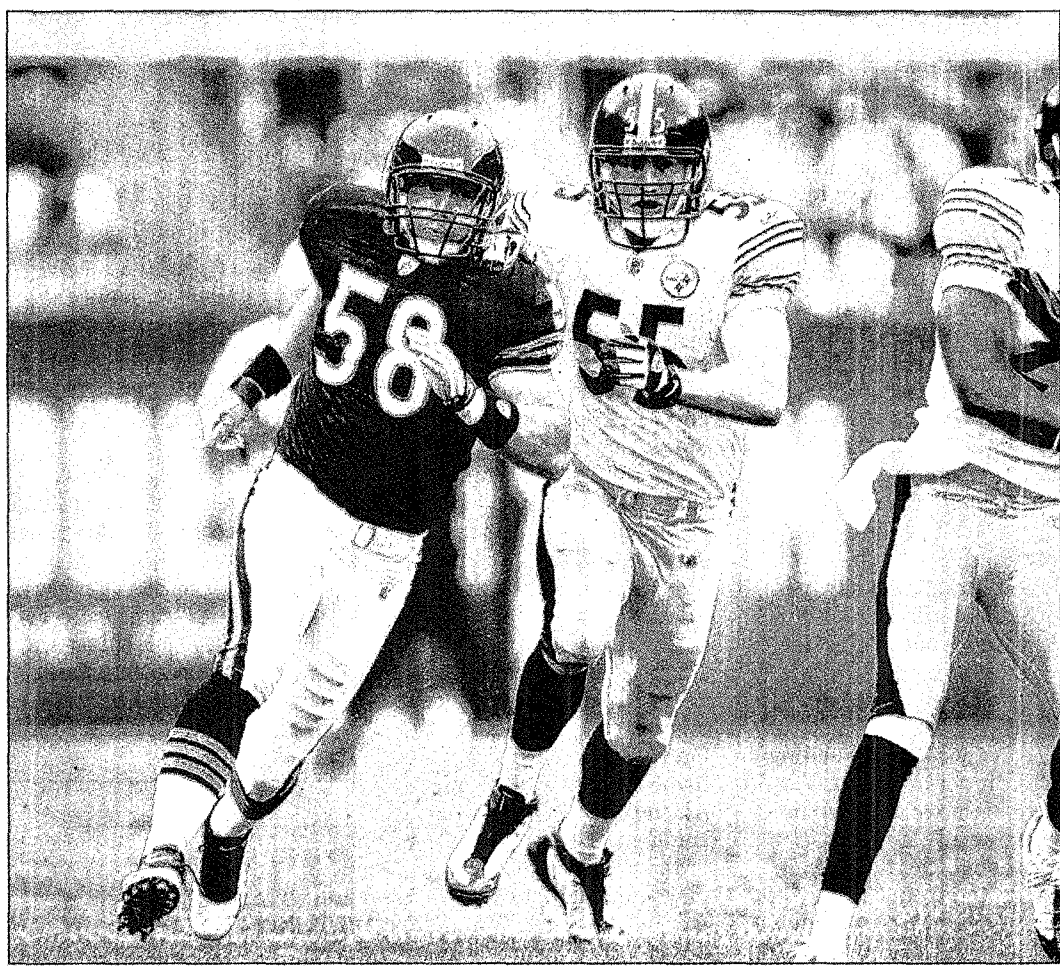
236-pound Shaw, who leads the Bears special teams' unit in tackles with 17. "I've bought about 20 tickets and I'll probably get more when the week comes up."

Shaw, a fifth-round pick of the Carolina Panthers in 2007, appeared in 14 games that season and ranked second among special teams players in tackles with 14.

But after not earning a spot on the Panthers' opening day roster in 2008, Shaw waited nearly 12 weeks before being picked up at the end of the season by the Jacksonville Jaguars, where he recorded four tackles in three games.

Shaw then was among the finals cuts by the Jags just prior to the 2009 regular season start, but was quickly

Please see **SHAW, B2**



Livonia Clarenceville grad and former Penn State linebacker Tim Shaw has excelled on special teams this season for the Chicago Bears.

## SIDELINES

### Lady Raiders fall

Shavonne Morgan, a 6-foot center, scored a team-high 18 points, including the game-winning jumper with only two seconds remaining to propel Flint Northwestern to a 53-51 girls basketball win Monday afternoon over North Farmington in the Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day Roundball Classic.

Ebony Harvey added 10 points for the victorious Wildcats, who improved to 5-2 overall.

North Farmington (5-1) got a game-high 22 points from sophomore guard Jasmine Harris.

Senior guard Jenna Bachrouche added 14 points and nine rebounds, while senior guard Lyndsey Booker contributed seven points, seven rebounds and five assists.

North led 26-20 at halftime before Northwestern rallied with an 18-11 third-quarter run to take a 37-36 advantage entering the fourth.

The Raiders, who hit only 6-of-13 free throw attempts, missed the front end of a one-and-one with 15 seconds left to set up Morgan's game-winner.

"We tried to keep our (practice) routine as normal as possible, but for whatever reason we came out flat," North coach Tim Carruthers said. "We did not have the same intensity defensively as we had the last five game. They (Northwestern) are a good team and were able to take advantage."

### World Junior icers

Team USA is off to a 2-0 start in the International Ice Hockey Federation Under-20 World Junior Championship being held through Jan. 5 in Saskatoon and Regina, Saskatchewan.

Plymouth Whalers forward A.J. Jenks had a goal in Sunday's 3-0 victory over Slovakia, while Windsor Spitfires Cam Fowler (Farmington Hills) has recorded a pair of assists, including Saturday's 7-3 opening-round victory over Slovakia.

Team USA continued preliminary round play Tuesday against Latvia and will wrap up its bracket Thursday in Saskatoon against host Canada.

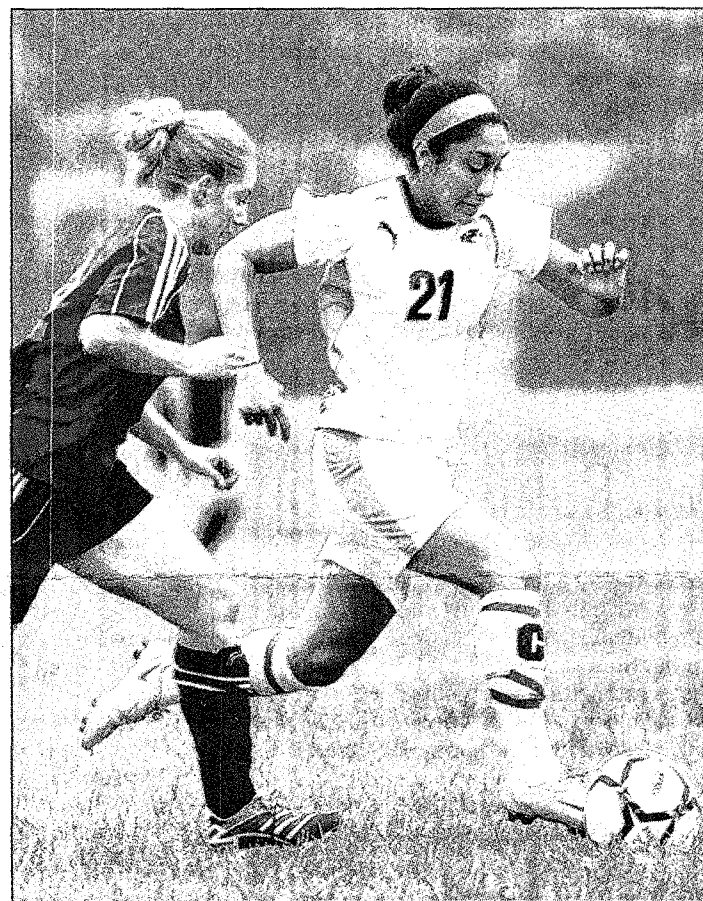
The elimination quarter-final round starts Saturday, Jan. 2, in Saskatoon.

### Ocelot a keeper

Schoolcraft College goalkeeper Ian McDonald-Wilkins (Ann Arbor Pioneer) recently earned NJCAA Division I All-American honors.

The 6-foot, 190-pound freshman helped the Ocelots to an 18-2-2 overall record and a third-place finish in the NJCAA Division I Nationals Tournament.

Schoolcraft also captured NJCAA District D and Michigan Community College Athletic Association titles.



RENA LAVERTY

North Farmington High grad Dena Sana (21) earned NJCAA All-America honors for the Schoolcraft College women's soccer team.

## Ocelot All-American

N. Farmington's Sana reaps NJCAA soccer honor

BY DAN O'NEARA  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dena Sana has been rewarded for her efforts on behalf of Schoolcraft College women's

soccer by being named to the NJCAA Division I All-America second team.

The sophomore forward from Farmington Hills led the Lady Ocelots to a 16-3 season, which included winning MCCA Eastern Conference and NJCAA Region 12 championships. Schoolcraft made it to the second round of the national tournament in November.

"I definitely never would have gotten there (All-America) without my team-



Sana

mates," Sana, who had 13 goals and four assists, said. "It's all on them for doing what they did for me, setting me up to do well."

"Without them, I wouldn't have been able to do it. I've had great teammates and coaching my whole life. It's nice to do something to give back to them for what they've done for me."

All-America status is a just reward and an example of an athlete overcoming odds and doubters to achieve at a high level, according to Schoolcraft coach Deepak Shivraman.

"She's not an imposing figure as far as her (5-foot-1) height or size," he said, "but she made up for it with her sheer work ethic. She has a nice burst of speed, and she was able to get past a lot of defenders using that speed and skill."

"Even though her stature is small, she is fearless when it

comes to going for 50-50 balls and going for a tackle. She really does stand out as far as those attributes."

A graduate of North Farmington, Sana is grateful to Shivraman, also a Farmington Hills resident and the former Mercy High School coach, for giving her the opportunity to play college soccer.

"Farmington wasn't a big soccer area, so it was hard to get coaches to come out to watch and take it seriously," she said. "Deepak took the time when I played club soccer. He gave me a great opportunity, and I did what I could do with it."

"You always hear about players coming out of soccer hotbed areas like Livonia and Troy," Shivraman said. "As a community thing, it's great that we

Please see **SANA, B2**

## Matinee idols: Whalers trap Otters in overtime, 3-2

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

No pun intended, but Monday's Ontario Hockey League matinee at Compuware Arena proved to be a Whaler of a finish.

Defenseman Beau Schmitz, taking a nifty pass from Tyler Seguin just off the bottom rim of the right circle, went top shelf for the game-winning goal with 2:42 remaining in overtime to give the host Plymouth Whalers a 3-2 victory over the Erie Otters.

It was the fourth goal of the season for Schmitz, who hails from Howell.

Seguin, the OHL's second leading point producer, assisted on all three goals as

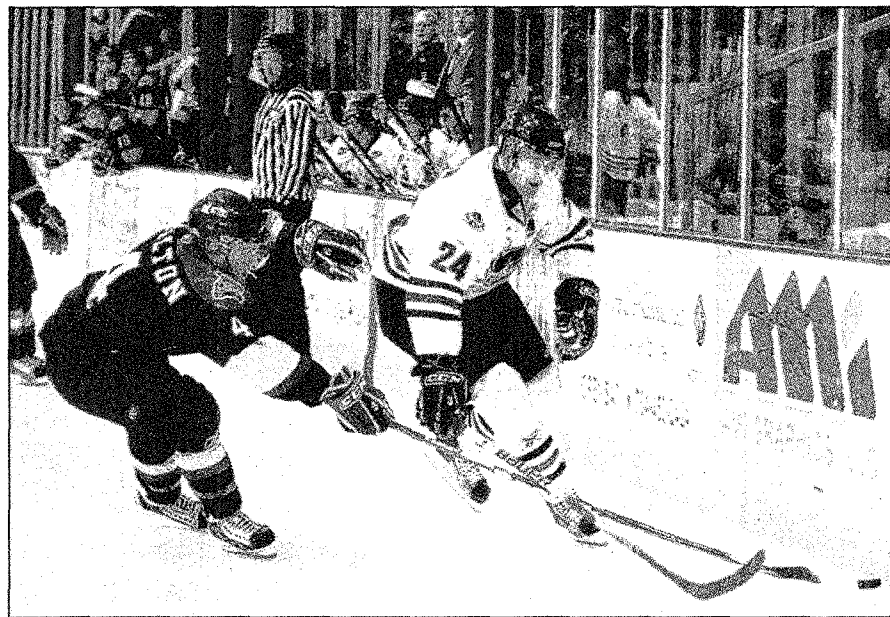
the second-place Whalers improved to 21-16-0-1 in OHL's West Division of the Western Conference.

The game proved to be a battle of goaltenders as Plymouth's Matt Hackett stopped 36-of-38 shots, while Erie counterpart Jaroslav Janus made 31 saves.

"We were trading opportunities at both ends and both goalies were good - it was a good battle," Whalers coach Mike Vellucci said. "We were off for eight days and I'm sure a lot of guys did not skate. I was not happy early on, but we showed some character coming back and I thought we took control in the third period."

After a scoreless opening

Please see **WHALERS, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Whalers' Joe Gaynor (24) chases the puck down along the boards in front of Mitch Gaulton of the Erie Otters during Monday's OHL matinee at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

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**SHAW**  
FROM PAGE B1

snapped up by the Bears in Week No. 2.

**MOVING ON UP**

A season-ending injury to Bears All-Pro middle linebacker Brian Urlacher forced reserve linebackers Nick Roach and Hunter Hillenmeyer to be pulled off special teams, leaving a spot open to sign Shaw, who was a free agent.

Bears senior director of pro personnel Bobby DePaul got the Shaw deal done during the wee hours of the morning following the Bears loss to the Packers during the Sunday night season opener at Lambeau Field.

"The guy shouldn't have been on the street, but he was," DePaul told Larry Mayer of ChicagoBears.com. "I've had my eye on this guy since he played in the preseason with Carolina. It wasn't like this guy just fell off the tree."

Shaw, who recorded four tackles in a loss to Philadelphia, knows that job security is only as good as his last outing.

"The interesting thing is that every week you're being evaluated on tape and being judged along with your peers," Shaw said. "That's the biggest motivation because it concerns your future and it's your job. It doesn't matter who you're playing against because somebody is always watching, whether it's your team or somebody else's. This business can be so wishy-washy. If you play like garbage, the reputation you'll get sticks. How you're seen and how you play determines your future."

Shaw, who is up for Pro

Bowl consideration as a special teams player, has made a strong impression with the Bears in his short stint. He's attentive at studying the game plan and is a stickler for detail.

"He's a guy that's really gotten better every week," Bears special-teams coordinator Dave Taub told ChicagoBears.com. "He's not the fastest guy in the world, but he's smart. He plays well with his hands, and he plays well with great effort. He's in the front row in meetings, and he's attentive. It's important to him. He knows that's the way he's paying the bills."

All of Shaw's belongings have remained in Jacksonville where he has purchased a dwelling to stay during the offseason.

"I live in an extended stay hotel, they're like the Homestead Suites," he said. "They clean our rooms twice a week. It's like living in a dorm, only a little better. It's close to practice facility. It's convenient and cheap. But after three months it's driving me crazy."

"It's a great city except for the traffic. I usually get out once or twice a week, either go to dinner or go out. The other night we went to the Bulls game."

Although the Bears were eliminated from the playoffs two weeks ago, Shaw is not content with just playing out the string.

"The Bears have always been up there in special teams," he said. "They put an emphasis on it and take pride in it, too."

"We were in the top 10 for a long time, now we're ranked 11th. Our goal is to be first. We had a turnover today (vs. Baltimore). It was a good day, but the last few weeks have not been real good."

Practice is where the state's

former all-time rushing and touchdown leader makes his mark.

"I'm on the scout team defense and I'll get a couple of reps (at linebacker)," Shaw said. "I've also played tight end on scout team. I've still got a little offense in me."

**'FUN THIS SEASON'**

Despite the team's 6-9 record heading into the season finale in Detroit, Shaw appreciates the opportunity to remain in the league.

"It's been fun this season," he said. "It was awesome to me because we won three of our first four games. I thought we had a great team and we were going to have a great season. But overall I've had a lot of fun and enjoy playing. It's a great experience. I realized after I got out of the game last year how much I missed the game."

Shaw will reunite with family members and friends and has several plans for the offseason including another mission trip.

"I've been praying about it, I may go to Africa," he said. "I've talked to the team captain of the Florida Gators. One of my teammates is involved with a fund-raiser. All the options excite me. I could go back to Costa Rica."

Shaw, ironically, also played in the Lions' former home, the Pontiac Silverdome, during its final year (2001) as a prep when he led Clarenceville to the Division 5 state finals.

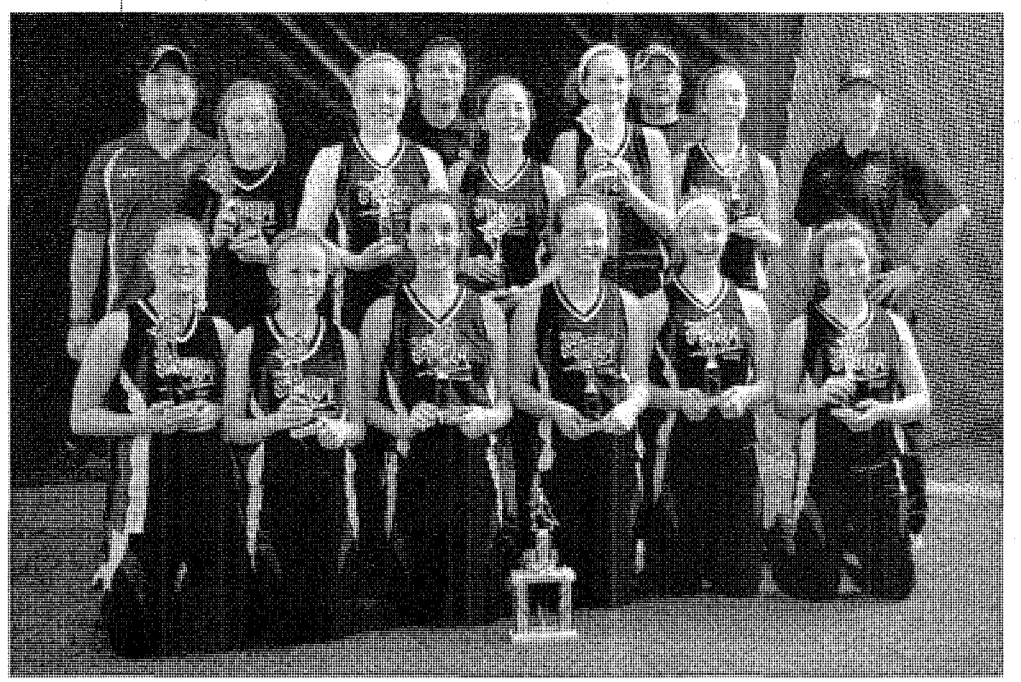
Yet his original NFL allegiance as a youth may surprise some.

"My oldest brother (Steve) picked a team, but my team was the Steelers," Tim said. "My brother, Pete, was a Dolphins fan and my other brother, Drew (Andrew), was the Cowboys. He (Drew) still likes the Cowboys and they don't like the Steelers. It was a rivalry thing and we stuck with those teams forever."

Even though his future for 2010 future remains up the air, Shaw hopes he can stick with the Bears another season. He said he is currently classified as "an equal rights free agent."

"It's kind of complicated to explain," Shaw said. "But the Bears can tender me. But it all depends on the collective bargaining agreement between the players and the owners. I don't worry about it. I'll be here as long as they want me to be here."

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851



**Indoor softball champs**

The Livonia Storm, a 14-and-under girls fastpitch softball team, recently finished 5-0 to capture the 12-team Genesee Fieldhouse Holiday Classic. Storm pitchers gave up only six total hits (all singles) in five games, including a pair of one-hitters, along with no-hitter in the championship game. The Storm batted .305 as a team with one-third of its hit going for extra bases including a pair of fence-clearing homers. Defensively the Storm did not give up any bunts or slap hits. The Storm have now won their last two tournaments and 11 consecutive games. Members of the Storm, who will compete next July in the 2010 USSSA World Series at ESPN's Wide World of Sports, include: (front row, from left) Delainey O'Donnell, Kaitlyn McIntosh, Aubrie Cragg, Jacquelyn Murphy, Casey Bias, Elaine Gerou; (back row, from left) assistant coach Jay McIntosh, Celeste Fudge, Catherine Porter, assistant coach Kevin Bias, Jessica Brandon, Hanna Warren, assistant coach Bob Warren, Shannon Watson and head coach Mike Gerou.

**SANA**  
FROM PAGE B1

have a player from Farmington Hills who is an All-American.

"There were other people who looked at her and said: 'Oh, you'll never be able to play at a higher level, because it's too physical.' She thinks it's great she was able to put those voices aside and prove to people you can do it if you really put your will to it."

Sana's leadership skills on the field are just as impressive as her ability to score goals, Shivraman added.

"Dena was constantly directing traffic out there," he said. "From a coaching standpoint,

that's great because you almost have a coach on the field giving instruction and direction.

"Every successful team has those individuals who strive to bring a team together. She's one of those players who connected with all the others."

"Girls and women's soccer tends to be a little more cliquish than guys. To have a player who works hard to bring people together toward a common goal, it makes the coach's job that much easier, and she consistently did that for us both years. That was outstanding about her in addition to the goals she scored."

Sana has become a better player in the last two years, she said, simply by being in a college program.

"The training is harder and more demanding than high school," Sana said. "You're forced to improve; you have to improve. The situation they put you in and the facilities they have — there's no way you won't get better. They put you in a great situation to be a better player. You just have to work hard."

Sana's performance at the national tournament and her All-America status created a lot of interest from coaches at four-year schools, Shivraman said.

Oakland University was one of them, and Sana plans to enroll there to study pre-law whether or not she plays soccer. The details that would give her a spot on the team are still being worked out, she said.

**Rocks take down Rams in hoops action**

Double-doubles by Jake Peterson and Ethan Walsh carried Salem to a 51-45 win Monday night over Flat Rock in the opening round of the Woodhaven Invitational boys basketball tournament.

Peterson, a senior center, led the way for Salem with 18 points and 15 boards, while

Ethan Walsh, a junior forward, also contributed 18 points and 13 rebounds.

Tyler Stewart was the next best scorer with seven points as Salem coach Bob Brodie earned a win over his alma mater.

Andrew Scarton paced the Rams (1-3) with 13 points.

The Rocks, who improved 2-1 overall, met Carleton Airport in Tuesday's championship game.

Airport (3-1) advanced with a 72-50 victory over the host Warriors as Daniel Jones and Tyler Pluff scored 13 and 10 points, respectively, for the Jets.

**Legal Notice**  
**Charter Township of Plymouth**  
**2009 Winter Taxes**

Winter Taxes are due **December 1, 2009** and payable through **February 16, 2010** without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office. After hours payments can be placed in the 24 hr **WHITE DROP BOX** located along the circular drive. The **Treasurer's Office will be open December 31, 2009 from 9:00am to Noon.**

RON EDWARDS  
Treasurer  
Charter Township of Plymouth  
9955 Haggerty Rd  
Plymouth, MI 481710

Publish: December 24, 27 and 31, 2009

**GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**6000 MIDDLEBELT**  
**GARDEN CITY, MI 48135**

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON Tuesday January 5, 2010 AT 9:00 A.M. THE AUCTION IS TO BE HELD AT WESTLAND CAR CARE TOWING, 6375 HIX RD., WESTLAND, MI 48185.

PLEASE NOTE: THE BIDDING WILL START AT THE TOWING AND STORAGE CHARGES.

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1996 FORD	4 D	1FALP52U7TA257683
1987 CHEVROLET	2 D	1G1FP21F5HL150211

Publish: December 31, 2009

**STATE OF MICHIGAN, JUDICIAL DISTRICT 3RD**  
**JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CAYMC, Two Woodward Avenue,**  
**Detroit, Michigan 48226**

**ORDER FOR SERVICE BY**  
**PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION**

Plaintiff: Bertch Cabinet Manufacturing, Inc.; P. O. Box 2280; Waterloo, IA 50704. Plaintiff's attorney: JAMES R. CMEJREK, 2201 Medford Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104; (734) 677-1440

Defendant: Randall A. Dickinson; 633 Natalie; Northville, MI 48170 AND DC Kitchen & Bath, L.L.C.; 136 Liberty Street; Plymouth, MI 48170

**IT IS ORDERED:**

- Your are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to recover monies owed to them by you. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before February 13, 2010. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint files in this case.
- A copy of this order shall be published once each week in the Plymouth Observer and the Northville Reporter three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.
- John Phillips shall post a copy of this Order at 633 Natalie or 501 West Dunlap, Northville, Michigan 48170.
- A copy of this order shall be sent to Randall A. Dickinson and DC Kitchen & Bath, L.L.C. at the last-known address by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the date of the publication, and the affidavit of mailing shall be filed with this court.

Publish: December 31, 2009 and January 7 & 14, 2010

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

<b>GIRLS BASKETBALL</b> Wednesday, Dec. 30 Notre Dame Prep Invitational, noon & 2 p.m. Ladywood Holiday Tournament, 4 & 6 p.m. (Wayne Memorial Holiday Shootout) Albion vs. Frankfort, 11:30 a.m. Thurston vs. Ferndale, 1 p.m.	Franklin vs. Berkley, 2:30 p.m. Farmington vs. Willow Run, 4 p.m. Redford Union vs. Det. Western, 5:30 p.m. (Country Day Roundball Classic) N. Farmington vs. Det. Pershing, 3:10 p.m.	Franklin vs. Novi at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m. <b>PREP WRESTLING</b> Wednesday, Dec. 30 Brother Rice Invitational, 9 a.m. Trenton Invitational, 9 a.m. Canton Duals at EMU, 9 a.m. <b>MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL</b>	<b>Wednesday, Dec. 30</b> Hope College DeVette Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m. <b>Saturday, Jan. 2</b> Marygrove at Madonna, noon. <b>WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL</b> Wednesday, Dec. 30 Mercyhurst (Pa.) at Madonna, 3 p.m.
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**EXTRA SPACE STORAGE**

Notice is hereby given that on (January 18, 2010) TATE & CO. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Extra Space Storage, 38875 GRAND RIVER AVE., FARMINGTON HILLS, MI, AT 1: 00 PM.

B27	John Jackson	Furniture, Household items.
C212	Michelle Mohr	Furniture, Household items
D229	Andrea Green	Furniture, Household items

Publish: December 31, 2009 and January 7, 2010

**CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Accepting Applications for Schools of Choice**  
**Second Semester beginning January 19, 2010**

The Clarenceville School District will accept applications for a limited schools of choice option beginning with the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year. Applications for limited slots in grades kindergarten, first, second and fourth will be accepted beginning Friday, January 1, 2010, through Friday, January 15, 2010, at the Clarenceville Superintendent's Office, 20210 Middlebelt Road., Livonia, Michigan 48152. Applications and guidelines are available from the superintendent's office or on-line on the district's website - [www.clarenceville.k12.mi.us](http://www.clarenceville.k12.mi.us). Second semester begins on Tuesday, January 19, 2010. Questions may be directed to the superintendent's office at 248-919-0250.

Publish: December 27 and 31, 2009

**Garden City**  
**CITY OF GARDEN CITY**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a two Public Hearing on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearings, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearings is to solicit public comments on the following:

- 09-024, Special Land Use.** The Acupuncture and Acupressure Clinic is proposing to do massages at 7139 Merriman Road in the C-3, General Business district. Massages are a regulated use in the C-3 zoning district.
- 09-022, Text Amendment.** To amend Section 154.001 Preamble to prohibit the use, use of land, or structure in violation of Federal Law.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

David L. Harvey  
City Manager

Publish: December 31, 2009

**WAYNE HOUSING COMMISSION**  
**4001 South Wayne Rd.**  
**Wayne, Michigan 48043**  
**Phone: (734) 721-8602**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEW PARKING GARAGE AND PAVEMENT WORK**

THE WAYNE HOUSING COMMISSION IS SOLICITING SEALED BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW THREE VEHICLE GARAGE AND ASPHALT PAVING IN THE CITY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN. DETAILED INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE COMMISSION'S ENGINEER/ARCHITECTS: SCALES AND ASSOCIATES, INC. AT THE FOLLOWING FTP WEB SITE:

To obtain an electronic copy of the construction documents send an email containing the words Wayne Housing Commission Garage to: [cscales@cscalesassoc.com](mailto:cscales@cscalesassoc.com), with a copy to [mjohnson@cscalesassoc.com](mailto:mjohnson@cscalesassoc.com). An email containing a link to download the plans will be immediately returned.

Engineers/Architects Address:  
Scales and Associates, Inc.  
Suite 1100 Grand Park Centre  
28 West Adams Street,  
Detroit, MI 48226-1617  
Phone: 313.962.8830  
Fax: 313.962.3776

Publish: December 31, 2009 & January 3, 7 & 10, 2010

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Soccer openings

The Livonia City Soccer Club has immediate openings for a second team in the under-18 age group.

Schoolcraft College men's soccer assistant and LCSC staff member Eric Scott will coach the team. For more information, call (734) 464-8575.

MU softball camps

Madonna University will stage three winter softball camps at the MU Activities Center featuring specialized individual instruction covering all phases of the game for girls ages 7-18.

Among the camps offered include:

Fundamental No. 1 - 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 (cost \$150);

Fundamental No. 2 - noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 (cost \$150).

For more information, call MU head coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail [awhite@madonna.edu](mailto:awhite@madonna.edu).

Need lacrosse coach

Livonia Ladywood is seeking a varsity girls lacrosse coach for the 2010 spring season. If interested, fax a resume to Ladywood Athletic Director Sal Malek at (734) 591-2386.

Football tutorials

Popp's QB Tutor will offer instruction for quarterbacks and wide receivers from 2-3 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (Session VI); and Feb. 7, 21, 28; March 7 and 14 (Session VII), both at Center Court, located at 7171 N. Haggerty, Canton.

The cost is \$150 per session. Sessions are limited to 16 quarterbacks and 16 receiver. Walk-

ins, when space available, are \$35 per date.

For more information, e-mail Richard Popp at: [theqbtutor@yahoo.com](mailto:theqbtutor@yahoo.com).

Need volleyball coach

Dearborn Divine Child High School is seeking applicants for a head varsity volleyball coach.

If interested, submit a resume and letter of interest before Jan. 11 to athletic director Tony DeMare at: [demare@divinechildhighschool.org](mailto:demare@divinechildhighschool.org).

Track coach wanted

The University of Detroit Jesuit High is seeking a varsity boys track and field coach for the 2010 season.

Those interested should forward a resume to: Mickey Barrett, Athletic Director, 8400 S. Cambridge, Detroit, MI. 48221; or fax to (313) 862-3299; or e-mail [mickey.barrett@uofdjhsuit.org](mailto:mickey.barrett@uofdjhsuit.org).

WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

period, the Whalers' Tyler G. Brown scored at the 13:23 mark of the second off assists from Seguin and Farmington Hills native Austin Levi to put Plymouth on top, 1-0.

Erie, however, knotted the count at 1-1 on Mike Cazzola's goal with 2:44 remaining in the same period set up by Zack Torquato and Brady Austin.

Just 1:35 into the final period, Andrew Yogan scored for the Otters off assists from Shawn Szydlowski and Stephen Genua to make it 2-1.

But with only 8:44 remaining in regulation, Ryan Hayes tallied the equalizer, recording his sixth goal of the season from Schmitz and Sequin.

"Coming off the (holiday) break we just wanted to keep it simple and eliminate mistakes," Schmitz said.

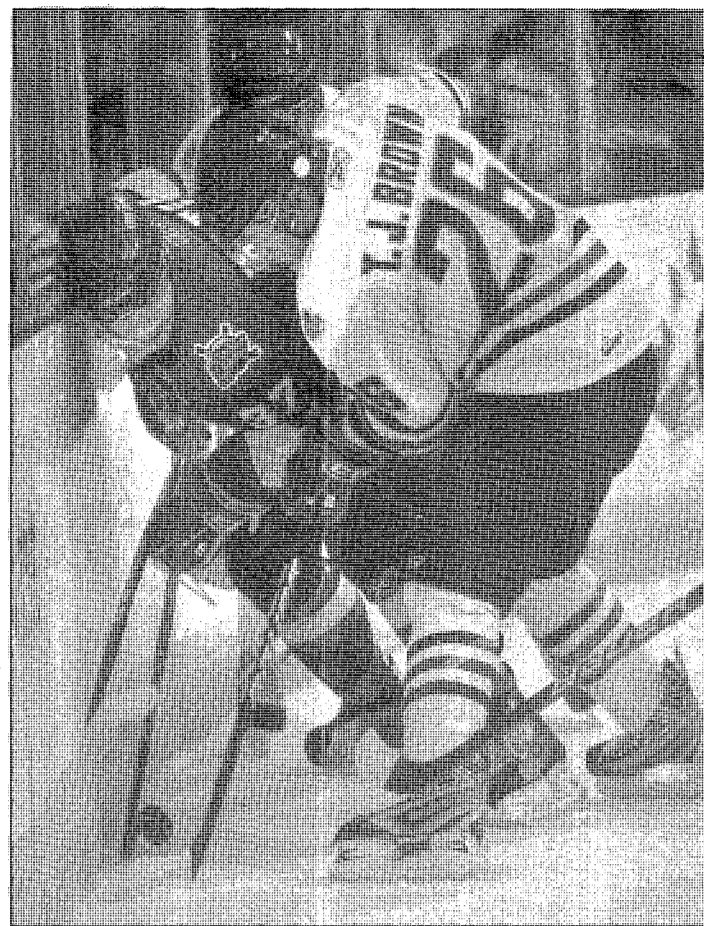
Both teams were missing key players.

Erie, which slipped to 15-16-4-1 in the Midwest Division of the OHL, played without goaltender Ramis Sadikov, who is representing Russia in the IIHF World Junior Championships, along with left winger David Broll, who was representing the Ontario Under-17 squad at the World Hockey Challenge.

Meanwhile, the Whalers' second leading point-getter A.J. Jenks (of Wolverine Lake) was with the U.S. squad in the World Juniors, while defenseman Michal Jordan was representing the Czech Republic.

"Between the World Juniors and injuries, we had four or five out and we really haven't played with our full lineup yet," said Vellucci, whose team is 4-0 in OT games and 3-0 this season against the Otters.

Although the Whalers are a whopping 19 points behind the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Whalers' Tyler J. Brown (26) squeezes the Erie Otters' Matthew Paton (37) along the boards during Monday's 3-2 OHL overtime victory at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

first-place Windsor Spitfires in the West Division, there's plenty to play for during the second half of the season.

Three players with area ties will figure prominently including Levi, who has eight points; Westland's T.J. Brown (four goals, eight assists); and Livonian Austin Mattson (three points).

"Levi has been getting so much ice time, and you've got to look at his upside with the NHL Draft coming up," Vellucci said. "I love the kid and he's a good player."

"T.J. (Brown) is a power forward, a physical guy who will fight when he has to. He's just gotten better and better."

"Mattson's struggled mainly

because he's been hurt and sick. He just had some teeth pulled. If he stays healthy, he'll help us out. And when he uses his speed, nobody can stop him."

T.J. Brown, meanwhile, knows the Whalers can elevate their game for the second half stretch run.

"The first half was disappointing, we could have played better," said the Churchill High grad. "The goal is to make the playoffs. We've had some injuries, but it will be good to see how we do when everybody gets back."

"Personally I want to have a impact every game. I just have to play my role and do my job."

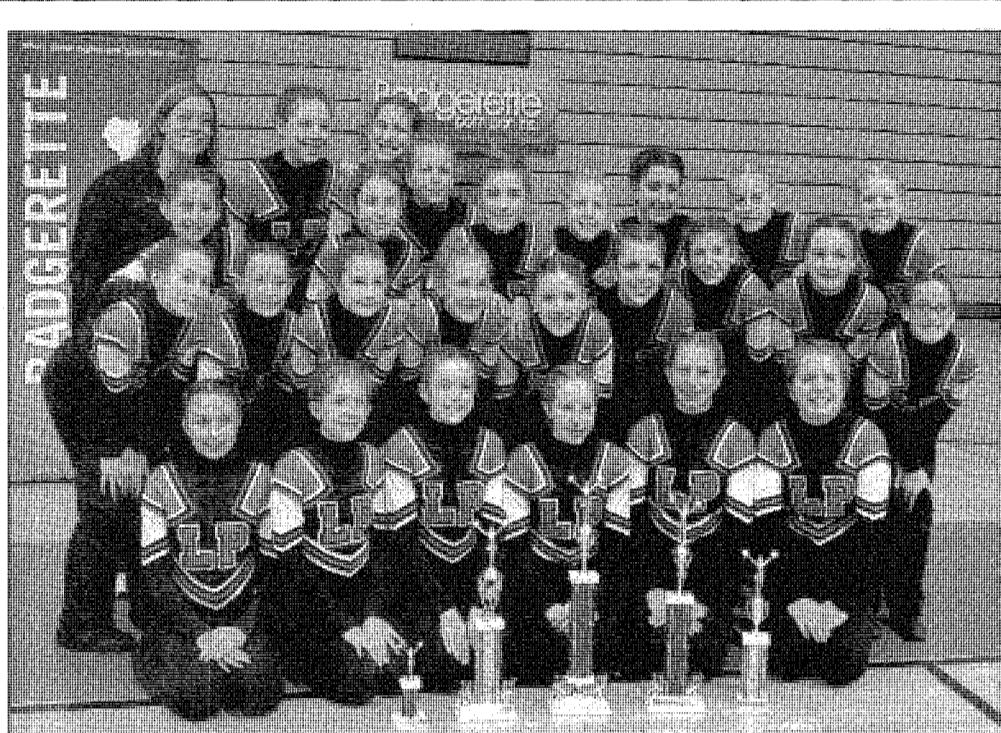
[bemons@hometownlife.com](mailto:bemons@hometownlife.com) | (313) 222-6851

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

**NORTHVILLE 148 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 38**  
Dec. 17 at Churchill  
200-yard medley relay: 1. Northville (BoFang Zhang, Alec Wagner, Ben Schoenek, John Blicke), 1:49.07; 3. Churchill (Jacob Rimatzki, John Yurgil, David Vincentini, Derik Atzinger), 2:00.43.  
200 freestyle: 1. Eric Ostrowski (N), 1:59.6; 3. Vincentini (LC), 2:02.94.  
200 individual medley: 1. John Lubisco

(N), 2:09.2.  
50 freestyle: 1. Nate Lunn (N), 22.96.  
1-meter diving: 1. Kevin Bain (N), 266.25.  
100 butterfly: 1. Anthony Adamowicz (N), 1:00.34.  
100 freestyle: 1. William Greenlee (N), 50.22.  
500 freestyle: 1. Chris LaFayette (N), 5:08.79.  
200 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Lubisco, Lunn, Ryan Winkler, Greenlee),

1:31.12; 3. Churchill (Vincentini, Zack Anderson, Lance Kortesoja, Mark Freyberg), 1:47.06.  
100 backstroke: 1. Zhang (N), 59.81.  
100 breaststroke: 1. Vincentini (LC), 1:08.14.  
400 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (A.J. Aquino, Adamowicz, Tim Shea, LaFayette), 3:35.47.  
Dual meet records: Northville, 2-0 overall; Churchill, 0-2 overall.



Pom champions

On Dec. 12, the Livonia Middle School Pom team competed at Badgerette Pom's Michigan Spirit Showdown held at Brighton High School earning firsts in the M.S. kick and pom divisions. Against all schools, they earned a second overall in high kick and a third in the open division, which included high school teams. They also placed fifth overall in their pom routine. Team members include (front row, from left): co-captains Jessyca DeCotto and Madison Pettit; captains Megan Mila, Heather Swirles and Kari Barden, co-captain Michaela Harter; (second row, from left) Darrian Wasil, Lauren Alcantara, Maria Leopardi, Lindsey Carpenter, Katie Clark, Jamie Brda, Alyssa DiDomenico, Maria Castrodale, Julia Alcantara; (third row, from left) Natalie Alcantara, Leah Dempsey, Madison Fret, Allison O'Brien, Alesandra D'Agostino, Julianna Jarosz, Heather Vallance; (fourth row, from left) coach Andrea McCleary, Savannah Sikorski, Lindsay Hickox and Rachel Pettie.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

JAN. 14-20, 2010

**St. Thomas a' Becket Parish**  
**Time/Date:** Mass at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 17, 2010  
**Location:** 555 S. Lilley, Canton  
**Details:** Fellowship and refreshments follow Mass sponsored by Widowed Friends  
**Contact:** Pat at (734) 895-6246

**Leon's**  
**Time/Date:** 9:30 a.m., Jan. 16  
**Location:** 30149 Ford Road, in Garden City  
**Details:** Monthly breakfast meeting of Bethany Suburban West for divorced individuals and singles  
**Contact:** Kathy M. (734) 513-9479

ONGOING

**AWANA**  
**Time/Date:** 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays  
**Location:** Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade  
**Contact:** (248) 426-0096.

**Classes/study**  
**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesday  
**Location:** Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile  
**Details:** Tuesday Ladies Bible Study; \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5  
**Contact:** (248) 348-7600

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
**Time/Date:** 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month  
**Location:** 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia  
**Details:** Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun  
**Contact:** Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.

**Livonia Unity**  
**Time/Date:** Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.  
**Location:** 28660 Five Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions  
**Contact:** (810) 813-4073 or gary@

energeticarts.org.  
**Men's Bible study**  
**Time/Date:** Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 p.m.  
**Location:** Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township  
**Contact:** John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

**Merriman Road Baptist Church**  
**Details:** Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening.  
**Contact:** (734) 421-0472; leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you

**New Life Community Church**  
**Time/Date:** Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays  
**Location:** 42200 Tyler, Belleville  
**Contact:** (734) 846-4615

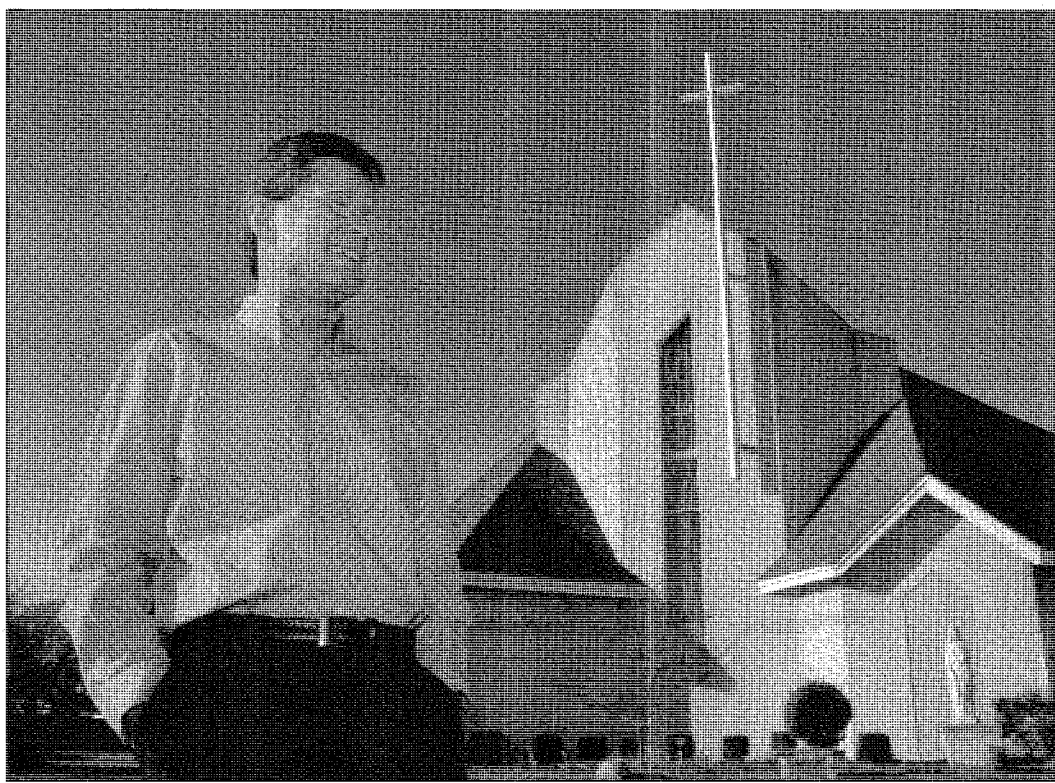
**Our Lady of Loretto**  
**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday  
**Location:** Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford  
**Details:** Scripture study  
**Contact:** (313) 534-9000

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian**  
**Time/Date:** 10:30 a.m., Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. Thursday  
**Location:** 26701 Joy  
**Details:** Wednesday study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith. Thursday group examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey  
**Contact:** (313) 274-3820.

**Seeds of Mercy Mission Home**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m., every Friday  
**Location:** 21819 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Bible study  
**Contact:** Nicole Christ at (313) 531-1234

**United Methodist Church of Wayne**  
**Time/Date:** noon and 7 p.m. Wednesday  
**Location:** 3 Townsquare, Wayne  
**Details:** Celebrate Recovery Bible Study is a Christ-centered and Bible-based 12 Step Recovery Program  
**Contact:** (734) 721-4801

Please see RELIGION, B5



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ric Misiak is a deacon at St. Edith Church in Livonia. He and his wife, Colleen, who serves as a coordinator of youth ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, are active volunteers in the Catholic Church.

# Livonia couple passionate about serving in Catholic Church

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI  
CORRESPONDENT

Colleen Misiak remembers being amazed and a little embarrassed when her boyfriend at the time, Ric, emerged from a confessional after an hour. When he walked out everyone had cleared the church, he was still talking to the priest and he promised to volunteer as a catechism teacher.

After 35 years of marriage, they agree that Ric's encounter with The Rev. Richard Schmidberger, who served at St. Genevieve parish in Livonia at the time, was the beginning of the couple's lifelong devotion to working and volunteering for the Catholic Church.

Colleen, 56, is coordinator of youth ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. She oversees the Life Teen liturgy, community service, social events and faith formation for middle and high school teens.

Ric, 58, serves as deacon and pastoral associate at St. Edith in Livonia. He works full-time as pastoral associate to help in whatever ways the pastor needs. Some of his many duties include coordinating the baptismal sacramental program, visits to the sick and home outreach, as well as making hospital and home visits.

"I also assist the various parish ministries, like religious education, faith formation, youth ministry and Christian services," says Ric, a 1969 Stevenson High School graduate.

He refers to Schmidberger as his mentor and "a great friend of mine."

As a young couple they both volunteered in many positions at St. Genevieve. Colleen, a 1971 Bentley High School graduate, has served as a youth minister, catechist and Christian Youth Organization softball coach at St. Edith.

When they started out so many years ago, they didn't have a master plan in mind, because as Ric explains, "ministry has a mind of its own."

They met on a blind date, married in 1974 had three children, Matt, 32, Shannon, 30, and Meghan, 25. They also have three grandchildren. Colleen was born in Livonia and the couple has lived in the community more than 30 years.

**PASSIONATE ABOUT FAITH**

Looking much younger than their years, they both bubble with enthusiasm when they talk about their work.

"It's been an honor for me to be in service for youth for all these years," Colleen says. "There were so many opportunities. The Holy Spirit keeps moving you. It's what you do. It's your life and you don't separate it."

While they flash each other big smiles and still look like they might be dating, Ric says, they are very different in many ways.

"I'm very structured and linear and Colleen is free flowing," he says adding that faith is their commonality. "It is at the essence of your life. It's supposed to be who we are."

**Colleen, 56, is coordinator of youth ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. She oversees the Life Teen liturgy, community service, social events and faith formation for middle and high school teens.**



Colleen Misiak



Ric Misiak

They also quickly deflect questions about how many people they have helped spiritually throughout the years even though they are now seeing the children of kids they first worked with in youth ministry.

"They've been longtime parishioners here and from the beginning they've looked for ways to share their gifts in religious education and ministry to youth," says the Rev. Mike Kazer, St. Edith Church pastor.

"They're continuing to further their education with masters' degrees so they have a broader base from which to draw to better serve the community," Kazer said. "St. Edith's parish is certainly better off because of their involvement."

**WORKING WITH TEENS**

Over the years, Ric says, he hasn't seen a dramatic change among young people.

"Teens are teens," he says. Pointing to the thousands of teens from around the world who attend World Youth Day and the Rainbow Youth Conference, held annually for teens in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Ric says: "I think teens have a lot more faith than we give them credit for."

Colleen and Ric recently returned from the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City; and they're planning to attend the Rainbow Youth Conference next month at the Renaissance Center, as well as an annual youth mission trip to the Appalachians at Easter.

Their schedules have always been full with obligations to the church, yet it wasn't a direct journey from catechism teacher to deacon for Ric.

Shortly after he earned a teaching degree at Eastern Michigan University he took

a job as district manager at the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and then various circulation positions at the *Ann Arbor News* where he worked for 31 years and retired as circulation manager.

Colleen held part-time jobs occasionally when their children were young. All the while they pursued their real passion working in youth ministries at St. Genevieve and St. Edith.

Colleen also earned her bachelor degree in religious studies from Madonna University and is a certified director of religious education and youth ministry. She also took most of the 12 courses, over six years, that Ric completed to become a deacon. This is while they raised their three children.

Ric has married some of the teens he worked with in youth ministry and is now baptizing their babies.



Ric and Colleen Misiak are devoted to working and volunteering in the Catholic Church. He's a deacon at St. Edith in Livonia and she's coordinator of youth ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel of Plymouth.

# Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968  
 email: oeobits@hometownlife.com  
 View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

**SAMUEL LEE BEAN**  
 Age 38, of Monroe, died Dec. 24, 2009. Visitation 2-8pm Dec. 29 at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, funeral Dec. 30, at 1pm. www.davidcbrownfh@aol.com

**REID SEBASTIAN GHARAIBEH**  
 Age 13 months, passed away at his home in Garden City, MI on Tuesday, December 22, 2009. He was born October 28, 2008 in Dearborn, MI, son of Namir Derek & Pamela Eileen (Graben) Gharaibeh. He is survived by his parents, two sisters Lessa & Ivy, grandfathers "Pops" Melvin Graben and "Opa" Hashem Gharaibeh, grandmother "Omi" Ria Laub, aunts Becky and Dima, and many other family, friends, therapists, teachers, and doctors. He was preceded in death by his brother Galen on January 18, 2006. Reid was born with Joubert Syndrome and had low vision and was able to attend the Early On Program at Stottlemeyer Elementary School, Westland, MI and was a frequent participant at Oakwood's Center for Exceptional Families in Dearborn, MI. A Visitation was held Saturday, December 26, 2009 from 11-12:30 PM at DAVID C. BROWN FUNERAL HOME, Belleville, MI. Cremation rites will be accorded. Memorial contributions to the Joubert Syndrome Foundation would be appreciated. Please sign his guest book for the family to keep. www.davidcbrownfh.com.

**MILLARD J. LETOURNEAU**  
 December 23, 2009. Age 76, of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Kay. Loving father of Greg (Christine), Paul (Barbara), Lisa (Lanny) Lancaster, Tod (Suzin), Darin (Elone), Kirk (Ann), Lee (Bev) Dancy, Mike (Sara) Dancy. Proud grandpa of eighteen. Dear brother of Al, Gloria, Gladys, Sherita and Jean. Mr. Letourneau served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He also served in the Livonia Fire Departments for 27 years, retiring in 1988 as Battalion Chief. The Memorial Service will be Saturday January 9, 11 AM at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (Btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Visitation Friday 4-8 PM. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association 20300 Civic Center Dr., Ste 100 Southfield, MI 48076. To share a memory please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

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Observer & Eccentric  
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RELIGION

FROM PAGE B4

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Clothing bank

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon, fourth Saturday
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, West of Canton Christian Fellowship, at 41711 Joy

Details: Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

Fellowship dinner

St. James Presbyterian
Time/Date: 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month
Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Details: Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals
Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

Films

Kenwood Church of Christ
Time/Date: 10 a.m. Wednesday Kids Matinees and 4 p.m., Saturday family movie
Location: 20200 Merriman, Livonia

Details: Guitar Praise game precedes the film on Saturday. Children in second grade or younger can play prior to the film; those in third grade and up can play after the movie. Pizza will also be served following the movie. All events are free
Contact: (248) 476-8222

Moms
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday and 7-9 p.m., fourth Tuesday
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers. Aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners
Contact: Angie at (248) 427-1020

Dunning Park Bible Chapel
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope
Contact: Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

Prayer
Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. the first and third Tuesday

Location: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Details: Prayer, spiritual healing and outreach
Contact: (734) 427-3660

Nardin Park United Methodist Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests
Contact: (248) 476-8860

St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back of the

church
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906

St. Michael's Church of Livonia
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. third Wednesday
Location: Corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia

Details: Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Benediction service follows
Contact: (734) 261-1455

Singles
First Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry meets; cost is \$5
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Sunday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville

Details: Single Point Ministries, for ages 30 and older, offers fellowship and related topics. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Support
Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling
Contact: (313) 255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August
Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group
Contact: (248) 433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church
Time/Date: 1-3 p.m., second and fourth Thursday
Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibro-Myalgia support group meets; no dues, but donations are accepted
Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Lucy with questions at (734) 462-1768

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday morning
Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available. There are no requirements, this a service the church wants the community to be aware of and use if needed. Donations of nonperishable items also accepted for the cupboard.
Contact: (734) 421-8451

St. John's Episcopal Church
Time/Date: 10 a.m., the first and third Friday

Location: 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets. Respite care is provided. The group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association
Contact: Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426

Thomas a' Becket Church
Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group meeting starts at 7 p.m., Thursday
Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly encourages members to lose weight and keep it off
Contact: Margaret at (734) 838-0322

Unity of Livonia
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia

Details: Overeaters Anonymous meets
Contact: (313) 387-9797. www.oa.org

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m., praise and worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts)

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is free
Contact: For child care call (248) 374-7400. Visit www.celebrater-recovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate

Thrift store

St. James Presbyterian
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday
Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Contact: (313) 534-7730

Way of Life Christian Church
Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m., third Saturday from October through May
Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth

Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a question to know God more in their lives
Contact: (734) 637-7618

WORSHIP

Adat Shalom Synagogue
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., Saturday, 7:30 a.m., 8:30

a.m., Sunday and 6 p.m., week days

Location: 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills
Contact: (248) 851-5100

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and youth and adult Bible classes

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia
Contact: (734) 522-6830

Due Season Christian Church
Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, with 7:15 p.m., Tuesday Bible study

Location: Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, in Livonia
Details: Nondenominational, multi-cultural, full gospel church services
Contact: (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org.

Faith Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Sunday, learning hour is at 9 a.m. for all ages. Starting Sept. 13, Sunday service time changes to 10 a.m.

Location: 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia
Contact: Visit www.livonfaith.org

Garden City Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music; 10 a.m., youth Sunday school and nursery care; 8:30 a.m. adult Sunday school; 6 p.m., informal gathering with scriptures and discussion every Sunday

Location: Middlebelt one block south of Ford Road
Contact: (734) 421-7620

Good Hope Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school followed by 10:30 a.m. worship service with communion each Sunday; Bible study 10 a.m. Wednesdays

Location: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Contact: (734) 427-3660

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St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church
St. Genevieve School - PreK-8
29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church
32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616

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45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525
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Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.

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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA
Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584
SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 PM
Sunday Worship & Sunday School
9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE
10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES
11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

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10000 Beech Daly
313-937-3170

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills
www.orchardumc.org
248-626-3620
Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA
25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)
(734) 422-0494
Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am
Traditional Service 10:30 am

GREEK ORTHODOX

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI
Sunday Services
Matsins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Rev. Fr. George Vapouris
Parish Office 734-420-0131
Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
www.nativitygochurch.org

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96
734-522-6830
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional
Sunday Bible Class 9:45 am
Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY
313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.
Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

Risen Christ Lutheran
David W. Martin, Pastor
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth in Hill of Shalom
(734) 453-5252
Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am
Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360
Worship Services SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.
website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church
40000 Six Mile Road
"just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400
Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours
Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.
Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The Wmuz Word Station
For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

CONGREGATIONAL

North Congregational Church
36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750
10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School
Faith - Freedom-Fellowship Ministers
Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Bidron

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road
Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dmps.com

# Start the new year with laughs at comedy festival film

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

If you missed the second annual Detroit International Comedy Festival held earlier this year in Royal Oak, you'll get a chance to catch all of the laughs next week in Novi and Canton.

A documentary of the week-long stand-up comedy festival debuts at Emagine Novi on Jan. 5, 2010 and opens in other Emagine Theatres, including Canton, on Jan. 8. It features performances by Ryan Hamilton, Tim Nutt, Alycia Cooper, Brett Eastburn, Brandon Vestal and Mike McDaniel, offers a glimpse of the event's other 38 "up and coming" comedians, as well as behind the scenes footage.

"A lot of people have never been to a comedy club and this is a good intro to what goes on," said Mark Ridley, one of the film's executive producers and owner of the Comedy Castle in Royal Oak, home of the annual laugh fest.

"Jim Dudek, the gentle-



The Detroit International Comedy Fest Film debuts Jan. 5, 2010, at Emagine Theatre in Novi.

man who filmed it, wanted to do something that captured the festival ... that showed some of the people you may not know now before they get too big," he said, pointing out that *Open Mic*, one of Dudek's previous films, included then "unknown" comic Dave Chappelle.

"This is a way of getting a lot of people on film."

It also gives viewers a taste of what goes on during com-

edy festival week in March at Comedy Castle. The third annual event begins March 21, 2010.

### COMEDY SHOWCASE

Ridley and David Moroz, owner of Aspen Talent, and a co-producer of both the film and the festival, create a comedy theme — such as "clean" humor, all-female comedians or best of the West Coast — for each festival performance

### DETROIT INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

**See the film:** Catch the world premiere 8 p.m. Jan. 5, 2010 at Emagine Theatre, Novi. The film opens Jan. 8, 2010 exclusively at Emagine Novi, Emagine Canton, Emagine Woodhaven and Cinema Hollywood. The documentary shows a mix of stand-up comedy performances, as well as behind-the-scenes from the second annual festival held in March at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, in Royal Oak. Call the Novi theatre at (248) 468-2990 for ticket price and show time; Call Emagine Canton at (734) 721-3456; for premiere tickets visit [www.arkdistribution.com](http://www.arkdistribution.com)

**Attend the 3rd annual festival:** March 21-27, 2010. Lewis Black kicks it off March 21 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre (\$55) and hosts March 22 (\$25) at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle. Nightly guest hosts include Dave Coulier, Kathleen Madigan, Kivi Rogers, Heywood Banks, and Cool-Aide. Visit [www.comedycastle.com](http://www.comedycastle.com)

night.

"We wanted something different," Ridley said, explaining that most other humor festivals schedule "one-person shows or films" each night of the event.

"It's a concept we think will catch on," he said, referring to the theme showcase. "What we're also trying to do is to get the industry people involved."

A talent booking agent or industry scout, for example, might be interested only in

female comedians or in ethnic humor and would choose to watch the corresponding theme night during festival week.

### FILMING THE BEST

A panel of festival judges picks the top two audience favorites from each night to perform at a "best of" showcase on Friday and Saturday. The film's viewers also will see some of the best stand-up performances from the event

in March.

"We're not going to say it will happen in 2010, but our five-year plan is to grow the festival so that industry people take more interest," Ridley said.

Ridley and Moroz will take the festival to a new level next year by booking several headliners — including Lewis Black, Dave Coulier and Kathleen Madigan — to host each night of routines by "up and coming" comics.

"We'd like to get other venues involved like at other (comedy fest) cities," Ridley added.

That would include other clubs or theaters in Royal Oak and would enable the festival to expand its offerings. Ridley envisions comedy films as well as live performance.

"We want to keep it a week-long festival. But we'd like to get a few other venues in," Ridley said.

"If the film is any indication, we're hoping it (the festival) will continue to grow over the years."

### GET OUT

#### ART

##### Costick Center

**Time/Date:** Through Jan. 8, 2010  
**Location:** 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills

**Details:** The work of multimedia artist Susan Warner

**Contact:** (248) 473-1856

##### Lotus Arts Gallery

**Location:** 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth  
**Contact:** (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734)453-5400

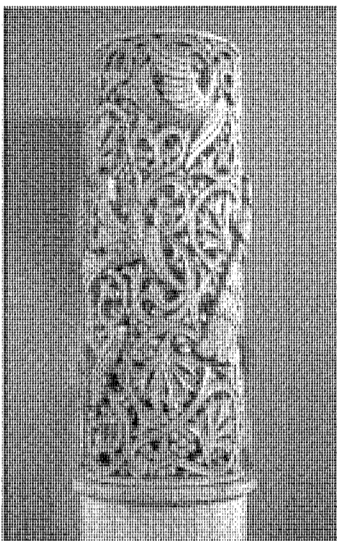
##### Northville Art House

**Location:** 215 W. Cady Street, downtown Northville  
**Time/Dates:** "Made of Wood: Multiple Perspectives" opens Jan. 8, 2010  
**Contact:** (248) 344-0497, or visit [www.northvillearts.org](http://www.northvillearts.org)

#### AUDITIONS

##### Farmington Hills Youth Choir

**Time/Date:** Auditions by appointment 5-6:30 p.m. and open auditions 6:30-7:30, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010  
**Location:** Longacre House,



"Midst of the Garden" by Mike Kapetan, will be on display along with other art works made of wood at Northville Art House beginning Jan. 8, 2010.

located at 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

**Details:** The Youth Choir offers children, age 6-12, with all levels of experience the opportunity to perform a wide variety of choral music

in an engaging, meaningful setting  
**Contact:** Call (248) 473-1859 for audition appointment

##### Schoolcraft College

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m., Tuesday-Wednesday, Jan. 12-13  
**Location:** 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, in the liberal arts theater

**Details:** Auditions for "King Lear," 35 roles will be filled. Performances will be March 19-20 and 26-27 and April 19-20, 2010

**Contact:** (734) 462-4400 Ext. 5270

#### COMEDY

##### Go Comedy!

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

**Location:** 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale  
**Details:** Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays  
**Contact:** (248) 327-0575; [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

##### JD's House of Comedy

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings  
**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside

Star Theatre complex, Southfield  
**Details:** Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

**Contact:** (248) 348-2420 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

##### Jazz Cafe at Music Hall

**Time/Date:** 9 p.m. third Thursdays  
**Location:** 350 Madison Ave., Detroit  
**Details:** Show Up, and Go Up, open call, free

**Contact:** (313) 887-8532, [www.jazzcafedetroit.com](http://www.jazzcafedetroit.com)

##### Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays  
**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia  
**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, [www.kickerscomplex.com](http://www.kickerscomplex.com)

##### Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

**Time/Date:** Jim David, Dec. 31  
**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak  
**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, [www.comedycastle.com](http://www.comedycastle.com)

## Michigan Humane Society is featured on 'DogTown'

If you're a fan of the National Geographic Channel's *DogTown* series, you won't want to miss the hour-long season premiere at 10 p.m., Friday, Jan. 1, 2010.

In addition to checking in on two of Michael Vick's former fighting dogs being cared for at the sanctuary, the show also follows the Michigan Humane Society's Cruelty Investigation Department as it investigated an elusive dog fighting suspect in Detroit last summer.

Each year, the MHS Cruelty Investigation Department responds to approximately 150 cases of dog fighting in their service area of Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland

Park. The investigators regularly remove dogs from lives of aggression and abuse, and work to bring justice to those responsible.

The *DogTown* series regularly follows the rehabilitation of abandoned, neglected and "misfit" dogs at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

For more on the *DogTown* series, visit [channel.national-geographic.com](http://channel.national-geographic.com) and click on the *DogTown* logo. For more on *DogTown*, the subject of the National Geographic show, visit the Best Friends Sanctuary Web site at [www.bestfriends.org](http://www.bestfriends.org). The Michigan Humane Society Web site is [www.michiganhumane.org](http://www.michiganhumane.org).

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

## A Tip of the Hard Hat

Building trades workers living in the Wayne County community extend their thanks to

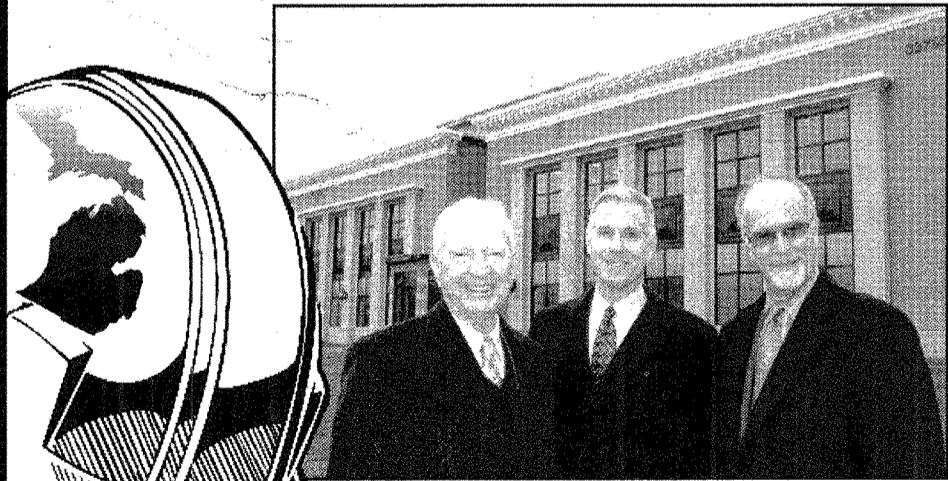
### The Dailey Company

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### City of Livonia

for employing local building trades workers for the construction of the new 16th District Court House.



Mayor Jack Kirksey, Steve Dailey and Mark King outside of the new 16th District Court House.

### Good jobs employing Michigan workers:

- Help workers support local businesses.
- Make it possible to make contributions to churches and charitable organizations.
- Keep tax dollars in the community.
- Allow workers to afford health insurance and enjoy retirement benefits

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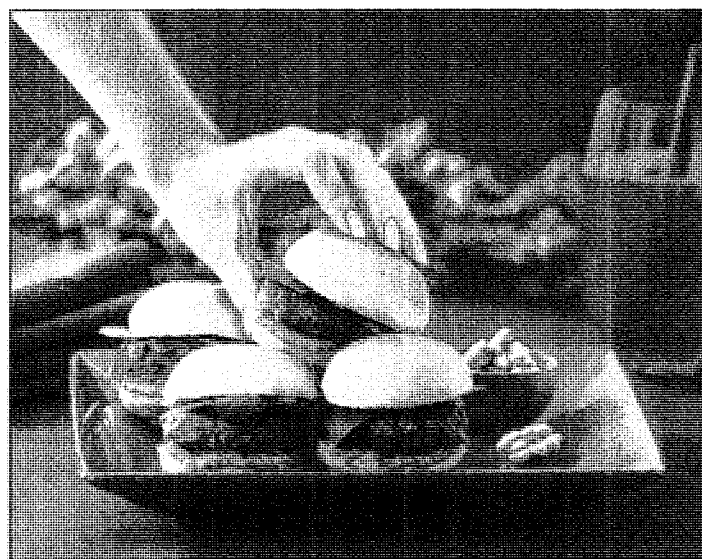
# Bring on fun with family, friends and finger foods

The economic uncertainty of the last year has had at least one positive effect: consumers are retreating to the comforts of home for nurturing good times and reconnecting with family and friends.

According to U.S. trend watcher Iconoculture, consumers are rediscovering the comfort of home, as they save money by hosting more in-home get-togethers. Indeed, staying home is the new going out; 71 percent of adults report cooking at home more and eating out less.

With in-home entertaining on the uptick and the winter holiday season of celebrating with family and friends fast approaching, consumers are turning to simple solutions to minimize the stress and maximize the fun when entertaining. One sure fire way? Keep the menu simple, focusing on finger foods.

"Good food is central to the fun around the holidays and leads to memorable moments," says chef and cookbook author Tina Salter, who develops recipes for Diamond Foods, a processor and marketer of Diamond culinary nuts, Emerald snack



Diamond Walnut Chicken Sliders are easy to eat and simple to make.

nuts and Pop Secret popcorn. "Simple, wholesome ingredients combined with easy-to-use recipes help make it easy to get out of the kitchen during holiday celebrations and into the fun."

### FINGER FOOD FIX

Finger foods can be eaten in one or two bites, do not require juggling silverware while trying to carry on conversation, and can be prepared in advance and placed on the table at the beginning of a

gathering, freeing the host to enjoy the party. They are perfect for a variety of occasions, from a small gathering to a big bash, giving attendees enough to be satisfied and keep the party moving.

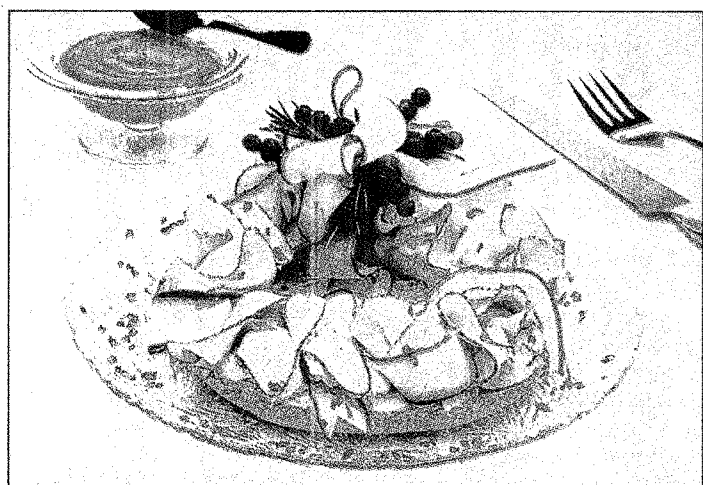
Instead of the tired bowl of chips and salsa, consider spicing up your selection of finger foods with unique recipes, like Diamond Shelled Walnuts, Apple and Blue Cheese Bites, Diamond Walnut Chicken Sliders, or Egyptian Spiced Pop Secret Popcorn.

### SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

While planning a get together with finger foods, keep in mind these party organizing tips:

- Develop a manageable guest list. Can you handle serving this size group? Does this size group fit your budget? Will your home accommodate? Are children welcome?
- Consider incorporating a theme for added fun. Weave invitations, food, music and décor around it to simplify planning.
- Do not let your menu get the best of you; stay in your comfort zone when selecting recipes. Pick three to four finger foods to serve, and, preferably, recipes that can be prepared in advance.
- Rearrange as needed to make your living space party-friendly. For example, would your kitchen table be better suited pushed against the wall and used as a bar, freeing up the floor for mingling?
- Do not spend the entire party serving your guests; encourage them to help themselves so you can enjoy the celebration with family and friends, too.

- Courtesy of Family Features



BOAR'S HEAD

Holiday Turkey Wreath is festive as well as tasty.

# Dress up your buffet with a turkey wreath

Nothing says "It's the holidays" more than a decorative evergreen wreath and bow. Now it's possible to bring this same look to a brunch or buffet table with this sliced turkey and cucumber wreath. Whether entertaining for six or 60, the Sliced Turkey Wreath provides a festive feel and is easy to make. Using a large boule or any other round bread, halve and cut out the center. Arrange slices of roast breast of turkey and cucumber ribbons as shown. Garnish with sprigs of rosemary, skewers of fresh cranberries and sprinkle with diced roasted red peppers. Each wreath makes about six to eight servings.

Cut thin strips of cucumber lengthwise with a vegetable peeler, making sure there is a line of green peel on both sides. Cut until you reach the seeds and then turn, repeating the cutting. Set aside.

Cut the bread by placing it on its side and pointing the knife at about an inch off the bottom. Use a sharp knife to cut out a hole in the center of the bread (like a big doughnut) and discard. Spread the goat cheese around the loaf. At the bottom of the wreath, place two cucumber ribbons in an upside down V and make a V-slit in the bottom of the cucumber as pictured.

Twist and curl each slice of turkey and place around the wreath. Place a few cucumber ribbons around the wreath as seen in the picture and gather cucumber ribbons at the top center, placing over the turkey. Stick fresh cranberries onto toothpicks and insert at the top of the wreath. Add fresh sprigs of rosemary. Sprinkle overall with the roasted peppers.

Courtesy of Family Features; recipe courtesy of Boar's Head, maker of Boar's Head Ovengold Roast Breast of Turkey

### HOLIDAY TURKEY WREATH

Servings: 6 to 8 servings

- 1 large cucumber, ends cut off
  - 1 large round loaf crusty bread
  - 1 medium log goat cheese (Chevre)
  - ½ pound roast breast of turkey, sliced thin
  - 2 roasted peppers, cut into a small dice
  - 2 to 3 small sprigs rosemary
- Make the cucumber ribbons.

# Spice up a gathering with festive finger foods

Forget that tired snack bowl of chips and salsa. It's easy to serve finger foods at your next get together with these recipes from Diamond Foods. For more finger food ideas, visit Diamond Foods at [feedyourfingers.com](http://feedyourfingers.com).

### DIAMOND WALNUT CHICKEN SLIDERS

- 1 cup shelled walnuts toasted and finely chopped
- ½ pounds ground chicken or turkey, dark and light meat
- ½ cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- ¼ cup minced onion
- ¼ cup chopped parsley
- 2 Tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated lemon zest
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme, crumbled
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper

- 3 Tablespoons canola oil
- 15 mini buns or rolls
- Arugula leaves, for serving

In a large bowl, combine chicken or turkey, walnuts, cheese, onion, parsley, olive oil, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, lemon zest, salt, thyme, black pepper and cayenne pepper. Divide mixture into 15 1-inch thick patties. In a large sauté pan, heat canola oil over medium-high heat. Add burgers, turning once, until cooked through, about five minutes. Assemble slider patties on buns with a dollop of Emerald Almond and Roasted Pepper Mayo and arugula leaves. Serve immediately.

### EMERALD ALMOND AND ROASTED PEPPER MAYO

- 1 cup dry roasted almonds, toasted and finely chopped
- 1 cup roasted red bell peppers, peeled, seeded and cut into thin strips
- ¾ cup olive oil mayonnaise
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

In the bowl of a food processor, combine almonds and peppers; pulse until almost smooth. Add the mayonnaise; pulse just to combine. Adjust seasoning. Serve immediately. Makes 15 sliders

### DIAMOND SHELLED WALNUTS, APPLE AND BLUE CHEESE BITES

- 1 cup shelled walnuts, toasted
- 4 ounces cream cheese
- 2 Tablespoons milk or heavy cream
- 4 ounces blue cheese, chopped
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 large apples, cored and cut into 1/4-inch slices
- Chives, chopped, for garnish

In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese and milk or cream; whip until smooth. Add blue cheese and black pepper; stir to combine. Add about three-quarters of the shelled walnuts; mix well. Spoon about two teaspoons of the blue cheese mixture onto each apple slice. Garnish with a sprinkling of the remaining walnuts and chives. Serve immediately. Makes about 24.

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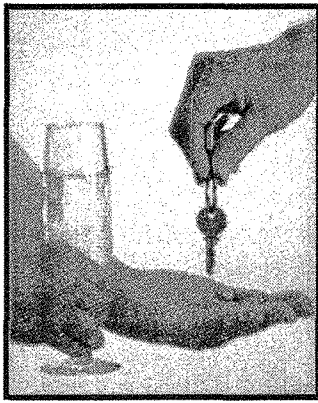
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<b>BREAKFAST SPECIAL</b> Monday - Friday 6 - 10 a.m. 2 Eggs, Hash Browns, Bacon or Sausage, Toast & Jelly <b>\$1.99</b> With this coupon. Expires 1-7-10	<b>ANY MEAL SPECIAL</b> <b>10% off</b> Your Entire Bill With this coupon. Expires 1-7-10 Not valid with any other offer.	<b>DINNER SPECIALS</b> <b>EVERYDAY!</b> Starting at <b>\$6.95</b> *Includes FREE Dessert
		<b>LUNCH SPECIALS</b> <b>EVERYDAY!</b> Starting at <b>\$4.95</b> *Includes FREE Soup



# Don't Drink & Drive Celebrate Safely!

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers along with these area businesses would like to wish everyone a SAFE New Year's Eve and New Year's Day!  
Remember to drink wisely and have a designated driver!

**VILLAGE PARTY TIME**  
303 South Main • Milford, MI  
(248) 684-8965  
*Be safe this Holiday Season!*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
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(248) 349-1090

*Don't Drink & Drive This Holiday Season*  
**WATER WHEEL SPRINKLER**  
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(248) 685-8473

*Have a wonderfully safe holiday season!*  
Larson Jewelry Design  
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(248) 347-4653

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**BROOKWOOD FARMS APT.**  
200 Brookwood Dr.  
South Lyon  
(248) 437-9959  
www.apartments.com/brookwoodfarms  
*Happy New Year!*

**BEST STORAGE OF NEW HUDSON**  
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New Hudson  
(248) 437-1660  
*Have a Happy and Safe New Year!*

**LAPTOP XPRESS**  
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Highland  
laptopxpress@comcast.net  
(248) 685-0317

**BOGIE LAKE GREENHOUSES**  
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White Lake  
(248) 887-5101  
*"Have a Great New Year!"*

*Happy New Year!*  
**HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES BY:**  
Cindy Sheer  
Please Call : (248) 459-9729

**2010** Happy New Year  
ADVANCED DENTAL  
42450 W. 12 Mile Suite 200  
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www.advanceddentalmi.com

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**CONSIGNMENT CLOTHIERS**  
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HIGHLAND LAKES SHOPPING CENTER  
(248) 347-4570

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
*Have a Safe and Happy New Year!*  
**COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCES**  
22271 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon (248) 437-1304

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**BEDARD SHADE TREE CO.**  
57855 Travis Rd.  
New Hudson  
(248) 437-9320

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT: LINCOLN PARK: 313-386-6720  
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*Have A Safe and Happy New Year!*  
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**Flamingos by the Yard** Happy Holidays!  
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**HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
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*Happy Holidays!*

**PAT'S FIELD OF FLOWERS**  
22331 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon  
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*Have A Safe and Happy New Year!*

*Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy New Year!*  
**CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH, SOUTH LYON**  
Worship: Sat: 6:00pm, Sun 9:30 & 11:00am  
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www.ecrossroads.net  
(248) 486-0400

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
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Canton, MI 48187  
734-459-4655

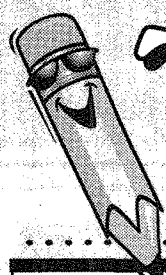
*Have A Safe and Prosperous New Year!*  
**NORM'S TOTAL AUTOMOTIVE**  
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*Have A Fun & Safe Holiday!*  
**JAMES J. CAREY CPA, PC**  
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**Happy New Year!**  
**Comfort Keepers**  
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Challenging fun for ALL ages



Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS 1 Word to a feline 5 Roman historian 9 Quote from 13 Mystique 14 Hue and cry 15 Nose stimulus 16 Slue 17 Veld grazer 18 Gaudy sign 19 Piled high 21 Lillie or Arthur 22 Go out with 23 Knuckle under 25 Coating of frost 27 Refined (hyph.) 31 Herd followers 35 Adams or McClurg 36 Revival shout 38 Buddha's land 39 Famous Khan 40 Flood barrier 42 Harley, to some 43 Border on 46 Pinches off 47 Kind of cracker 48 Dryden works 50 Trelises 52 Kind of pepper 54 Table extender 55 Squabble 58 - Holm of "Alien" 60 Glorifies 64 Emmy's relative 65 Skin softener

Grid of the crossword puzzle with some words filled in.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

- ACROSS 33 Vacuum tube 34 Epics 37 Himalayan country 41 Admires 44 Long chat 45 Watch carefully 47 Kitchen gizmos 49 Served the cake 51 Take a toll on 53 Cocoon dweller 55 Forum attire 56 Wading bird

Grid for the crossword puzzle with some cells filled in.

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 2, 6, 3, 7, 5, 8 in the first row.

Fun By The Numbers Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- BASSINET CRIB PLAYPEN BLANKET DIAPERS POWDER BONNET LOTION STROLLER BOTTLES PACIFIER TOYS

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

Large grid for the seek and find puzzle containing the words from the list above.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Vertical grid of numbers for checking answers.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Vertical grid of numbers for checking answers.

APARTMENTS

HOMETOWNlife.com

Multiple apartment listings with details on location, price, and amenities. Includes sections like 'Westland Estates WOW', 'Farmington Hills', and 'Westland Park Apts.'.

Westland Estates 'WOW' - 1 Bdrms, \$475 2 Bdrms, \$615

Westland Park Apts. FREE RENT 2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath, \$565, 936 Sq. Ft.

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**\$219 PER MO. GMS**

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3.5 V6, floor mats, body side moldings, power windows, power locks, tilt steering, speed & cruise control. Stock #6531

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LAST DAY JAN. 4th

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\*\*GMAC Lease offer: we lease Loyalty offer or \$1,000 down, 48 mo/48,000 mi. w/option to purchase at terms for predetermined amount, total due w/Lease Loyalty \$599, who Lease Loyalty \$1,500. Plus tax, lic, doc, & title. \*\*Plus tax, lic, doc, & title. Net all rebates and \$500 in lieu of 90 day guarantee. \*Purchase payment w/\$2,500 down - GM Employee & Family Price & Payment. 15see Dealer for details. All offers end close of business Jan. 4th.

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'08 EXPRESS 15 Passenger Van.....	\$16,495
'08 PONTIAC G-6 GT Silver.....	\$12,495
'07 JAGUAR X TYPE Silver, Moon.....	\$15,995
'06 PONTIAC TORRENT AWD, 30K.....	\$15,995
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'01 PT CRUISER Moonroof, leather.....	ONLY \$6,895
'03 S-10 PICKUP Auto, air.....	ONLY \$5,995
'06 GRAND PRIX GXP Gray, V8, only 29K.....	\$16,995
'06 CHEV. CREW CAB PICK UP Z71.....	\$22,495
'07 CADILLAC CTS Brown.....	ONLY \$15,995
'08 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4X4 Silver.....	\$17,995
'07 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT Super charged.....	\$14,795
'03 FORD CROWN VICTORIA Dk Green.....	ONLY \$6,795
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Loaded, auto \$6,995  
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**FUSION SE 2008** Auto, power moon, certified, \$14,998  
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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Just a note to let everyone know how our quest to finish #1 in the nation for 2009 is going...

Ford will count sales through January 4th, 2010.

As of December 25, 2009 we are only 6 sales ahead of the #2 dealer, Woodhouse Ford, in Nebraska, and 124 sales ahead of Galpin Ford in California. Galpin has finished #1 for 19 straight years. Both are well aware where they stand and are doing everything they can to catch us.

Likewise, we are doing everything we can to stay ahead. If you know anyone that is considering buying a new vehicle in the next few months, please ask them to see us now. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to finish #1 and that means the best deal possible for them.

We believe this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. It would truly be a proud moment for all of us at Bill Brown Ford as well as for our friends and customers to be able to say that

**BILL BROWN FORD is the NUMBER 1 FORD DEALER IN THE USA.**

Total retail sales 2009 YTD, per Ford Division

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