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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Distant travels: More and more families are getting away for the holidays and traveling together to distant spots around the globe. /A13

OPINION

Improving: At long last the township will publish a newsletter. It's a great start to what we hope will be improved communications with residents, a needed effort. /A20

COMMUNITY LIFE

Like father ... : Fran Bernard learned a lot about the big rigs and integrity from her father, so much so that she is following in his footsteps by opening truck driving schools in Michigan and Oklahoma. /B1

AT HOME

Digging right in: A Livonia resident grows her garden with plenty of enthusiasm and creativity. /D8

ENTERTAINMENT

Family fun: From visiting the new otter exhibit at the Detroit Zoo or viewing the first American race car to winning an international competition, enjoy an educational adventure. /E1

Dance: "Tap Dogs" proved so popular last February that it is back again at Detroit Opera House, Dec. 26 to Jan. 4. /E1

REAL ESTATE

Professionalism: The new president of the Building Industry Association of Southeast Michigan wants to see continuing education for the organization's members. /F1

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The founder of Hines Park Lincoln Mercury dies. A2

Licenses cause consternation



BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

This free liquor license thing is about to give some city officials fits.

Without distinct guidelines to follow, city officials originally declined to rank eight liquor license requests. But the first license up for state approval is not one some city leaders would rank as a top priority.

Initially, city officials declined to rank the eight liquor license requests from downtown restaurants.

But the first liquor license request landing before the state Liquor Control

Commission is from Dinersty Restaurant.

Some city business leaders say Dinersty is a disappointment. Meanwhile, the license request for Tom's Oyster Bar - which city business leaders would love to see come to town - could be weeks away.

So City Manager Steve Walters and Downtown Development Authority Director Steve Guile proposed a letter

to the LCC ranking liquor license requests in terms of their economic development impact on downtown.

But city commissioners voted 6-1 Monday not to send the letter. That was after some commissioners said it was unfair to rank liquor license requests.

Mayor Don Dismuke voted no. While some commissioners suggested law-

Please see **LICENSES**, A6

Arena is back on drawing board

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Plans for a skateboard-Rollerblade park in Plymouth, put on hold last fall, are being revisited.

City Commissioner Joe Koch, who headed a Skatescape Committee earlier this year, reported to city commissioners on Monday about plans for a Wayne County in-line skate facility in Northville.

It was news of that facility last fall which caused city commissioners to put a local facility on hold.

But Koch said the county now plans to allow only in-line skaters at the facility at Hines Drive near Seven Mile Road - and not skateboarders.

"I think it's an important issue. I'd like to bring it back. It won't cost the city a lot of money," Koch said.

"I'm in favor," said Commissioner Ron Loiselle, who volunteered to join Koch on a revised Skatescape Committee.

Commissioner Stella Greene said the committee should determine if interest in such a facility is still strong among local young people. Saying she's the parent of two teen-agers, Greene said what's important now to teens can become unimportant tomorrow.

"It's going to become an Olympic sport, it's not fly-by-night," Loiselle responded.

"I'm still somewhat skeptical if the

Please see **SKATE**, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Medieval: Ken Lipka and Dave Dragun demonstrate theatrical sword fighting with broadswords. Rain of Steel, an educational organization offered lessons to students for Medieval Arts Day.

En garde!

Swashbucklers get the point

BY RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

En garde! Blades flashing, swashbuckling humanities students at Salem High School swished, clanked and crossed swords during Medieval Arts Day Dec. 10.

The sword fighting display - which included rapiers, broad swords and quarter staffs - and group lessons were put on by

instructors from Rain of Steel, an educational organization of 70 members dedicated to promoting and performing the art of stage violence.

The Three Musketeers couldn't have done any better than these students ... well, maybe just a bit. Canton High School senior Shon Chakrabarti, 16, of Canton had a difficult time looking fierce as he raised his broad sword over his part-

ner's head. He couldn't stop smiling.

"My partner was making me laugh," he said. "It was lots of fun. Holding the sword was cool. I could get into this."

Fierceness didn't come easily for Canton senior Stacey Kahn, 17, of Plymouth Township either, even though she's had experience handling Japanese swords. On Wednes-

Please see **SWORD**, A10

Redford man seeks Geake's Senate seat

BY JEFF COUNTS
STAFF WRITER

James R. Ryan, a longtime Redford politician, will run in the August Republican primary for the state Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Robert Geake, R-Northville, who represents the Plymouth area.

Ryan is the third Republican to enter the race for the six-year Senate seat. The district includes Redford, Livonia, Plymouth, Canton and Northville.

Also in the race are Thaddeus McCotter, a Wayne County commissioner, and state Rep. Deborah Whyman, R-Canton.

"Western Wayne County has enjoyed enormous growth in the last several years," said Ryan. "To ensure that this area continues to thrive, policies set in Lansing must bolster our current economic climate and position us for the next century."

"My public and private sector experi-

ence, coupled with a knowledge of the political process, have prepared me well for the responsibilities of serving the people of the 9th District," he said.

He said Michigan is reaping the benefits of more than 20 tax cuts in the past seven years, and added that the state is no longer considered a high-tax state.

"Business investment is soaring and unemployment is the lowest among the country's largest industrial states," he

said. Ryan served in the state House from 1994 to 1996, representing the 16th District. He has served as deputy director for Gov. John Engler's southeast Michigan office.

Currently he's a senior project manager for Horizon Enterprises.

He was a teacher and coach at Redford Catholic Central High School for seven years. He also was a member of

Please see **SENATE**, A6

No need to be bored this holiday



BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

When school lets out for the Christmas holiday, children are often left with little to do on days other than Dec. 25.

Parents seek "activities usually where their kids can do something in the afternoon," said Jennifer Varajan, recreation specialist for Summit on the Park in Canton. Parents appreciate activities where kids can be dropped off for the day.

"They do," agreed Denise Felix,

See related story, page E1

senior program director for the Livonia Family YMCA. "We keep them busy here." Activities at the YMCA in Livonia include day camp.

"It's really a lot of fun," Felix said. "It's kind of like a reunion time." Those who attended summer camp come back for winter fun.

Fun sites for the younger set this winter vacation include:

■ The Plymouth District Library, on Main Street between Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth. The library offers a variety of videos, books and other items sure to please visitors of all ages.

Library hours in Plymouth are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.

Please see **ACTIVITIES**, A19

Carvers to practice Sunday



You are cordially invited to watch ice carving Olympians Ted Wakar and Jim Bur Jr. practice the carving they plan to do at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Japan beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, on Penniman Avenue, across from the Penn Theater.

Wakar and Bur also are preparing for the 16th Annual Plymouth Ice Spectacular Jan. 14-19.

Founder of Plymouth auto dealership mourned

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

His employees stated it simply: If you want to know the kind of man George Kolb III was, just check how many decades they worked for him. And in the car business, yet.

"He's the only person in my life I still called Mr.," said Rhonda Maurer, general sales manager at Hines Park Lincoln Mercury on Ann Arbor Road at I-275.

Mr. Kolb, who founded the dealership on Wing and Forest streets in downtown Plymouth in 1970, died Dec. 12 at his Canton home after a lengthy fight with cancer. His funeral service at Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home was Tuesday morning. He was buried in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor.

In a fitting tribute following the funeral service, his 130 employees gathered in front of the Ann Arbor Road dealership as the hearse carrying his body passed. The flag over the dealership has flown at half-mast since his death.

■ 'If George lived in England, they would have made him a knight.'

Tim Worthington
—Employee

"If George lived in England, they would have made him a knight," said Tim Worthington, parts and service director who worked for Kolb for 25 years.

Mr. Kolb's son, Michael, runs the Ann Arbor Road dealership, and son David the Milford dealership. "He was so very proud of his sons," Maurer said. "They followed in their father's footsteps, especially with their focus on employees and customers."

In 1973, Mr. Kolb moved his dealership to its present location on Ann Arbor Road. Mr. Kolb was the great-grandson of the late George Kolb, the founder of the once-flourishing Kolb Brewing Co. in Bay City.

"It's been a sad few days around here," said Maurer, who worked for Mr. Kolb since 1971 when she was hired as a co-op student.

In 1975, Mr. Kolb promoted Maurer to saleswoman. "He really took a risk. He went out of the normal zone. It was unique for a dealership, especially a Lincoln-Mercury dealership, to have a woman in sales," Maurer said. "He supported it. He taught me the business."

She described her longtime boss as both genuine and ethical, and a man who cared about his employees. "He was so sincere."

Mary Burczyk, secretary to the treasurer, worked for Kolb for 17 years. "He was a sincere, caring, industrious and

community-minded man."

A bronze plaque at the Ann Arbor Road dealership says a lot about the man, Maurer said, reading it aloud: "If it's the truth, honesty and fair, it is good for both of us and therefore the basis upon which our relationship can long endure."

Mr. Kolb was a member of the Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville and was an avid boater who enjoyed his annual runs to and from his winter home in Stuart, Fla. Mr. Kolb also loved Big Band music.

Mr. Kolb is survived by his wife, Dixie, of 44 years; sons, Michael (Cynthia) Kolb, and David (FaithAnn) Kolb, both of Plymouth; brother, Ford Kolb of Grosse Pointe; and six grandchildren. Mr. Kolb was also preceded in death by his brother, Charles, and two sisters, Ella Louise Miller and Barbara Donahue.

Memorial tributes may be made to Arbor Hospice, 3810 Packard Rd., Suite 200, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48108



Founder: George Kolb III opened the Hines Park Lincoln Mercury store in 1970.

Arson suspected in Wyckoff Steel blaze

Police are investigating a suspected arson fire Friday at the former Wyckoff Steel factory, 1000 General in Plymouth Township.

All 37 Plymouth Community Fire Department firefighters were called to the scene of the fire, reported at 11:19 p.m. Upon arriving, firefighters spotted

flames coming through the roof of an office area in the center of the facility, Fire Chief Larry Groth said.

Plymouth Township police also noticed footprints in the snow leading away from the facility. According to a police report on the incident, a K-9 unit from Westland was brought in and fol-

lowed a track that led southeast to Plaza Lanes on Ann Arbor Road.

Police interviewed patrons, but did not get any substantial leads on suspects, the report continued.

Groth said 14 Northville Township firefighters were called in to assist Plymouth fire-

fighters. They left the scene at 7:10 a.m.

One Plymouth firefighter was treated and released from the hospital for sustaining a sprained shoulder after slipping and falling on the ice.

The damage estimate resulting from the fire was \$250,000.

Saturn of Plymouth plans to expand dealership

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Saturn of Plymouth plans to expand at the existing dealership, as well as with a new building on Haggerty for used car sales.

Karen Titus, who has the Saturn franchise in Plymouth, plans to expand the dealership because of a good economy, a new sedan is coming out and with the age of the dealership -

8-9 years - there's a need for used car sales, said Jeff Roth of Roth & Associates.

Township planning commissioners recommended approval of the use - the property is now in the Ann Arbor Road Corridor District - subject to special conditions. On Dec. 10, planning commissioners also approved a tentative site plan to allow for the planned expansion.

The Ann Arbor Road Corridor

District is new and requirements are detailed, covering plant materials, landscaping, permitted business uses, parking loading and unloading, as well as signs and even flagpoles.

The existing Saturn dealership on Don Massey Drive, off Ann Arbor Road, will be expanded by 7,200 square feet to accommodate additional service bays, part inventory storage and general office. A 3,000 square-foot building facing Haggerty will be built for used car sales and administration, Roth said.

"It will mimic the front of the Saturn store," Roth said.

A road will connect Massey

Drive and Haggerty for entry and exit to the Saturn dealerships. But commissioner Nancy White asked why the roadway could not be boulevard.

"No. We did not look into it," Roth said.

Commissioners also told Roth that they would like to forego a Saturn sign scheduled for Ann Arbor Road.

"We still would like to keep that issue alive," Roth said. "Haggerty is not a main entrance."

Roth said he wants to take advantage of the Haggerty frontage.

Stop by



Visit: Santa is in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth every weekend through Dec. 24 for photos and to meet with boys and girls. Santa's hours at his house are 5-8 p.m. Fridays, noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. If you're still shopping, gift certificates for Plymouth area businesses are now available at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, 386 S. Main.

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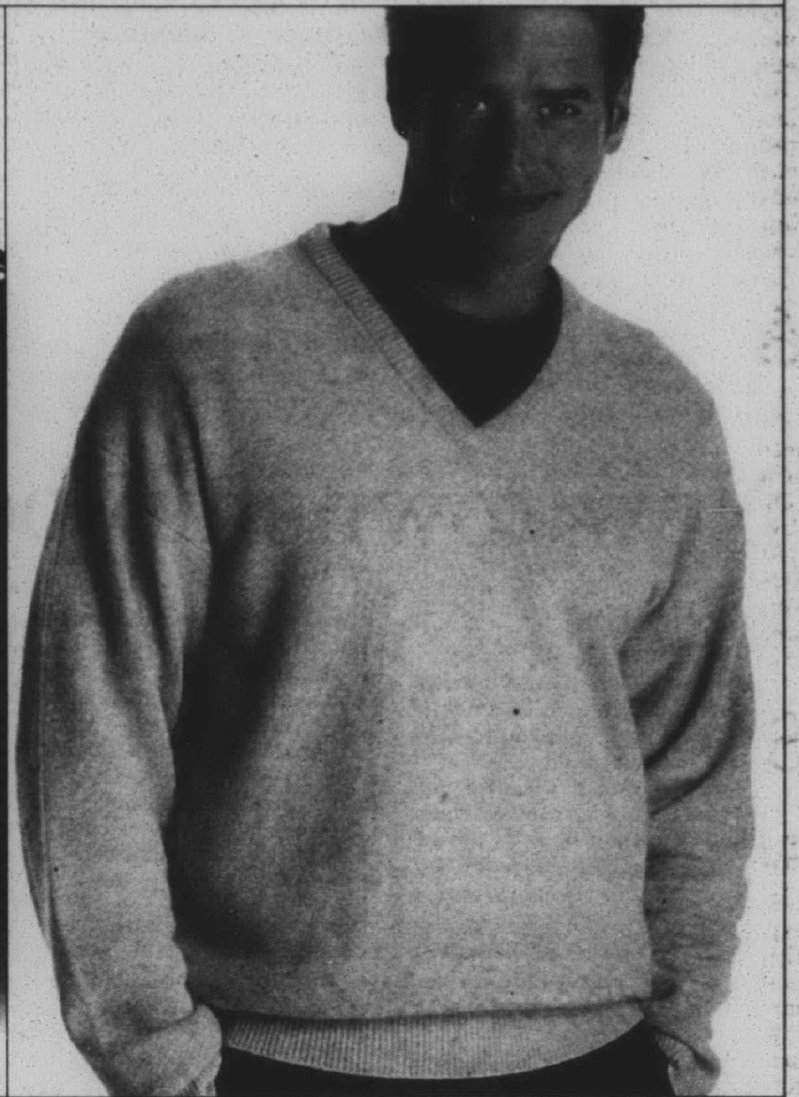
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Staff and students help area families in need

Students and staff throughout the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools have been hard at work. They have been collecting food, toys, clothing and names of needy community families to be sure that no one will be without Christmas.

Here's a peek at some of the projects:

Allen Elementary:

- Collecting more than 2,000 cans of food for the Salvation Army Food Drive.
- Collecting items for veterans.

Bentley Elementary:

- Collecting bulk food and clothing for needy families.
- Sponsoring a Rochester Blind Leader Dog.
- Collecting books for families.
- Collecting supplies for veterans at Veterans' Hospital.
- Sharing activities in partnership with senior citizens at the Summit in Canton. The seniors also are guest speakers in the classrooms.
- Holding a Christmas Craft Night for students and their

families.

Bird Elementary:

- Student Council has adopted a family; collecting for the Salvation Army.
- Decorated a tree in Kellogg Park.
- Giving Group: a community project with the Plymouth Court Nursing Home.
- Scout troops: adopted three families with gifts and needs.
- Staff: adopted one family with gifts and needs.
- All school: food collection for Head Start program.

Eriksson Elementary:

- Collecting toys for First Step.
- Collecting for veterans.
- Collecting canned goods for six Eriksson families.

Farrand Elementary:

- Collected books, games, clothing, school supplies for the South Dakota Saint Joseph's Indian School.

Fiegel Elementary:

- Collected 23 cases of canned goods for the Salvation Army.

- Santa Secret Workshop is wrapping for Mott Children's Hospital and making cards for a nursing home.

Field Elementary:

- Helping 16 needy Field families by holding a food drive in participation with the PTO, local churches and others.
- Referred other families to Goodfellows and Salvation Army.

Gallimore Elementary:

- Collecting toiletries and materials for veterans.
- Pennies from Heaven: each classroom is collecting pennies to give to Goodfellows.
- Gallimore Giving Tree: collecting clothing for Salvation Army.

Hoben Elementary:

- Staff is collecting mittens, hats, clothing and games for Goodfellows.
- Collecting food for the Salvation Army.
- Second and third graders performing for Carriage Park senior citizens.

Hulsing Elementary:

- Donating to veterans.
- Giving Tree: hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, underwear to the Plymouth-Canton Clothing Bank.
- Collected books for First Step.

Smith Elementary:

- Student collecting canned goods for Salvation Army.
- Collecting underwear, socks and other items for the Plymouth-Canton Clothing Bank.

Tonda Elementary:

- Collection canned food for Salvation Army.
- Giving Tree: all items will be sent to the Plymouth-Canton Clothing Bank on behalf of the families of Tonda.

East Middle School:

- Collecting canned goods for Salvation Army.

Lowell Middle School:

- Student council donated \$100 to the family of Margaret Williams Fund.

- Student council donated \$100 to Operation Good Cheer.
- Donating turkeys to needy Lowell families.
- Staff: adopted a family for Christmas, supplying dinner, clothes and presents.
- At Thanksgiving the school donated canned goods and turkeys to needy Lowell families.

West Middle School:

- Sponsored four families through Operation Good Cheer.
- Sponsoring eight West needy families.
- Making 60 gift bags of personal items for a program called Alternatives for Girls.
- Made 56 cloth bags and filled them with literacy materials for the Spouse Abuse Shelter.
- Homerooms competed by collecting canned goods for the Salvation Army.

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park:

- More than 10 athletic teams will ring bells for the Salvation Army.
- Staff members are ringing

- bells for the Salvation Army.
- Canton High School Close-Up class is participating in Detroit and Ann Arbor area soup kitchen programs and they have signed up to ring bells at various locations for the Salvation Army.
- Salem's two U.S. history classes are sponsoring a family at First Step.

Starkweather Center:

- Collecting canned goods for the Salvation Army.
- Giving Tree: staff is collecting money for needy students and families.

E.J. McClendon Center:

- Donated money to the Plymouth Canton Clothing Bank.
- Giving Tree: staff donated hats and mittens to needy families.
- Donating clothing and toys to Mott Children's Hospital.

Transportation:

- Organized and delivered a large collection of toys for children - one large bus.

New township police chief hammers out contract

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Lawrence Carey, who'll start his job as Plymouth Township police chief Jan. 5, has agreed to an employment contract.

The township Board of Trustees approved the five-year contract Tuesday. It calls for an annual salary of \$66,000.

"We looked at comparables with all other positions, it's in the ballpark," said Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy of Carey's salary.

Pay raises will be subject to annual performance reviews conducted by the supervisor.

Carey, 53, Troy police chief for 14 years, was named Nov. 18

after a national search turned up 83 applicants.

"He's low-key, very professional," McCarthy said upon naming Carey.

Carey will make a contribution toward his township pension as is standard for township employees. He'll be furnished a car for work and private use within southeast Michigan, by terms of the contract.

He is to be credited with 10 days vacation time his first year, 15 days per year during his next two years of employment, and 20 days in following years.

The township has the option to extend the contract for an additional year at any time, or to decline to extend it beyond the terms of the contract.

He is to receive benefits given to other township employees including group medical insur-

ance.

Also by terms of the contract, Carey has one year from the date of employment to move from Troy to Plymouth Township, and will be reimbursed up to \$15,000 for moving expenses.

Carey has 28 years experience with the Troy department. In announcing his appointment, trustees said the Troy department is a leader in community policing, and Carey has received several awards recognizing community service accomplishments.

The Troy position, where Carey manages 127 officers, pays \$74,664. He'll manage 25 officers in Plymouth Township.

Upon his selection as Plymouth Township chief, Carey said goals and mission statements in place at the Plymouth Township police "are the same basic philosophy I developed in

Troy."

"I want to try to get a feel for what people's needs are, and what level of police service," he said.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from Wayne State University and is a graduate of the School of Police Staff and Command, Northwestern University Traffic Institute. He is also working toward a master's degree at Eastern Michigan University and has attended a range of training programs.

Carey has also served as chairman of the multi-jurisdictional Auto Theft Team and Community Policing Task Force and the Oakland County Law Enforcement Management Information System. He is married with three children.



New: Lawrence Carey, the township's new police chief, has a contract.

Attorneys win partial victory in \$1.2 million case

BY MATT JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Attorneys battling a \$1.2-million civil judgment won a partial victory in Livonia's 16th District Court Dec. 2 when they cut damages assigned to their clients by more than \$200,000.

Jeffrey Stewart and Gregory Stempien successfully argued that Diane Saks, a former Livonia chiropractor, and physician George Talbot were not involved in interstate racketeering in their dealings with two other defendants and the Starfire Foundation, which was ostensibly to train people as New Age-

style telephone counselors.

District Judge Robert Brzezinski's ruling cut the part of the judgment for which Saks and Talbot are responsible from roughly \$562,000 to \$324,000, Stewart estimated Tuesday.

Brzezinski, however, refused to throw out the rest of the jury's finding against Talbot and did not grant Stempien and Stewart's request for a new trial. The two attorneys said they will appeal that decision in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Meanwhile, Fakhri "Frank" Yono, attorney for seven people - two of whom are Plymouth res-

idents - who successfully sued Saks, Talbot, Harry Samuels of Florida and Robert O'Connor of Arizona, said he will likely appeal Brzezinski's ruling that dropped the racketeering portion of the judgment against Saks and Talbot.

The hearing, which lasted nearly two hours, was attended by the plaintiffs, former Starfire students who, along with about 50 other local people, each paid \$1,500 to be trained as what Starfire's promotional literature called source integration therapists and spiritual psychologists. The seven plaintiffs are Karen

Sattler of Livonia, Nancy Sallow and Jan Mansfield of Plymouth, Walid Abubaker of Canton Township, Celeste Hamilton of West Bloomfield Township and Marcello and Debbie Galluppi of Eastpointe.

Starfire and its Next Step-26 Bones and Starfire Communications Network branches were presented as business ventures in which those who had gone through the program would answer phone calls on 1-800 and 1-900 lines and earn as much as \$30 an hour, according to court records and the plaintiffs.

But the plaintiffs, with an assist from the Michigan attorney general's office, charged - and a district court jury in February agreed - that the ventures were a con scheme.

After a four-day trial, the jury awarded the seven \$328,100, with specific amounts assigned to each of the four defendants. But because the jury also found the four violated statutes against interstate racketeering, the damages were tripled, putting them close to \$1 million. With attorney fees, the judgment totaled \$1.2 million.

In arguing for a new trial, Stempien and Stewart depicted Talbot and Saks, who are married and now live in Hawaii, as bigger victims of the scheme than any of Starfire's students.

"Nobody trusted Robert O'Connor more than Diane Saks," Stewart told Brzezinski.

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11 candidates vie for SC appointment

Eleven area residents have applied for a vacancy on the Schoolcraft Board of Trustees.

Applicants had until Monday to submit letters of interest to Schoolcraft College to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of John Walsh, who was elected in November to the Livonia City Council.

Four of the applicants live in Livonia. Three live in Plymouth, two in Canton, one in Northville and one in Westland.

The applicants are:

■ From Canton, Bryan Amann, an attorney and former county commissioner, and Susan Kopinski, deputy chief financial officer at Detroit's Metro Airport.

■ From Livonia, Harry Greenleaf, director of transfer college programs in the College of Engineering and Science at the University of Detroit-Mercy and a former Schoolcraft trustee; Ken Harb, an investment advisor with Prudential Securities; Donald Knapp Jr., a research attorney for a Wayne County circuit judge; and Neil Weiner, a counselor at Mackenzie High School.

■ From Northville, Greg Stempin, an attorney.

■ From Plymouth, Sean Fitzgerald, assistant general

counsel at Wayne State University; John Lynch, a retired consultant for the community and business relations division at Washtenaw Community College, and Robert Omilian, a finance manager at Ford Motor Co.

■ From Westland, Michael Novak, a police officer in Livonia.

The replacement will serve through June 30, 1999. Voters will decide who will serve a six-year term in June 1999.

Board members must reside in the college district and be a registered voter. The college district includes the Plymouth-Canton, Livonia, Garden City, Clarenceville, Northville and part of the Novi school districts.

Trustees have scheduled a meeting on Jan. 7 to discuss how to narrow that field. Tentative meeting dates were scheduled for Jan. 17 for interviews and Jan. 24, if necessary.

Trustees plan to approve a final candidate on Jan. 28.

The current Schoolcraft board includes Carol Strom of Livonia, Richard DeVries of Livonia, Steve Ragan of Plymouth, Pat Watson of Northville, Mary Breen of Plymouth Township and Brian Broderick of Plymouth.

Revamped sled hill is open for business

Grab your scarf and mittens, climb into those old galoshes and get the sled down from the nail in the garage.

Wayne County Parks has improved the sledding hill at Cass Benton hill in Hines Park to provide a safer experience for kids of all ages.

Thanks to the millage approved by voters in 1996, two new ramps with hand-rails have been installed to make it easier to trudge back up the hill after each slide down.

And, most importantly, the

parking lot has been re-oriented away from the bottom of the hill to avoid anyone accidentally sliding into the parking area. Future plans call for the addition of a firepit so bonfires can be built to provide a place to warm up after a long afternoon of fun in the snow.

Cass-Benton sledding hill is on Hines Drive between Six and Seven Mile roads. For more information, call Wayne County Parks at (313) 261-1990.

Commission reviews split-ticket primary

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

A group of Wayne County residents want to allow split-ticket voting in county primary elections.

Wayne County commissioners may decide today whether to place such a proposal on a countywide ballot, possibly in August 1998. If voters approved the measure, it would allow them to vote for local Democrats in county elections, even if they voted for Republicans or other parties in national or state races, or vote for Republicans in county races if they voted Democratic or other parties nationally.

Commissioner William O'Neil, D-Allen Park, is expected to introduce the resolution for approval. It may be referred to the commission's Committee on General Government for further study.

Supporters believe the split-ticket voting will create greater inclusion of voters in county electoral decision making and

improve the county's system of home rule.

"When I see numbers indicating that half of my constituents who turn out on primary election day are still excluded from the only county primaries that matter, it becomes obvious that something is drastically wrong," O'Neil said. "I will do all in my power to pass this resolution so that all the people of Wayne County can have no less than what is their right — a voice in their county government."

John Hand, the former charter commission and chairman of Citizens for Fairness in County Primaries, said, "When the number of voters disenfranchised in the polling booths is greater than the margins of difference between candidates for particular offices, it is clearly time to change the system."

"Disenfranchised" voters are described by Hand as voters who are excluded because they cannot cross party lines on the ballots without spoiling them.

In 1996, voters who cast a vote for U.S. Senate candidates Ronna Romney or Jim Nicholson in the Republican primary could not vote for Democratic candidates in county races.

In Garden City, the total Senate votes cast were 2,111. The 1,059 residents who cast votes for Romney and Nicholson were excluded from the local Democratic races or 51 percent of voters who turned out that day.

In largely Republican Livonia and Plymouth, those figures were 71 and 75 percent. In West-

land, 50 percent of voters were disenfranchised. In Canton, Plymouth and Redford townships, those figures were 68, 82 and 52 percent, respectively.

That meant that more than 47,000 voters could not vote in the prosecutor's race between incumbent John O'Hair and state Sen. Virgil Smith, a race won by O'Hair by 13,400 votes.

In a letter to commissioners, ballot proposal supporters called the voter exclusion "terribly unfair." "The promise of home

Please see PRIMARY, A7

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Licenses from page A1

suits could result by showing preference for some restaurants over others, Dismuke said. "We would be remiss if we didn't say who would be the biggest bang for the buck."

"If we have the ability to somehow direct the future of the downtown, we should take the opportunity to do that," he said.

"I'm concerned with changing rules in midstream," said Commissioner Dennis Shrewsbury. He said Plymouth was a place where people believe government shouldn't tell business what to do, and that customers would determine if a business is worthy of succeeding.

Shrewsbury said it doesn't really matter who gets the liquor licenses. "As long as we get them." Such licenses, once issued in downtown Plymouth, can't be transferred out of downtown.

The liquor license issue started a year ago. That's when some state legislators sought the creation of new liquor licenses for developing downtowns.

Such licenses could stimulate restaurant development, which stimulates general business growth, backers said.

The request was granted. Fifty free liquor licenses were created, to be issued to Downtown Development Districts including downtown Plymouth.

When Downtown Develop-

"If we have the ability to somehow direct the future of the downtown, we should take the opportunity to do that."

*Don Dismuke
—Mayor*

ment Director Guile asked the state Liquor Control Commission how the licenses would be issued, he was told they would be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

So he approached some restaurateurs coming to town, including Tom's Oyster Bar of Grosse Pointe and Royal Oak — and current city restaurant owners, encouraging them to apply.

But with recent changes at the LCC, the first-come, first-served method has been altered. Walters described the new process as "first to complete the process, first-served."

Applications now appear before the LCC in an order determined by how easily LCC staff are able to perform background checks and other investigations pertaining to issuing licenses, city officials said.

Addressing the commission Monday was attorney Randy Wately representing Dinersty. Wately said he learned from a LCC member that the letter ranking Plymouth's liquor

license requests was to be sent.

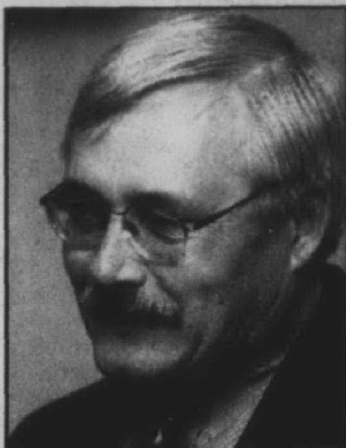
He told city commissioners it was unfair to focus on new businesses coming into town, rather than on businesses that have already spent money to succeed here.

"Dinersty has lost a ton of money, in six figures, to keep the business alive. They were going to close in March but kept open because of this," Wately said.

Commissioner Ron Loiselle said that to rank businesses now is inappropriate. "We're making a judgment, but we're not looking at anybody's plans at all," he said.

Realtor Bob Bake said, "It would be a tremendous injustice if Dinersty got one of these liquor licenses above one that promised much more economic impact."

Along with Tom's Oyster Bar, downtown business backers identify E.G. Nicks — a restaurant slated for the former Minerva's-Dunning's spot on Forest — as a key restaurant for downtown and there-



Assume: Commissioner Dave McDonald said the city shouldn't assume what the liquor control commission will do.

fore more deserving of a liquor license than smaller restaurants.

Some commissioners said the LCC will likely make some decision on whether to grant liquor licenses based on their potential economic impact. But Commissioner Dave McDonald said, "We shouldn't assume what the liquor control commission is going to do."

"I applaud Steve Guile for getting on the bandwagon early. But now we're chasing it and nobody seems to know where it's going," McDonald said.

Skate from page A1

city should be involved," said Mayor Don Dismuke, adding such a facility could be operated by a nonprofit group.

The Skatescape Committee, which included some youths active in rollerblading and skateboarding, proposed a \$52,000 facility paid for from donations.

The proposed 6,500-square-foot facility put on hold was to include bowls, ramps and curbs to present challenges and an opportunity for fun.

Koch had said some initial talks with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools suggested some school land near the Plymouth Cultural Center could be used to house the facility.

Initial money to get the proposal going would be sought from the city, schools and Plymouth Township and Canton

governments. More fund-raising would be targeted at area businesses and service groups.

Some youths have presented designs. If the proposal is eventually accepted by city commissioners, an architect could use drawings to design the facility.

Koch said in September the facility would seek to meet needs of advanced and beginning inline skaters and skateboarders.

Koch told commissioners in September that liability shouldn't be a big concern, as he had researched the issue.

The earlier proposal called for the facility to be fenced and for youths who use it to seek memberships. Knee and elbow pads and other safety equipment would be required.

Join MediaOne contest

MediaOne and ESPN, have joined forces to bring the Hockeymania Contest to Michigan residents. The contest runs from Dec. 4 through March 27, 1998 and will include a series of five drawings to raffle hockey and Red Wings related prizes.

There is no purchase necessary and the contest is open to all Michigan residents 18 years or older at the time of entry. Complete contest details and entry forms are available at all Michigan MediaOne payment locations.

The prizes and their drawing dates are as follows:

Dec. 11 - A trip for two to Chicago to see the Jan. 4 Red Wings and Chicago Blackhawks game.

Dec. 31 - A trip for two to Vancouver to see the Jan. 18 NHL All-Star game.

Jan. 19 - 51 prizes will be drawn: three first place prizes of a ESPN NHL Spectator jacket, 24 second place prizes of a ESPN 2 "Fire on Ice" NHL T-shirts, 24 third place prizes of ESPN 2 hats.

Feb. 19 - A trip for two to the ESPN World Headquarters in Bristol, Conn.

Plymouth employees raise money

Plymouth city employees contributed \$2,450 to the Plymouth United Way during the current fund raising drive.

Carol Stone, city administrative services director, said this included a \$500 donation from the Plymouth Police Officers Association.

"This represents a substantial increase over the \$1,869 contributed last year," she said.

Incentives for employees to contribute included an extra vacation day, movie passes and Entertainment books.

Also this season, city employees contributed more than \$400 to the Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program, to help a single mother with three children buy food, clothing and Christmas gifts.

Senate from page A1

the Redford Township Board.

His father is a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals and his brother, Daniel P. Ryan, is chief judge of the 17th District Court in Redford.

Ryan and his wife, Terri, have two sons, Sean, 4, and Jimmy 1. She is a professional golfer and is the head pro for the city of Southfield.

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School calendar

Commission to study start date

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Tourism got a couple of slices from the full loaf when the Michigan Legislature acted on bills to push the starting date of school after Labor Day.

On its final day of the fall session:

■ The Senate barely passed a bill, 20-16, to guarantee a four-day Labor Day weekend. It wouldn't order school districts to push the starting time after Labor Day, but it would plunk an immediate disruption in the schedules of those that do.

■ The House defeated, 35-71, a bill to require that public schools don't open their doors until after Labor Day, the first Monday in September.

"This legislation is supported by business interests but not by a majority of the constituents I represent," said Rep. Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills, summing up the opposition. "By a 3-1 margin,

constituents have urged me to defend local control. Accordingly, I vote 'no' on this bill."

The House bill was sponsored by Rep. Pat Gagliardi, D-Drummond Island. The tourism industry sees its best months as July and August. When schools open the last week in August, one-eighth of the season is lost for families.

"If we can have a day off and help an industry survive," that's a positive," said Senate floor leader Dan DeGrow, R-Port Huron.

School districts generally opposed the bill because it infringes on local control and reduces their scheduling flexibility.

Here is how area representatives voted in defeating House Bill 5080:

Yes - Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, Tom Kelly, D-Wayne.

No - Bob Brown, D-Dearborn Heights, Eileen DeHart, D-West-

land, Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, Deborah Whyman, R-Canton.

Rep. Frank Fitzgerald, R-Grand Ledge, won voice approval of an amendment to set up a School Calendar Commission to study arguments for and against post-Labor Day opening. Its importance became nil when the full bill was rejected.

Rep. Judith Scranton, R-Brighton, lost with her amendment to add that school activities not start prior to the first day of class. It went down 16-86.

The Senate bill, which faces an uncertain future in the House, was seen as a compromise measure, aimed at nudging schools to start classes after Labor Day but not requiring it.

Here is how area senators voted on SB 300:

Yes - Bob Geake, R-Northville, Loren Bennett, R-Canton.

No - George Z. Hart, D-Dearborn.

Primary from page A5

rule is that everyone shall have a voice in the government of his or her home county," the letter states.

But state party rules supersede county charters, argues Thaddeus McCotter, a Wayne County commissioner and chair of the Wayne County Republicans. That would allow party delegates to caucus for their candidates to place them on the ballot if they chose to do so, thus closing the general public out of that aspect of the electoral process. A caucus is a private meeting or a committee of a political party or faction.

Currently county elective seats are filled through partisan contests in which the winner from each party is placed on the ballot. With the proposed open system, the two candidates with the most votes would advance to the general election.

But some wonder about the

mischief such a setup would encourage. Many political observers remember presidential candidate George Wallace nearly winning on the Democratic ticket in Michigan in 1972, a success clearly blamed on GOP crossover votes and not attributed to support among Democrats.

That could happen on a county level, some believe.

"Our (state party) rules are quiet now, but we can change that," McCotter said. "It's not a good idea. It would be a law of unintended consequences."

But Hand said the group wants to keep the general election partisan.

"It's a government 'of the people, for the people, and by the people,' not a government 'by the party, for the party and by the party,'" Hand said. "We're not getting rid of the parties. Just don't put us in a strait jacket."

Currently voters can still disrupt the electoral process by voting for a challenger in the opposite party even though they cannot cross over into two separate races on the same ballot, Hand said.

"All we're saying is give voters a voice. Right now, we have an all-or-nothing or nothing-at-all primary. I don't believe that's good politics."

Commissioner George Cushingberry, D-Detroit, also opposed the resolution. He will introduce a strongly-worded resolution to stop that attempt.

"The two-party system has served the nation well for more than 200 years," Cushingberry said. "I'm not going to stand for a change in a tried and true method of fair representation."

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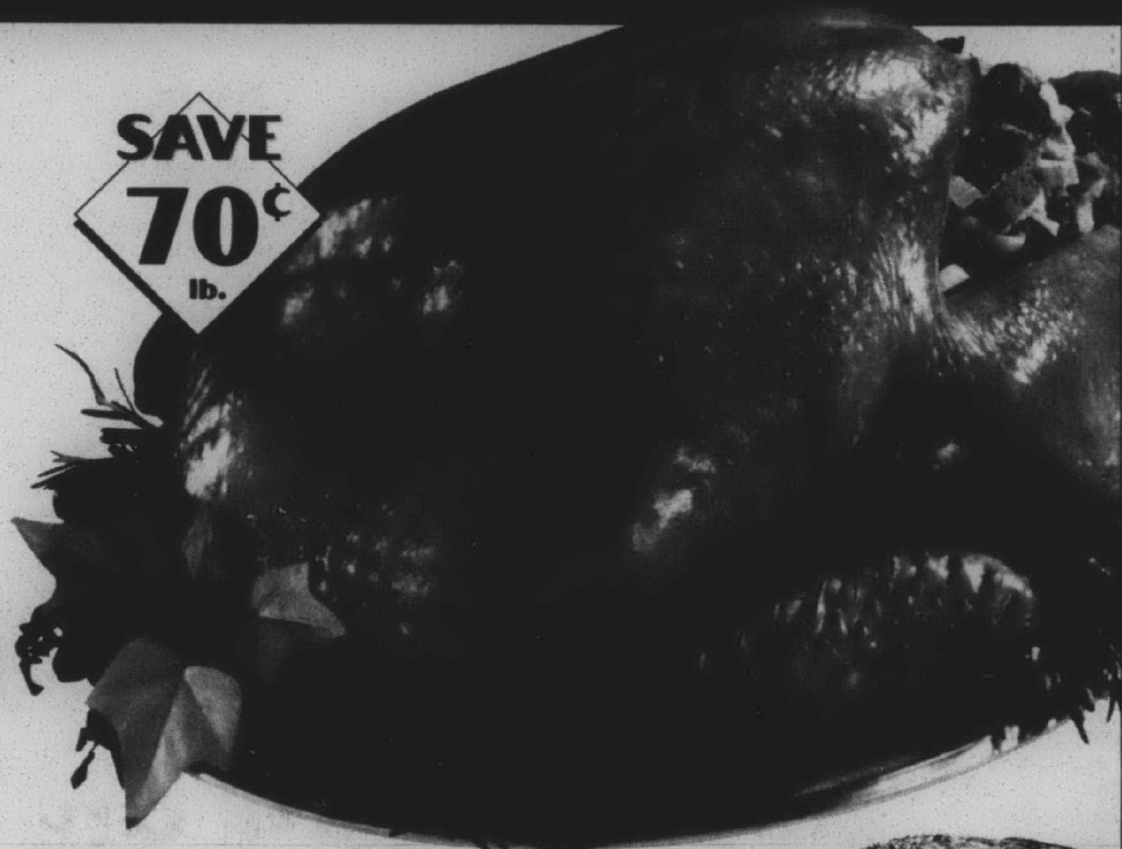
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Park barn will get facelift

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County will be getting \$124,000 in federal funds to renovate the Nankin Mills barn into a Way Station, as part of the Hines Park bike path project.

"This federal program is designed to expand upon non-motorized transportation," said Hurley Coleman, director of Wayne County parks. "Previously, we used federal money to build bike paths for the entire 17-miles of Hines Drive. This additional grant will allow us to establish a location in the center of that to be used as a bicycle livery, a way station, so people who are riding bikes have a place to stop for refreshments."

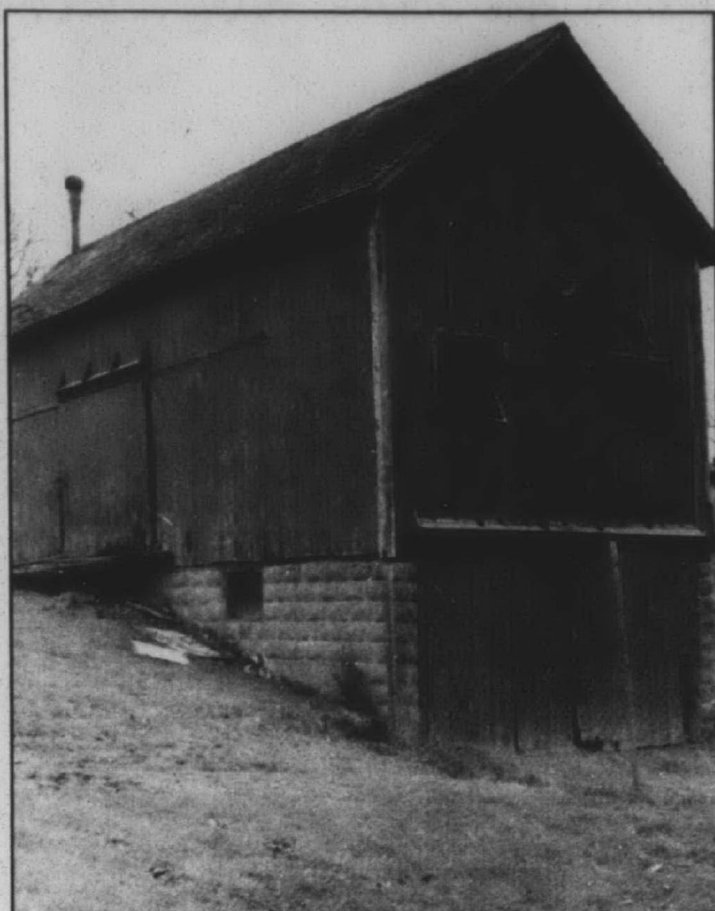
Wayne County must pay its portion of \$31,000 for the project.

The Nankin Mills barn is a historic barn, dating back to the age of the renovated mill, constructed in the 1830s.

"Nankin Mills is one of the more critical areas in the Wayne County Parks system, with all the different activities there," noted Coleman. "With the nature center, the picnic area, and the tenant house which we have some future plans for, Nankin Mills will be a key recreational complex for Wayne County."

Coleman says the county hopes to contract services at the renovated barn.

"The interior of the barn will be renovated to have refreshments, plus rent bicycles and



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGDFELD

Renovation: This Nankin Mills historic barn, dating back to the age of the renovated mill, will be renovated with a federal grant. The Way Station will provide refreshments, and bicycle and in-line skate rentals.

in-line skates," Coleman said. "We hope to contract those services to a private vendor."

University registers for winter term

Madonna University's open registration for Winter '98 term continues through Friday, Jan. 2 for new and returning students.

Office hours will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and until 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, with the exception of Dec. 18 and 22 when the office will close at 5 p.m.

All offices will be closed for Christmas (Dec. 24 - Jan. 1). Classes begin the week of Jan. 5.

Fax-in registration for all students is available and will be accepted until Dec. 22, prior to the start of classes.

Students may enroll in day, evening and weekend classes, and non-admitted students must obtain a permit-to-register from

the admissions office. Transfer students are welcome. There is no application fee.

For more information, call the Admissions Office at (313) 432-5339.

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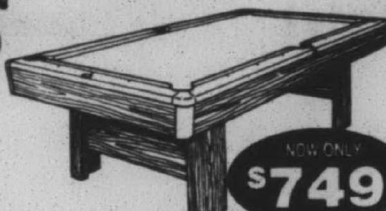
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Sword

from page A1

day, her weapon of choice was the rapier, which is a slimmer blade than the broad sword.

"The wrist action is more circular. I felt pretty meek because my wrist doesn't like to turn," she said. "And besides, I wore a bracelet."

Krista Dragun, 17, of Canton was recruited by Rain of Steel last year, when she was a student at Canton High School.

Dragun was part of the demonstration and staged a dramatic sword fight with her partner, besting him in the end. She said her association with Rain of Steel has changed her life.

"I was very shy when I joined. I kind of lurked in a corner. This has brought me out. Look, I'm wearing tights in my old school. This brings out a whole new side of me. They helped me to be on stage. This really expands what I do."

Rain of Steel founder Chris Barbeau, 36, of Ann Arbor had the idea for the organization 24 years ago as a child.

"We do the exact opposite of real fighting. It is like martial arts, but the object is not to hurt your partner, but to give a good

'We do the exact opposite of real fighting. It is like martial arts, but the object is not to hurt your partner, but to give a good show.'

Chris Barbeau
—Rain of Steel founder

show."

Barbeau's sword fighting lessons were interspersed with some historical trivia. He told the students that in the 15th and 16th centuries, citizens could not carry rapiers over 44 inches long. To do so risked having the rapier broken down to proper size by a constable.

He also told them more than one-third of all English knights were killed in sword fights during this time period.

Barbeau and his instructors emphasized safety while feigning an actual sword fight: maintaining a sword-point distance of at least six inches from a partner's

chest; moving simultaneously; aiming for certain parts of the body, like the deltoids or outer legs; and mastering some choreography.

When a student remarked that the sword blades weren't sharp, Barbeau had a quick reply. "When it's traveling at 100 miles per hour at your head, it doesn't matter if it is sharp. It caves your head in."

Humanities teachers Cynthia Burnstein, Maribeth Carroll, Susan Welker, Gerta Burnside and Lauren Pearson spent a month organizing Medieval Arts Day.

In addition to sword fighting, the event included heraldry, calligraphy, brass rubbing and castle-building.


"They love it," said Pearson about the sword fighting. "It fits in timewise. It fits in with the other activities. It's a great hands-on activity for kids to participate in the Medieval Arts project."

Rain of Steel can be contacted at (313) 995-1886.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Easy does it: Ken Lipka teaches Diana Riley the finer points of handling a rapier during Medieval Days at Salem High School. Rain of Steel, an educational organization, presented the program.



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BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

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REAL ESTATE UPDATE

by John Goodman
Coldwell Banker Preferred

WHOM DOES "YOUR" AGENT REPRESENT?

Recent reforms in disclosure laws and real estate practices have refined the roles of Realtors and increased the options for buyers and sellers.


A **seller's agent** works with loyalty and fidelity as the seller's advocate and negotiator, and is obligated to disclose to potential buyers all adverse material facts that are known about the property.

A **buyer's agent** works exclusively to negotiate the lowest purchase price and best terms for the buyer. This agent serves the buyer with undivided loyalty, confidentiality, and full disclosure. The agent would know the highest price that the buyer would be willing to offer for a home, but could not disclose that information to the seller.


A **dual agent** can work for both the buyer and the seller by written, informed consent of both parties and has fiduciary obligations to both. The agent can only disclose to one party what the other party allows to be revealed.

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The air bags have a retail value estimated at \$1 million, said Michigan State Police Lt. William Darnell of the Western Wayne Auto Theft Unit. The business which was raided, C & J Metro Automotive Supply, located in the Greenfield-Jeffries area, had paid an estimated \$200,000 for the air bags.

"Some of the air bags were identified with numbers. The ones we ran came back stolen," said Darnell. "The air bags are real popular to steal, big time. A guy can get \$65 or \$100 per air bag. For a couple minutes work he's got a \$100 in his pocket."

While the Western Wayne Auto Theft unit has taken over the investigation which was initiated by the Metro Street Enforcement Team, which has officers from Westland, Garden City, Wayne and Inkster.

"Most of the credit goes to MSET. They got information on a guy possibly ripping off air bags," said Darnell.

"They had him under surveillance and saw him walk into a place in Detroit with a bunch of air bags."

MSET surveillance units had been unable to locate the Detroit man but were keeping an eye on his girlfriend hoping she would lead them to the suspect, said

Westland Sgt. James Ridener, who heads MSET.

"We didn't locate them together except for when they were fencing the air bags," said Ridener.

"He was a suspect in air bag thefts in Farmington Hills, Wayne, Westland and Garden City. He had been arrested in August in Livonia."

After the couple sold air bags to the auto supply business, Ridener said the man was arrested on outstanding warrants on charges including bad checks and breaking into autos.

The investigation in this case is continuing and charges are pending.

"If the number of air bags is correct, \$1 million is probably conservative," said Ridener.

"We ended up in Detroit so we'll let Western Wayne take over as the State Police. Autos are their area of expertise and forte."

Darnell indicated charges were unlikely against the auto parts business operators since they had complied with state law by obtaining identification from those selling the air bags and maintained proper records.

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Rouge honors Ford plant, conservation group

By TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Two Rouge River improvement projects are the first to be placed on the new Habitat Protection and Enhancement Honor Roll.

Ford Motor Co. and the Western Wayne County Conservation Association have been recognized for their efforts in restoring the Rouge River.

The Honor Roll was established by the habitat subcommittee of the Rouge River Remedial Action Plan (RRAC) Advisory Council. The council was formed to assist the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in implementing the state's plan for reviving the Rouge River.

A partnership consisting of Ford, the United Auto Workers and the Wildlife Habitat Council created a wildlife sanctuary occupying 13 acres at the Sheldon Road Plant in Plymouth Township.

Since its inception in 1993, the natural wildlife area has been certified three times by the Wildlife Habitat Council as an innovative model for wildlife habitat development. The sanctuary includes a meadow of wildflowers and natural grasses, a 600-tree nursery, bird nesting boxes and a butterfly garden. The site also contains a red fox den and several deer.

"We wanted to take property that was being unused around the plant and make something of it," said Dave Klotz, a member of the plant's wildlife committee. "We've had a heck of a response from the community, and they've enjoyed it. In the future, we want to take the walking path that's in existence and turn it into a wildlife study area for the benefit of employees, the community and Plymouth-Canton schools."

Andy Aho, director of Ford's environmental and safety engi-



Award winners: Chester Wright, Western Wayne Conservation Association president, (left) listens as Jim Graham, executive director of Friends of the Rouge, presents the club's award to Bob Laich, conservation chairman of the association.

neering, told the gathering Ford is dedicated to protecting the environment.

"We have an obligation to future generations, our children's children, to take care of the environment," said. "All of us should be keepers of the environment, not just users of it."

Sheldon Road Plant Manager Paula Winkler-Doman accepted the award.

"We have a small, but dedicated group of people who helped

make it possible," said Winkler-Doman. "Our goal is continued involvement in environmental programs."

The RRAC honored the Ford project because it enhances natural habitat in the Rouge River watershed; was established



Honored: Friends of the Rouge Executive Director Jim Graham (left) presents an award to Sheldon Road Plant Manager Paula Winkler-Doman and David Klotz, a member of the plant's wildlife committee.

through a strong partnership; links the economy and society with the environment; and is maintained and sustained by plant employees.

The Western Wayne County Conservation Association was honored for its work with the

fisheries division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to establish brown trout habitat in Johnson Creek. The group helped clear debris and stabilize the banks of the creek, and planted fish in the stream from 1993 to 1995.

The trout are now spawning naturally.

"At one time, saying trout stream and Rouge River in the same sentence was ludicrous," said Jim Graham, chairman of the Habitat Subcommittee of the Rouge River Remedial Action Advisory Council, as he presented the award. "Now, we have an honest-to-goodness trout stream in the Rouge River ... in a place that was once clogged with debris and logjams."

The cleanup has taken a dozen years, but the fruits of labor are starting to show.

"I look back at 12 years ago, with all the brush and two inches of muck on the bottom of the river ... and I'm pleased to say the trout are surviving, and I'm finding fresh water clams," said Bob Laich, past president of the Western Wayne County Conservation Association. "We've come a long way, but there is still a lot to be done."

The River Rouge Advisory Council is already looking ahead for more projects that help the Rouge watershed.

"These two are excellent examples at how people can make a big change in the Rouge," said Rich Badics, RRAC chairman. "What we have to do is focus on the little things that everybody does to make a big impact on water quality."

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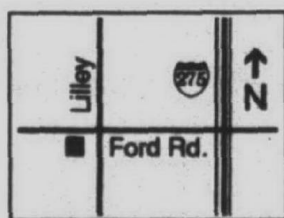
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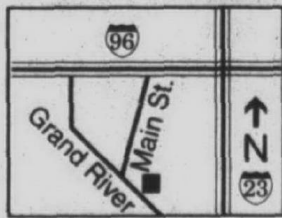
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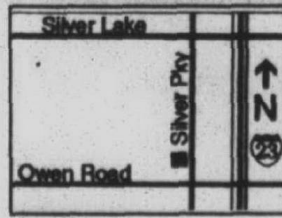
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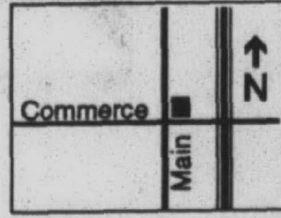
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Holiday adventure

Cruise ships, exotic spots lure many this season

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

"I'll be home for Christmas." On second thought - maybe not.

The traditional family gathering time, the holidays - Christmas and Hanukkah - are occasions for developing new traditions in some families or just a change of pace for one year. Instead of lighting the menorah and decking the halls, these families have chosen the deck on a cruise ship and the lights of some exotic port-of-call.

"It was a fantastic trip," said Linda Douglass of a Caribbean cruise she and her family took over Christmas two years ago. "It was a trip of a lifetime to be nice and warm at Christmas time and have the sun shining."

Douglass, her husband, Jeff, and their three children, Leslie, 16, Kenneth, 15, and Jeffrey Peter Jr., 9, Westland residents, received the weeklong cruise to six ports-of-call including St. Thomas, Aruba and Venezuela, as a gift from Linda's parents, Helen and Ray Wendland of Livonia.

The Wendlands traveled with their children so they could all be together but definitely not home for the holiday. According to Helen Wendland, they chose Christmas to travel in 1995 "because we wanted to go away and this was the only time that we could get away when the little ones weren't in school."

It had to be either Easter, Christmas or summer. "And I

don't like going on a cruise to the Caribbean in the summer time," she said.

Travel common

Glenna Drennan, a travel agent for Great Travel Service on Ann Arbor Road in Livonia where the Wendlands booked their trip, noted, "We are finding families are taking extended vacations and taking the children too." She said double-income couples with no children are more likely to take the holiday vacations as well.

"I've seen more people traveling, in general, in the last year than I have in the last four or five," she said. "In the last year the holidays are getting booked up sooner than in the past."

Kaye Britton of Kaye Britton Travel on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills said that she has had a number of people who like to take cruises at Christmas and Hanukkah and many of them with their entire family. "We find that happens more and more each year," she said.

The agency also books trips to such places as London and Austria for the holidays. "They do all kinds of lovely things in Austria," she said. Britton knows one couple, longtime customers, who have not spent the holidays at home since 1983. The childless couple has traveled to such exotic places as Africa, India, Nepal, Thailand and Singapore as part of their holiday gift to one another.

According to both Drennan and Britton, the key is to book early. "People start six to eight months ahead booking for the warm climates," said Britton. "If the people are going to St. Louis, for example over Christmas, there usually isn't much problem at all, it's just the warm areas." Drennan has noticed more people were calling at the last minute this year to find nothing available. "They tell us, 'I booked the same thing just one year ago and you had seats.' Other people are beating them to their seats."

Book early

Booking early has other advantages as well - like saving \$700-\$800 on just the hotel alone. "If you wait until the last minute what's going to happen is the less expensive hotels are going to be sold out," said Drennan. "So yes, there might be space available ... but it can be that much difference in hotels for the same set of dates for the same destination."

Airfares can also soar pretty high as the holidays draw closer. "There is a date in August that Christmas goes on sale," Drennan said of the Christmas flight prices. "When that company puts the Christmas week on sale, they are generally sold out within two hours of when they started."

The Wendland and the Douglass families believe the experience is worth every penny.

Douglass said, "It was a unique experience for my kids because they had never done that before." The family woke up in Guadeloupe on Christmas morning and had taken a little Christmas tree and other decorations for their cabin.

"At first my youngest was concerned because he didn't think Santa would be able to find him but Santa found him OK," she said. "We got up and had Christmas and then ate breakfast and went on our tours. The kids didn't miss Christmas whatsoever."

Douglass said the ship was decorated with trees and lights for the holiday and so was the island, but the best decorations were the exotic flower gardens and breathtaking waterfalls.

"It was quite different because we didn't have a big Christmas dinner with family over ... but it was enjoyable," said Douglass. "The kids saw, in other parts of the world, they don't celebrate Christmas the way we do."

Douglass said when the family was in Grenada, they asked some children on the beach about their Christmas. "They told us that it was a big deal if they got one or two presents from Santa."

The Douglass family and Linda's parents enjoyed the last trip so much they have decided to do it again this year. They are doing a three-island cruise this holiday season.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRENNAN

Holiday adventure: Members of the Douglass family - Linda and Jeff (right) and their three children Leslie, 16, Kenneth, 15, and Jeffrey Peter Jr., 9, of Westland along with Linda's parents, Helen and Ray Wendland of Livonia (left) - are getting ready for a three-island cruise this holiday season.

Tips to keep house safe

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

For those traveling away from home for the holidays a few simple things that can be done so that it doesn't appear that your home is all alone.

"We always tell people that before you leave, make sure that your home looks lived-in," said Kirk Kasperowicz, police officer in the Crime Prevention Bureau of the Redford Police Department. Kasperowicz and Nancy Wilson, main dispatcher, communications, for the Garden City Police Department, suggested steps to prevent break-ins, burglaries and vandalism.

Put lights on timers in various parts of the house. Random on/off times are best. For outside lights, Kasperowicz recommends motion detectors. He said he has them on his house and they are about the same expense as other outside lights and are relatively easy to install. Otherwise, ask a neighbor to turn outside lights on and off.

■ Leave a radio on or put it on a timer.

■ Lock all windows and doors. Lock basement windows too.

■ Make sure a neighbor or relative has access to the house and can be contacted in case of an emergency. Leave numbers with that person where you can be reached during your vacation. Be sure they also know how to shut off any alarms in the house.

■ Have someone pick up mail and other deliveries or fill out a form at the post office to have mail held.

■ Garbage cans should be put in the garage or behind the house. "People look for that," said Kasperowicz. "They look to see if garbage is being put out."

■ Valuables should be locked in a safe deposit box or strongbox inside the home. "When people break in, they look for money, currency, change and jewelry," Kasperowicz said.

■ Call your local police department to check if they have a Vacation Watch program. Both the Garden City and Redford Police Departments have a program to check on homes while the owners are on vacation.

According to Wilson, the police will check the home each day at random times. "They go to the home, get out and check the exterior of the home," she said.

Vacationers need only contact the police department one or two days ahead of time with all pertinent information.

"These are just simple things and it can make or break your vacation," said Kasperowicz.

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(P)A14

Giving from their hearts



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Adopt-A-Family: Approximately 190 Girl Scouts at Tonda Elementary adopted two families through the Plymouth Salvation Army. The Girl Scouts divided the families' list and donated what they asked for. They also will provide an entire Christmas dinner, including turkey. And they are doing even more: they are collecting canned goods to stock the families' pantries. In the above photo, all the Girl Scouts got together recently to see just how much they collected for their adopted families. The girls also had a similar project last year. "Last year when we, the leaders saw all the gifts and food we were all very moved. We knew that this is something the girls should see," said Judy Mersch, troop service director.

OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY ANN BUCK

A funeral mass was held for Shirley Ann Buck, 50, of Plymouth on Dec. 17 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, with the Rev. George Charnley officiating. The burial was in Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home.

She was born July 9, 1947, in Detroit. She died Dec. 13 in Plymouth. She worked as a clerk for Ameritech and was a member of the St. John Neumann Catholic Church. She is survived by her husband, William of Plymouth; her mother, Agnes Rewekant of Dearborn Heights; a daughter, Amy M. of Dearborn; a son, Andrew of Plymouth; two sisters, Jane Buchanan of Florida and Reggie Slowik of Madison Heights; and two brothers, Larry Martin Rewekant of Florida and Richard Rewekant of Livonia.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, 29350 Southfield Rd., Suite 110, Southfield, Mich. 48076 or to the Capuchins at 1740 Mt. Elliot Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48207.

STEPHANIE A. WEYDEMEYER

A funeral service was held for Stephanie A. Weydemeyer, 74, of Plymouth on Dec. 17 at the John N. Santeu & Son Funeral Home in Garden City, with the Rev. Arthur Fauser officiating. The burial was in St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights.

She was born Dec. 19, 1922, in Detroit. She died Dec. 14 in Livonia. She was a homemaker. She is survived by three sons, Tom, John and Joe; one daughter, Margaret Skinner of Canton Township; one grandson, Ethan; and two brothers: Frank and Joe Madey.

Memorials may be made to the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

ALBERT A. WOHLART

A memorial service will be held today for Albert A. Wohlart, 83, of Farmington Hills, at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home at 4 p.m., with the Rev. Victor F. Halboth from Grace Lutheran Church officiating. A visitation will begin at 3 p.m. The funeral home is at 33603 Grand River Ave. in Farmington.

He was born Sept. 27, 1914, in Detroit. He died Dec. 15 at his home. He had lived in Southfield from 1953-1993. He graduated from Redford High School. He was the owner and president of HTC Corporation, a tool and die shop, which he retired from in 1989. He was a member of the Farmington Elks. He was a licensed pilot and an avid hunter.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Joan; one son, Albert of Farmington Hills; three daughters: Marilyn Olree of Florida, Arlene Fosmoen of Farmington Hills and Donna Kenney of Plymouth; one brother, Harold of Farmington Hills; one sister Dorothy Mullin of Redford; 11 grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 3990 John R., Detroit, Mich. 48201.

ANTONINA EALOVEGA

A funeral Mass was held for Antonina Ealovega, 86, of Detroit on Dec. 16 at St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church with the Rev. Michael Barna officiating. The burial was at Evergreen Cemetery in Detroit. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

She was born Aug. 21, 1911, in Russia. She died Dec. 13 in Livonia. She came to the Detroit community in 1928 from Russia and was a homemaker. She was a member of the St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church in Redford and the Russian-American Citizens Club.

She is survived by two sons, Andrei of Canton and George of Florida; five grandchildren, Alexis, Andrew, Mark, Adam and Benjamin; and one great-grandson, Eric.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice or to a charity of choice.

DOROTHY M. KELLEY

A funeral service was held for Dorothy M. Kelley, 81, of Plymouth on Dec. 15 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with the Rev. John Sullivan officiating. The burial was in Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

She was born Oct. 11, 1916, in Detroit. She died Dec. 11 in Livonia. She was a homemaker. In the 1940s, she worked at Perfection Laundry and Daisy Air Rifle for a short time. She had lived in Plymouth for 67 years. She was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church since age 14. She was active with Right To Life and the Altar Society at her church. She graduated from Plymouth High School in 1933. She loved to sew and do needlework.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Lavern A. of Plymouth; three daughters, Barbara G. Hahn of Nashville, Tenn., Donna J. Kelley of Dearborn and Ann M. Johnston of Singer Island, Fla.; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; two brothers, Jack Gears of Dearborn and Martin Gears of South Lyon; and three sisters, Audrey Cline of Lincoln Park, Bernadine Raschke of Dearborn and Carol Raschke of Lincoln Park.

Memorials may be made to Our Lady of Good Counsel Building Fund.

GEORGE KOLB III

A funeral service was held for George Kolb III, 70, of Canton on Dec. 16 at the Vermeulen Trust 1501 Funeral Home in Plymouth Township with the Rev. Lloyd Brasure officiating. The burial was in Bethlehem Cemetery in Ann Arbor.

He was born in Detroit. He died on Dec. 12 at his home in Canton. He was the founder of Hines Park Lincoln Mercury in Plymouth, which developed into one of the industry's largest and most prominent Lincoln Mercury dealerships in the country. He is the great grandson of George Kolb, founder of the once-flour-

ishing Kolb Brewing Co. in Bay City, Mich.

He was a member of the Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville. He was an avid boater and enjoyed his runs to his winter home in Stuart, Fla.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Dixie; two sons, Michael and David, both from Plymouth; one brother, Ford, of Grosse Pointe; and six grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Arbor Hospice.

ROBERT G. RICHTER

Services were held for Robert G. Richter, 74, of Plymouth on Dec. 13 at the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth Township with the Dr. Jerry Yarnell officiating.

He was born Sept. 6, 1923, in Detroit. He died Dec. 10 in Plymouth. He served in World War II with the Army. He was well-known for his music instruction; he had studios in Dexter, Ann Arbor, Livonia and Plymouth. He was also a professional carpenter. He built his own home. He was a member of St. Michael Lutheran Church. He enjoyed fishing and hunting.

He is survived by his wife, Betty R. of Plymouth; a son, Daniel C. of Plymouth; two daughters, Nan J. Tribble of Whitmore Lake, Mich., and Jill L. Vernal of Plymouth; one sister, Carol Hegwood of Colterville, Calif.; and three brothers, Charles Tornow of Fenton, Gordon Tornow of Holly and John Tornow of Traverse City.

Memorials may be made to the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor.

JOHN TIANO

A funeral service was held for John Tiano, 80, of Canton Township, on Dec. 14 at Our Lady of Victory Church. The arrangements were handled by the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home.

He was born July 23, 1917, in Lumberport, W. Va. He died Dec. 12 at St. Mary Hospital. He worked as an electrician for the automobile industry.

He is survived by his wife, Irma; a daughter, Linda Blanck; a son John Michael; five grandchildren: David, Thomas, Trent, Todd and Rachelle; and one great-grandchild, Megan.

ROBERT EDWARD VOYLES

Services were held for Robert Edward Voyles, 77, of Livonia on Dec. 16 at the McCabe Funeral Home, Canton Chapel with the Rev. Alberto Bondy of St. Michael Catholic Church in Livonia. The burial was in United Memorial Gardens.

He was born May 6, 1929, in Normal, Ill. He died Dec. 14 in Detroit. He was a retired salesman of electronics. He served in World War II with the Army 1942-45. He fought in the Rhineland and other central European campaigns.

He is survived by two sons, John of California and Donald of Canton; three daughters, Kathleen of Keego Harbor, Marj Knurick of Highland, Mich., and Anne Marie Waldowski of Warren; and six grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Disabled American Veterans.

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Marker M-27 V-Tech \$150.00	Scott Signature Poles \$44.00	Marker M-28 V-Tech \$180.00	Rossignol FD-60 Bindings \$175.00
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Salomon 600 Quad Bindings \$180.00	Salomon 500 Quad Bindings \$150.00	Marker M-28 V-Tech \$180.00
Scott Signature Poles \$44.00	Scott Signature Poles \$44.00	Scott Signature Poles \$44.00
Total Retail \$673.00	Total Retail \$469.00	Total Retail \$584.00

ATOMIC MARKER	SALOMON SET	DYNASTAR MARKER
Atomic Mega Carvx 3.2 M&L \$375.00	Salomon MLX Shape Skis \$375.00	Dynastar Big Max 2/Max Lady \$475.00
Marker M-28 V-Tech \$180.00	Salomon Quadras 600 \$180.00	Marker M-28 V-Tech Bindings \$180.00
Scott Signature Poles \$44.00	Scott Signature Poles \$44.00	Scott Signature Poles \$44.00
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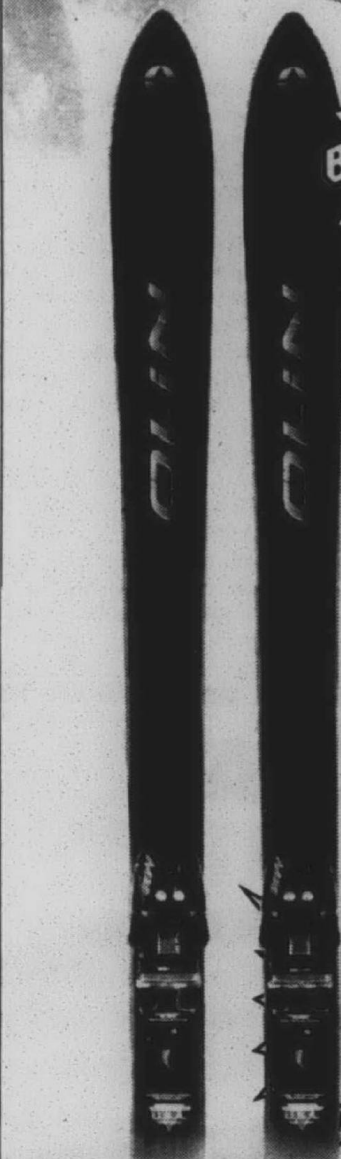
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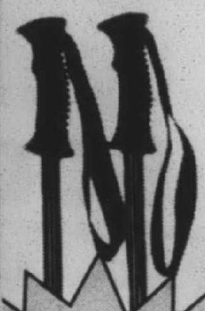
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Salomon 5800 Alum. \$225.00	Marker M-51 Graphite \$275.00	Marker M-51 Graphite \$275.00
Marker M-51 Graphite \$275.00	Salomon 5800 Alum. \$225.00	Salomon 5800 Alum. \$225.00
Total Retail \$870.00	Total Retail \$825.00	Total Retail \$725.00

ROSSIGNOL SALOMON	OLIN SALOMON	K2 MARKER
Rossignol 979.9 Cut VAS Skis \$699.00	Olin Axendo 7 Skis \$515.00	K2 Merlin IV Skis \$695.00
Salomon 5800 Alum. \$225.00	Marker M-51 Graphite \$275.00	Marker M-51 Graphite \$275.00
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\$500 OLIN DTSL Super Shape	\$399.00
\$275 NORDICA GP 03 M & L	\$189.00
\$225 DYNASTAR Team 4 X 4 Jr. 120-150	\$179.00
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Metro on track for record use in '97

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County officials expect to have another record year for passengers at Metro Airport in Romulus.

For the year-to-date, Metro Airport has seen 26.2-million passengers through the gates. By the end of the year, airport officials expect to surpass the 30.6-million passengers of 1996.

"We've recorded increases in passengers for every year but two since 1984," said Mike Conway, community relations man-

ager at Metro. "The only exceptions were in 1988 when we missed by a couple of thousand, and in 1991 when we were down about 2-percent."

In the latest statistics, Conway said October, 1997 showed a 6.2-percent rise in passengers, when compared to October, 1996.

"In fact, we've recorded passenger increases in forty-nine of the last 51 months," noted Conway.

The main reason for the increase in passengers at Metro

Airport is the rise in the number of flights abroad.

In particular, Conway credits international flights to China as a significant reason for increased numbers.

"Metro Airport is the only U.S. airport to have a non-stop flight to mainland China," said Conway. "That's important because there are 74 companies based in Michigan with a physical presence in China. There is a lot of international business and interest in Michigan."

While some believe Metro Airport has become overcrowded, Conway says \$60-million in interim improvements made by Northwest Airlines during the current construction and renovation program has eased congestion and helped provide faster service.

Some of the noticeable improvements include six new

gates in concourse C, new check-in facilities for domestic and international flights, Northwest's expansion of baggage handling, plus new moving walkways between concourses C and D.

Metro Airport is currently in the midst of a \$1.6-billion improvement project, which is expected to be completed in the year 2000. The number of total gates will increase to 99, a jump of 25. The international terminal will also expand, from six to 10 gates.

At last count, Metro Airport is listed as the ninth busiest airport in North America...14th in the world.

"If you consider total operations -- takeoffs and landings -- Metro Airport is ranked fifth," responded Conway.

New date set for High School Proficiency Test

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Eleventh-graders will take the state High School Proficiency Tests in the last 30 days before the end of the school year under bills passed by the Michigan Legislature.

They will get their results at the beginning of the next school year.

Test time will be cut from 11 hours to no more than eight. Written portions will be graded by Michigan teachers.

Results will be printed on students' transcripts, not diplomas. The hated "proficient," "novice" and "not yet novice" tags will be gone.

Students seeking dual enrollment in college may take the tests in communications skills, math and science in 10th grade.

"We have made every effort to keep the spirit of this reform bipartisan," said Rep. Sharon Gire, D-Macomb County, as the House on Dec. 10 overwhelmingly concurred in minor Senate amendments.

With the bills on their way to Gov. John Engler for signing, lawmakers ended their 1997 session and a long battle over state government's role in setting high school graduation standards.

Gire's House Education Committee wrote the bills after lengthy public hearings.

The most controversial measure was House Bill 5229, which the Senate amended to

require testing at the end of 11th grade. The House version had scheduled them for the beginning of 12th grade.

The vote was 79-26. Here is how area representatives voted:

Yes - Eileen DeHart, D-Westland, Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, Gerald Law, R-Plymouth.

No - Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, Deborah Whyman, R-Canton.

Absent - Bob Brown, D-Dearborn Heights.

HSPTs were born during a budget battle several years ago. Purpose is to enforce the state's recommended academic core curriculum.

Among other changes in the new bills:

■ Students will have more opportunities for dual enrollment in college. They may take college courses in areas where they have achieved a state endorsement on the HSPT by taking the test in 10th grade.

■ Students, parents and schools will get timely feedback on how well students did.

■ HSPTs will be used as indicators of school improvement and student achievement under the state school accreditation program.

■ Schools will be encouraged to use the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests, given in lower grades, to spot areas for needed improvement, for both the school and individual students.

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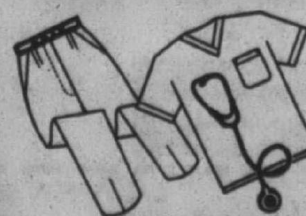
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The gift? Jesus Christ

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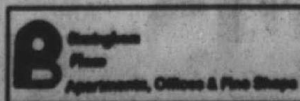
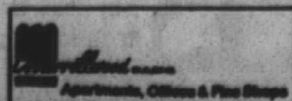
And it all happened in Bethlehem in Judea almost 2,000 years ago.

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Suburbs urged to join metro marketing effort

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

If "It's a great time in Detroit," it should be "a great time in Southfield, Novi and Livonia," too.

Suburban communities in western Wayne and Oakland Counties should use the same "brand" in marketing themselves as the Metropolitan Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau does, says Rick Binford.

"We need to build some type of recognition to the outside world," Binford told delegates to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments on Dec. 13.

The chief executive of the Metro Detroit bureau, Binford unveiled the brand name marketing strategy for Detroit, though to less than rave reviews, in October. In the same way the world became familiar with "I Love N.Y.," it will learn about metro Detroit—defined as Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Suburbs can cooperate by using the same kind of graceful type and the slogan "It's a great time in ... part of a greater Detroit," he said.

In marketing jargon, it's known as "branding."

SEMOG delegates routinely approved a resolution saying the executive committee supports the convention bureau's brand strategy marketing campaign, though some St. Clair and Monroe counties' members were a trifle unhappy that the promotion is confined to three counties.

Reversing Detroit's bad national image will take many years. "It's a marathon, not a

sprint," Binford reminded them. New York has spent 25 years building up its recognition. The MDCVC is planning to "invest" \$25 million in the next five years to promote the brand, Binford said.

"Metro Detroit has an image problem. They (consumers nationally in tests) think less of us than we'd like."

"They don't know a whole lot, and what they do know isn't good: crime, drugs, poverty, urban decay. Those elements also are present in Chicago, but Chicago is seen as having offsetting benefits."

"Yes, we are the Motor City, but that is not a motivator for the masses."

Metro Detroit has made "good" front page news during the last year in the New York Times and Los Angeles Times with casinos and the hockey team's Stanley cup. "It's time for us to take advantage and build on it," Binford said.

"We are a center of innovation in autos and the medical profession. We're a work hard, lunch bucket town, but we're also a play hard town. We know how to have a good time. Have you seen us lately? We have night life, recreation, culture."

To questions from delegates, Binford said MDCVC's funds come from a 2 percent assessment on rooms paid by larger hotels. The advertising is allocated to the region, not any one city or county.

He added that MDCVC's brand is "a hand-in-glove fit" with the state's brand: "Great lakes, great times."

Vote-by-mail bill heads to state Senate

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Democrats used their majority muscle when the state House of Representatives pushed through a bill to allow experimental vote-by-mail elections between 1999 and 2003.

In 2004, local governments will be able to hold local mail-in elections, and the Secretary of State may hold statewide mail-in elections.

The House vote was 74-33 with all nay votes being cast by Republicans. The bill faces an uncertain future in the Republican-controlled Senate.

"I am voting no," said Rep. Tom Middleton, R-Ortonville, "because it will put a large number of official ballots in the hands of people not interested in voting, and this could lead to new, widespread voter fraud problems."

Rep. Andrew Richner, R-Grosse Pointe, objected that the pilot program should be proven successful before the bill is applied to the entire state. "I offered an amendment that

would have addressed this issue by allowing the Secretary of State to terminate elections by mail upon a finding of substantial fraud in the pilot program."

Rep. Sharon Gire, D-Macomb County, sponsor of the measure, said Democrats built in a series of protections against fraud. Among them:

■ Ballots mailed to registered voters may not be forwarded.

■ Records will be kept of replacement ballots sent or received to guard against "double voting."

■ Ballots will be processed only if they come back in the return identification envelope which has been signed by the voter and the signature verified against the signature on the voter's registration card.

■ There are penalties for those who use force to influence a voter or attempt to keep a voter from voting by mail.

Here is how area representatives voted:

Yes—Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, Bob Brown, D-Dearborn Heights, Eileen DeHart, D-West-

land, Tom Kelly, D-Wayne Ger-

ald Law, R-Plymouth.

No—Deborah Whyman, R-

Canton.

Democrats have made voting by mail a front-burner issue.

Republicans have been split. They have resisted mail-in voting bills until the Secretary of State installs a computer system that cancels out one's old regis-

tration automatically when the person re-registers in a new area.

Elections experts from both parties say Michigan's registration rolls are swollen (20-30 percent) with people who are dead or who have moved but whose registrations never have been canceled.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held on Tuesday, December 9, 1997 at 1150 South Canton Center Road. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bennett, Burdiaz, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Shefferly, Yack
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Durack, Machnik, Minghine, Santomauro, Voyies, Zevalkink

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

General Calendar, Item 4, Approval of revised purchasing policy, to be effective January 1, 1998, was deleted from the agenda. A closed session to discuss sale of property was added to the agenda.
Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25 AND DECEMBER 2, 1997

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 25, 1997 as presented. Motion carried.
Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly, to approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting of December 2, 1997 as presented. Motion carried.

CITIZEN'S NON AGENDA ITEM COMMENTS

Barbara Owston, 7320 Admiralty, addressed the Board with her concerns regarding the quality of life for Canton Firefighters and Canton residents.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

Motion by Kirchgatter, supported by Burdiaz, to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Expenditure Recap

General Fund	101	\$233,807.54
Fire Fund	206	20,221.94
Police Fund	207	47,307.24
Community Center Fund	208	22,281.64
Golf Course Fund	211	1,036.64
Cable TV Fund	230	14,360.68
Community Imp. Fund	246	233,032.84
E-911 Emergency Funds	261	1,217.72
Federal Grants Funds	274	1,191.00
State Projects Fund	289	739.95
Retiree Benefits	296	6,449.72
Cap Proj-Bldg. Constr.	402	1,512.40
Cap Proj-Road Paving	403	85,063.28
Bldg. Auth. Constr. Fund	469	111,621.60
Water & Sewer Fund	592	17,118.98
S Haggerty Paving	815	69,595.97
Rec. Checking Act	Nov97	2,820.38
Total-All Funds		\$886,700.04

ITEM 1 PUBLIC HEARING - CONSIDER TAX ABATEMENT FOR NORVEST L.L.C.

Supervisor Yack declared the public hearing open at 7:25 P.M.
Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to close the public hearing at 7:26 P.M. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to adopt the resolution approving the application of Norvest, L.L.C. for an industrial facilities exemption certificate for real and personal property, when issued shall be and remain in force and effect for a period of four (4) years. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION OF NORVEST L.L.C. INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE FOR REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.A. 198 of 1974, M.C.L. 207.551 et seq., after a duly noticed public hearing held on May 3, 1983 the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton by resolution established the Northeast Canton Industrial Development District, as requested by the property owner; and,
WHEREAS, Norvest L.L.C. has filed an application for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate with respect to a new facility acquired and installed within the Northeast Canton Industrial Development District; and,
WHEREAS, before acting on said application the Charter Township of Canton held a public hearing on December 9, 1997 at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, at 7 p.m., at which hearing the applicant, the Assessor and a representative of the affected taxing units were given written notice and were afforded an opportunity to be heard on said application; and,
WHEREAS, construction of the facility and installation of new machinery and equipment had not begun earlier than six months before November 17, 1997, the date of acceptance of the application for the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate; and,
WHEREAS, completion of the new facility is calculated to and will at the time of issuance of the certificate have the reasonable likelihood to retain, create or prevent the loss of employment in Canton Township; and,
WHEREAS, the aggregate SEV of real and personal property exempt from ad valorem taxes within the Charter Township of Canton, after granting this certificate will not exceed 5% of an amount equal to the sum of the SEV of the unit, plus the SEV of personal and real property thus exempted.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton that:
1. The Canton Board of Trustees finds and determines that the granting of the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate considered together with the aggregate amount of certificates previously granted and currently in force under Act No. 198 of the Public Acts of 1974 and Act No. 255 of the Public Acts of 1978, shall not have the effect of substantially impeding the operation of Canton Township, or impairing the financial soundness of a taxing unit which levies ad valorem property taxes in Canton Township.
2. The application of Norvest, L.L.C. for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate with respect to a new facility acquired and installed on the following parcel of real property situated within the Northeast Canton Industrial Development District, to wit:

A parcel of land situated in part of the Northwest 1/4 Section 1, Town 2 South, Range 8 East, Canton Township, Wayne County, Michigan, more particularly described as beginning at a point distant South 89 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds East, 1689.95 feet along the North line of said Section 1; and South 00 degrees 56 minutes 29 seconds West 400.05 feet and along a curve to the right, radius of 5789.58 feet, central angle 00 degrees 59 minutes 21 seconds an arc distance of 99.95 feet chord bearing South 01 degrees 26 minutes 10 seconds West 99.95 feet and along another curve to the right radius 5789.58 feet, a central angle of 05 degrees 21 minutes 27 seconds an arc distance of 541.35 feet; chord bearing South 04 degrees 36 minutes 37 seconds West 541.35 feet from the Northwest corner of Section 1, T.S. R.8.E. and proceeding thence South 89 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds East 660.86 feet; thence South 00 degrees 32 minutes 16 seconds West 1583.90 feet; thence North 88 degrees 45 minutes 01 seconds West along the East and West 1/4 line of Section 1, 63.52 feet; thence along the Northeastly right of way line of C & O Railroad right of way North 28 degrees 44 minutes 10 seconds West 1342.17 feet; thence along the Easterly right of way line of rerouted Haggerty Road North 08 degrees 55 minutes 37 seconds East 257.97 feet; thence continuing along the Easterly right of way line of rerouted Haggerty Road along a curve to the left, radius 5789.48 feet, a central angle of 01 degrees 36 minutes 20 seconds an arc distance of 162.25 feet chord bearing North 08 degrees 05 minutes 30 seconds East 162.24 feet to the point of beginning. 17.08 acres. Tax I.D. No. 002-99-0001-708.

be and the same is hereby approved.

3. The Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate when issued shall be and remain in force and effect for a period of 4 years.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to reappoint Thomas Borg to serve a 3-year term on the Recreation Advisory Committee beginning January 1, 1998 and expiring December 31, 2000. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to cancel the regular meetings of the Board of Trustees scheduled for December 16 and December 23, 1997. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to remove from the table and to adopt the amendments to Ordinance No. 132(A), Downtown Development Authority Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan. The amended ordinance will become effective upon publication in full in the Canton Observer, December 18, 1997. Motion carried.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON AMENDED DDA FINANCING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN ORDINANCE NO. 132(A)

(effective June 3, 1993; amended December 18, 1997)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 132, AND AMENDING THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Act 197, Michigan Public Acts of 1975 ("Act 197") and Ordinance No. 115, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Canton has established the Downtown Development Authority of the Charter Township of Canton (the "Authority"); and,
WHEREAS, the Authority prepared and the Township Board approved a Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan (the "Original Plan") relating to a development area within the Authority's jurisdiction (the "Original Development Area") as described in the Original Plan; and,
WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that it is in the best interests of the Downtown District of the Township to add and revise development projects to be carried out under a development plan for the development area within the Downtown District; and,
WHEREAS, on July 24, 1984, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Canton (the "Township") established the Downtown Development Authority of the Charter Township of Canton (the "Authority"); and,
WHEREAS, on May 25, 1993, the Township Board adopted Ordinance No. 132, approving the Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan for the Authority (the "Plan"); and,
WHEREAS, the Authority has prepared and recommended for approval amendments to the Plan attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference

herein (the "Amended Plan"); and
WHEREAS, on November 12, 1997, the Township Board held a public hearing on the Amended Plan pursuant to Act 197, Public Acts of Michigan, 1975, as amended (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, the Township Board has given the taxing jurisdictions in which the Development Area is located an opportunity to meet with the Township Board and to express their views and recommendations regarding the Plan and the Amended Plan, as required by the Act; and
WHEREAS, after consideration for the Plan, the Township Board has determined to approve the Amended Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ORDAINS:

- The amended Plan meets the requirements set forth in the Act.
- The proposed method of financing the development is feasible and the Authority has the ability to arrange the financing.
- The development is reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act.
- The land included within the Development Area to be acquired, if any, is reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes of the Amended Plan and the purposes of the Act in an efficient and economically satisfactory manner.
- The Development Plan is reasonable accord with the master plan for the Township.
- Public services, such as fire and police protection and utilities, are or will be adequate to service the project area.
- Changes in zoning, streets, street levels, intersections, and utilities, to the extent required by the Restated Plan, are reasonable necessary for the project and for the Township. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993; amend. eff. December 18, 1997)

104.902 Section 2. PUBLIC PURPOSE.

The Township Board hereby determines that the Amended Plan constitute a public purpose. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993; amend. eff. December 18, 1997)

104.903 Section 3. BEST INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC.

The Township Board hereby determines that it is in the best interests of the public to proceed with the Amended Plan in order to halt property value deterioration, to increase property tax valuation, to eliminate the causes of the deterioration in property values, and to promote growth in the Downtown District. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993; amend. eff. December 18, 1997)

104.904 Section 4. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED PLAN.

The Amended Plan is hereby approved and adopted. A copy of the Amended Plan, and all later amendments thereto shall be maintained on file in the Township Clerk's office. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993; amend. eff. December 18, 1997)

104.905 Section 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT FUND; APPROVAL OF DEPOSITARY.

The treasurer of the Authority shall establish a separate fund which shall be kept in a depository bank account or accounts in a bank or banks approved the Treasurer of the Township, to be designated Downtown Development Authority Project Fund. All moneys received by the Authority pursuant to the Amended Plan shall be deposited in the Project Fund. All moneys in the Project Fund and earnings thereon shall be used only in accordance with the Amended Plan. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993)

104.906 Section 6. USE OF MONEYS IN THE PROJECT FUND.

The moneys credited to the Project Fund and on hand therein from time to time shall be used annually in the manner provided in the Tax Increment Financing Plan portion of the Amended Plan. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993)

104.907 Section 7. RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXPENDITURES THAT EXCEED PROJECT FUND.

In the event the Township or any agency of the Township issues obligations on behalf of the Authority, and the Township is required in any fiscal year to pay out of its general fund any portion of the debt service on such an obligation, the Authority shall be required to fully reimburse the Township from its available funds (but only after the set aside for debt service for any fiscal year has been met). (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993)

104.908 Section 8. ANNUAL REPORT.

Within 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Authority shall submit to the Township Board, with copies to each taxing jurisdiction, a report on the status of the Project Fund. The report shall include the amount and source of revenue in the account, the amount and purpose of expenditures from the account, the amount of principal and interest on any outstanding indebtedness, the amount in any bond reserve account, the initial assessed value of each portion of the Amended Development Area, the captured assessed value of the Development Area and the amount of captured assessed value retained by the Authority, the tax increments received and the amount of any surplus from the prior year, and any additional information requested by the Township Board or deemed appropriate by the Authority. The secretary of the Authority shall cause a copy of the report to be published once in full in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993)

104.909 Section 9. REFUND OF SURPLUS TAX INCREMENTS.

Any surplus money in the Project Fund at the end of a year not held for payments required to be made on outstanding obligations of the authority or the Township or otherwise held as required pursuant to the Amended Plan, as shown by the Annual report of the Authority, shall be paid by the Authority to the Township Treasurer or the County Treasurer, as the case may be, and rebated by each to the appropriate taxing jurisdiction pro rata. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993)

104.910 Section 10. AMENDMENT AND CONTINUANCE OF ORDINANCE NO. 132.

Ordinance No. 132 is hereby amended to the extent of the amendments to the Plan as set forth in Exhibit A. Except to the extent this Ordinance amend the Plan, all sections and portions of Ordinance No. 132, to the extent not in conflict herewith, shall continue in full force and effect. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993; amend. eff. December 18, 1997)

104.911 Section 11. CONFLICT AND SEVERABILITY.

All other ordinances, resolutions and orders or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed, and each section of the Ordinance and each subdivision of any section thereof is hereby declared to be independent, and the finding or holding of any section or subdivision thereof to be invalid or void shall not be deemed or held to affect the validity of any other section or subdivision of the Ordinance. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993; amend. eff. December 18, 1997)

104.912 Section 12. PUBLICATION AND RECORDING.

This Ordinance shall be published in full promptly after its adoption in the Canton Observer, a newspaper of general circulation in the Township, qualified under State law to publish legal notices, and shall be recorded in the Ordinance Book of the Township, which recording shall be authenticated by the signature of the Township Clerk. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993; amend. eff. December 18, 1997)

104.913 Section 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Canton Observer on December 18, 1997. (Ord.no. 132. eff. June 3, 1993; amend. eff. December 18, 1997)

Adopted: May 25, 1993

Published/Effective: June 3, 1993

Adopted (a): December 9, 1997

Published/Effective: December 18, 1997

This Ordinance was duly adopted by the Township Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton at its regular Board meeting called on the 9th day of December 1997, and was ordered given publication in the manner required by law. Copies of the Ordinance are available for inspection from the Township Clerk at the Canton Township Hall, located at 1150 South Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to remove from the table and to adopt the amendments to Ordinance 118(B), Downtown Development Authority Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing plan. The amended Ordinance will become effective upon publication in full in the Canton Observer on December 18, 1997. Motion carried.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCE PLAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE NO. 118(B)

(Effective December 22, 1984; amended December 19, 1996, amended December 18, 1997)

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND A TAX INCREMENT FINANCE PLAN PERTAINING TO THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DISTRICT PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ACT 197, PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN OF 1975 AS AMENDED, AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON HEREBY ORDAINS:

104.801 Section 1. DEFINITIONS

The terms used in this ordinance shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

"Act 197" means the Downtown Development Authority Act, Act No. 197 of Public Acts of Michigan of 1975, as amended.

"Captured Assessed Value" means the amount in any one year by which the current assessed value as finally equalized of all taxable property in the Development Area exceeds the Initial Assessed Value, as more fully described in the Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan.

"Development Area" shall mean the area within the boundaries of the Canton Downtown Development Authority District, as described in Exhibit B of the Downtown Development Authority Ordinance, Ordinance No. 115(A) as amended, and as illustrated in the Downtown Development Authority Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan, 1984/2000. (Ord.no 116, eff. Dec. 22, 1984; amend. eff. Dec. 19, 1996)

"Development Plan" means the Development Plan for the Downtown Development Authority District, illustrated in the Downtown Authority Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan, 1984/2000 as amended by Ordinance 132, December. (Ord.no 116, eff. Dec. 22, 1984; amended Dec. 18, 1997)

"Initial Assessed Value" means the most recently assessed value, as finally equalized by the State Board of Equalization, of all taxable property within the boundaries of the Downtown Development Authority at the time of adoption of this ordinance, as more fully described in the Downtown Development Authority Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan, 1984/2000, as amended by Ordinance 132. (Ord.no 116, eff. Dec. 22, 1984; amended Dec. 1, 1997)

1997)

"Tax Increment" shall be that portion of the tax levy of all Taxing Jurisdictions paid each year

on real and personal property in the Downtown Development Authority district on the Captured Assessed Value, as more fully described in the Downtown Development Authority Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan, 1984/2000, as amended by Ordinance 132. (Ord.no 116, eff. Dec. 22, 1984; amended Dec. 18, 1997)

"Downtown Development Authority" means the Charter Township of Canton Downtown Development Authority as established by Ordinance No. 115(A) as amended. (Ord.no 116, eff. Dec. 22, 1984; amend. eff. Dec. 19, 1996)

"Tax Increment Finance Plan" means the Tax Increment Finance Plan for the Canton Downtown Development Authority District, including the Development Plan, as transmitted to the Canton Township Board of Trustees by the Downtown Development Authority for public hearing, and as confirmed by this Ordinance, copies of which are on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

"Taxing Jurisdiction" shall mean each unit of government levying an ad valorem property tax on property in the Downtown Development Authority District.

All other undefined terms, unless the context of this Ordinance specifically requires otherwise, shall have the meanings attributed to them by current usage. (Ord. no. 116 eff. Dec. 22, 1984)

104.802 Section 2. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCE PLAN, 1984/2000

Pursuant to Section 19(1) Act 197 as amended, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton hereby finds and determines as follows:

- That the Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan constitutes and embodies a public purpose of the Charter Township of Canton;
- That the Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan meets the requirements set forth in Section 17(2) of Act 197 of Public Acts of Michigan of 1975 as amended;

- That the proposed method of financing the development activities described in the Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan is feasible, and that the Downtown Development Authority has the ability to arrange the financing;
- That the development activities described in the Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan are reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of Act 197 as amended;

- That the land to be acquired within the Downtown Development Authority District is reasonable necessary to carry out the purposes of the Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan and the purposes of Act 197 as amended;
- That the Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan is in reasonable accord with the approved Master Plan of the Charter Township of Canton;

- That public services, such as fire and police protection and utilities are, or will be, adequate to service the Downtown Development Authority District; and
- That such changes in zoning, street levels, intersections and utilities as are contemplated by the Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan are reasonably necessary for the Project and for the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the foregoing considerations, the Downtown Development Authority Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan, 1984/2000 and all respective amendments thereto shall be maintained on file in the Township Clerk's office and cross-indexed to this Ordinance. (Ord. no. 116 eff. Dec. 22, 1984 as amended by Ordinance 132.)

104.803 Section 3. BOUNDARIES OF DEVELOPMENT AREA

The boundaries of the development Area are hereby adopted and confirmed. (Ord. no. 116 eff. Dec. 22, 1984)

104.804 Section 4. PREPARATION OF BASE YEAR ASSESSMENT ROLL

(a) Within 60 days of the effective date of this Ordinance, the Township Assessor shall prepare the Base Year Assessment Roll. The Base Year Assessment Roll shall list each Taxing Jurisdiction in which the Downtown Development Authority District is located, the Initial Assessed Value of the Development District on the effective date of this Ordinance and the amount of tax revenue derived by each taxing jurisdiction from ad valorem taxes on the property in the Development District.

(b) The Township Assessor shall transmit copies of the Base Year Assessment to the Township Treasurer, the County Treasurer, the Downtown Development Authority, and each Taxing Jurisdiction, together with a notice that the assessment roll has been prepared in accordance with this ordinance and the Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan approved by this Ordinance. (Ord. no. 116 eff. Dec. 22, 1984)

104.805 Section 5. PREPARATION OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENT ROLL

Each year within 15 days following the final equalization of property in the Development District, the Township Assessor shall prepare an updated Annual Assessment Roll. The Annual Assessment Roll shall show the information required in the Base Year Assessment Roll and, in addition, the Captured Assessed Value for that year. Copies of the Annual Assessment Roll shall be transmitted by the Assessor to the same persons as the Base Year Assessment Roll, together with a notice that it has been prepared in accordance with this Ordinance and the Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan. (Ord. no. 116 eff. Dec. 22, 1984)

104.806 Section 6. IMPLEMENTATION

All Tax Increments shall be transmitted by the Township Treasurer and the Treasurer of Wayne County to the Township Treasurer for the account of the Downtown Development Authority at the earliest practicable date. All Tax Increments, so received by the Downtown Development Authority shall be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan and tax Increment Finance Plan and the requisitions of the Downtown Development Authority. For the purposes of segregation and transfer of such funds, the Township Treasurer shall maintain a separate fund which shall be kept in a depository bank account or accounts in a bank or banks approved by the Controller of the Township, to be designated Downtown Development Authority Project fund. All amounts payable to the Downtown Development Authority shall, subject to the foregoing, be deposited directly in the Downtown Development Authority Project Fund. (Ord. no. eff. Dec. 22, 1984)

104.807 Section 7. DURATION OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN
The Tax Increment Finance Plan will continue in effect until all purposes of the Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan have been fulfilled. (Ord. no. 116 eff. Dec. 22, 1984)

104.808 Section 8. ORDINANCE IMMEDIATELY EFFECTIVE UPON PUBLICATION

This Ordinance has been deemed necessary to assure the preservation of the general welfare of the Canton Community; therefore, said Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township on December 18, 1997. (Ord. no. 116 eff. Dec. 22, 1984)

Effective: December 22, 1984

Amended(a) Effective/Publication: December 19, 1996

Amended(b) Effective/Publication: December 18, 1997

This Ordinance was duly adopted by the Township Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton at its regular Board meeting called on the 9th day of December 1997, and was ordered given publication in the manner required by law. Copies of the Ordinance are available for inspection from the Township Clerk at the Canton Township Hall, located at 1150 South Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve the following General Fund budget amendment to increase the funding for payment of special assessments on Township owned properties:

Increase Revenues: Fund Balance appropriation #101-000-699-0000 \$16,032

Increase Appropriations: SAD Payments-Township Property #101-200-960-0000 \$16,032

The budget amendment increases the General Government Department budget from \$790,252 to \$806,284, and the General Fund budget from \$13,124,505 to \$13,140,537.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve the following budget amendment in the General Fund for the receipt of insurance reimbursement for laptop computers and the subsequent purchase of replacement laptop computers.

Increase Revenues: Sales of Fixed Assets #101-000-673-0000 \$7,700

Increase Appropriations: Capital Outlay-Equipment (MIS) #101-258-977-0000 \$7,700

This budget amendment increases the Management Information System Division budget from \$543,092 to \$550,792 and the General Fund budget from \$13,097,529 to \$13,105,229.

Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve the following budget amendment in the Building Authority Construction Fund to increase the budget for the Fire Headquarters building construction:

Increase Revenues: Fund Balance Appropriation #469-000-699-0000 \$100,700

Increase Appropriations: Building Construction - Fire Headquarters #469-900-975-2060 \$100,700

This budget amendment increases the Building Authority Construction Fund budget from \$3,288,403 to \$3,389,103.

Salem student reaches for his goal

Dave Bennett of Canton Township is in pursuit of a goal.

The 16-year-old Plymouth Salem High School junior has been a member of Scout Troop 743 for five years and he has his eye on the prize - Eagle Scout.

But the goal doesn't come easily or quickly. It's taken time, work, planning, something many teens are not willing to invest. Bennett is different.

One of the requirements for completing the rank of Eagle Scout includes coordinating a project that will benefit the community. Even his project selection sets Bennett apart.

Nine years ago Bennett's father, Larry Bennett, was killed in the terrorist bombing of Pam Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Bennett's mother, Sue, used the children's grief groups at Arbor Hospice to help her young sons cope with their loss. Years later, the family remembered the help they received, and for his Eagle Scout project, Bennett chose to coordinate the construction of outdoor benches for the Arbor Hospice Residence.

Sara Armstrong, director of the capital campaign for the residence, says the benches will be a welcome addition to the outdoor gardens surrounding the facility.

"The gardens will be lovely, reflective places that can be enjoyed from the windows as well as the outside. Winding brick walkways will flow through them, allowing visi-

tors and patients, to stroll through. The benches will be placed along the way and will allow for those, who wish, to sit and rest awhile," said Armstrong.

The residence of Arbor Hospice is a facility staffed with people who will care for the terminally ill, when they can no longer live at home. The Residence is scheduled to open January 1998.

Sue Bennett says she's proud of the work her youngest son has done, and appreciates the skills he has learned in undertaking the task. "Often you see grown men who are Eagle Scouts in leadership roles. It's a springboard for other types of leadership positions. Eagle Scout is not an end," said Sue Bennett.

Besides scouting, Bennett is active with his high school band, enjoys camping and maintaining a high academic standard. He plans to study pre-med or communications when he graduates from high school.

Along with his other activities, Bennett was able to successfully complete the six benches for Arbor Hospice with help from his two older brothers, other family members, his scout troop and friends. He said supervising the project gave him a sense of accomplishment.

"I learned that a good product takes time and planning," he said. "Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout means knowing you can do something that not a lot of people can, or are willing to do."

Activities from page A1

Sun.. The library will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1. For information, call (313) 453-0750.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will hold holiday art and music workshops for children in kindergarten through fifth grade on Sat., Dec. 20.

"Songs of the Season," 9:30-11:30 a.m., will look at different holiday celebrations, including Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

"Christmas Around the World," noon to 2 p.m., will focus on holiday songs and customs from other countries.

Each workshop is \$15 per child. Free child care during lunch will be provided if both sessions are attended.

For reservations/information, call PCAC at (313) 416-4278.

Fun is also to be found at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren. At 2 p.m. Sat., Dec. 20, there will be a stained glass ornament activity in the Children's Activity Room. No registration is required.

A collective craft project is planned for children ages 4-10, 2 p.m. Mon., Dec. 29, in the Children's Activity Room. The project will be kept in the Children's

Services Area. No registration. All day Fri., Jan. 2, children will seek 10 "freaky" things in the Children's Services Area to receive a prize.

Creation Station will be offered for children 4-10, 2 p.m. Sat., Jan. 3, in the Children's Activity Room. No registration required for craft activity.

Westland's library hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mon. through Wed., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thurs. through Sat., noon to 5 p.m. Sun. The library will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1. For information on library activities in Westland, call (313) 326-6123.

The Summit on the Park, off of Canton Center S. of Cherry Hill in Canton, offers winter fun for the young. Open swim is scheduled for 2-4 p.m. Mon., Dec. 22, Tues., Dec. 23, Fri., Dec. 26, Mon., Dec. 29, Tues., Dec. 30, and Fri., Jan. 2.

Drop-in gym time is also available throughout the Christmas vacation period, including teen and family/youth sessions. Drop-in time is designated for all types of activity, including basketball and volleyball. For information, call (313) 397-5110. Schedules are available at the facility.

The Redford Parks and Recreation Department's Ice Arena will feature a skating

exhibition 7:30-9:30 p.m. Fri., Dec. 19. The arena is at 12400 Beech Daly, N. of Plymouth Road.

There will also be a special open skating schedule Dec. 22 through Jan. 2. For recorded times and days, call (313) 93-PARKS.

Farmington Hills Youth & Family Services is at 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For information, call (248) 473-1841.

The Farmington Hills Ice Arena will be open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mon., Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 23, Mon., Dec. 29, Tues., Dec. 30, and Wed., Dec. 31. The arena is on Eight Mile west of Gill.

The Farmington YMCA will be open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon., Dec. 22, Tues., Dec. 23, Wed., Dec. 24, Fri., Dec. 26, Mon., Dec. 29, Tues., Dec. 30, and Wed., Dec. 31. The YMCA is on Farmington Road north of 12 Mile.

The Livonia Family YMCA is at 14255 Stark, north of

Schoolcraft and west of Farmington Road in Livonia. The YMCA will offer "School's Out" camp for kids ages 5-12. The fun-packed days will include trips on some of the days, swimming and gym games. The camp will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and extended care is available at an hourly fee of \$1.50 per hour per family. Extended care runs from 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Participants should bring a sack lunch, drink, swimsuit and towel each day. Price is \$19 per day for members, \$25 for program members.

Dates are Mon., Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 23, Fri., Dec. 26, Mon., Dec. 29, Tues., Dec. 30, and Fri., Jan. 2. For registration information, call (313) 261-2161.

The Garden City Public Library is at 2012 Middlebelt, south of Ford. Library hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mon. through Thurs., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat. The library will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1. For information, call (313) 525-8855.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools cordially invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for the purchase of student furniture.

Specifications and Bid Forms can be obtained at the Purchasing Department, Board of Education Building, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, MI. Bids are due on or before 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, January 13, 1998. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the School District.

JACK F. FARROW, Secretary
Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Publish: December 11 and 18, 1997



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Continued from Page 18A

sewers, and rear yard storm sewers for maintenance jurisdiction, to be for a period of 5 years. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to adopt the resolution to amend the resolution approved on April 26, 1994, which authorized the Township Supervisor or Township Clerk to execute permits, to accept jurisdiction and maintenance responsibility for storm sewer connections and/or subdivision entrance landscaping and to enter into reciprocal agreements with the developers of the subdivision, to be for a period of 5 years. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve the transfer of \$11,000.00 from purchase order 8911 for Waterland Trucking, Inc., to purchase order 1969 for Dietrich-Bailey and Associates, Inc., in order to pay them for the construction inspection and construction follow up. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to re-appoint Catherine Johnson and Ronald Lieberman to the Canton Township Planning Commission, and to re-appoint Catherine Johnson to the Zoning Board of Appeals as the Planning Commission representative, 3-year terms to expire December 31, 2000. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve the following amendments (97-2) to the Zoning Ordinance: Amending Article 26, Section 26.03 to the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance by adding footnote (d) to the Schedule of Regulations for the C-2, C-3 and C-4 Districts as follows:

SUMMARY CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - 97-2

The Charter Township of Canton Zoning Ordinance is amended as follows:

Article 2, General Provisions

Section 2.13, Lighting, is hereby amended to add subsection G requiring the installation of street lighting for all development or redevelopment within the Downtown Development Authority, as specified in Article 6.07.

Article 5, Screening and Walls

Section 5.03A.5, Specific Landscaping Requirements for Zoning Districts, Requirements for Commercial and Industrial Districts, is hereby amended to require all sites proposed for development within the Downtown Development District to meet landscaping design standards as set forth in Article 6.07.

Article 6, Site Development Standards Applicable to Specific Uses

Section 6.07, Site Development Standards for the Downtown Development District (DDA), is hereby added to provide specific site development standards in the DDA relating to landscaping/streetscape elements and street lighting.

Article 26, Schedule of Regulations

Section 26.03 - Requirements for Commercial and Office Districts, is hereby amended to add Footnote (d) providing for the elimination of the internal side setback in C-2, C-3, and C-4 zoning districts between common lot or parcel boundaries for parcel(s) encompassed by a proposed planned shopping center if the site plan meets specified criteria.

Article 27, General Standards and Related Standards

Section 27.02C.4, Procedures and Requirements, Submission of Completed Site Plan, is hereby amended to Section 27.02C.4, Procedures and Requirements, Submission of Completed Site Plan, is hereby amended to provide for a review of site plans for development or redevelopment within the DDA by the Downtown Development Authority prior to review by the Planning Commission.

The above is a summary of the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment 97-2 approved by the Board of Trustees on December 9, 1997. A complete copy of the Zoning Ordinance as amended is available for public inspection in Planning Services, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, during regular business hours. This amendment becomes effective upon publication of the Summary within the Minutes of the December 9 Meeting Minutes in the Canton Observer on December 18, 1997.

Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to adopt the resolution to grant Final Approval of the Plat for Meadow Villages of Canton Subdivision. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to adopt the resolution to grant an additional 12-month extension to the approval of the tentative preliminary plat for the proposed Hidden River Estates Subdivision (expiring December 12, 1998), subject to compliance with any and all state and local development regulations and further subject to any condition recommended by the Planning and Engineering Divisions, as described in the analysis and recommendation attached hereto and made a part hereof. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to establish the Canton Township Board of Trustees regular meeting schedule for 1998 as follows: First, Second, Third and Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Road, Canton, MI 48188. Motion carried.

GENERAL CALENDAR

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, that the Department Director's salary grade be amended as follows pursuant to the Merit Commission's recommendation:

Minimum - \$66,300 Midpoint - \$76,200 Maximum - \$87,600

Further, that this salary grade amendment be made effective and retroactive to January 1, 1997.

Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the creation and

filling of the full-time Volunteer Coordinator position for the Administrative and Community Services Department. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve up to \$1,795 travel expenses for Gary Johnson to attend the 1998 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America 69th International Conference and Show. Motion carried.

Item 4, Purchasing policy was deleted from the agenda.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to authorize the payment of the Township's bills on December 26, 1997 as normally scheduled, subject to prior review by the Clerk and Treasurer. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdiaz, to approve the following budget amendment in the Koppernick/Ronda debt funds: Revenues \$102,000; Appropriations \$102,000.

This establishes the 1997 Koppernick/Ronda Road Paving Special Assessment Debt Fund at \$102,000. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdiaz, to transfer \$43,980 from the Koppernick/Ronda Road Paving Debt Fund to the General Fund for the special assessment administration fee permitted under the State statute. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdiaz, to transfer the remaining cash (approximately \$58,000) in the Koppernick/Ronda Road Paving Debt Fund to the General Fund. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdiaz, to close the Koppernick/Ronda Road Paving Debt Fund. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly, to award the bid for Spiewak Utility Jackets, at a unit cost of \$219.00 to Surplus City, 3144 West 12 Mile, Berkley, MI 48072. The total value of this contract will not exceed \$13,500.00 for 1997 and 1998 purchases. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to waive formal bidding procedures and approve the purchase order to complete the GIS address component to Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment's Geographic & Information Systems Division, not to exceed \$59,514.00 as specified in the OHM proposal, plus a 10 percent contingency, for Section 27.02C.4, Procedures and Requirements, Submission of Completed Site Plan, is hereby amended to provide for a review of site plans for development or redevelopment within the DDA by the Downtown Development Authority prior to review by the Planning Commission.

The above is a summary of the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment 97-2 approved by the Board of Trustees on December 9, 1997. A complete copy of the Zoning Ordinance as amended is available for public inspection in Planning Services, 1150 S. Canton Center Road during regular business hours. This amendment becomes effective upon publication of the Summary within the Minutes of the December 9 Meeting Minutes in the Canton Observer on December 18, 1997.

Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to adopt the resolution to grant Final Approval of the Plat for Meadow Villages of Canton Subdivision. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to adopt the resolution to grant an additional 12-month extension to the approval of the tentative preliminary plat for the proposed Hidden River Estates Subdivision (expiring December 12, 1998), subject to compliance with any and all state and local development regulations and further subject to any conditions recommended by the Planning and Engineering Divisions, as described in the analysis and recommendation attached hereto and made a part hereof. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to establish the Canton Township Board of Trustees regular meeting schedule for 1998 as follows: First, Second, Third and Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. Motion carried.

GENERAL CALENDAR

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, that the Department Director's grade be amended as follows pursuant to the Merit Commission's recommendation:

Minimum - \$66,300 Midpoint - \$76,200 Maximum - \$87,600

Further, that this salary grade amendment be made effective and retroactive to January 1, 1997.

Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the creation and

filling of the full-time Volunteer Coordinator position for the Administrative and Community Services Department. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve up to \$1,795 travel expenses for Gary Johnson to attend the 1998 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America 69th International Conference and Show. Motion carried.

Item 4, Purchasing policy was deleted from the agenda.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to authorize the payment of the Township's bills on December 26, 1997 as normally scheduled, subject to prior review by the Clerk and Treasurer. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdiaz, to approve the following budget amendment in the Koppernick/Ronda debt funds: Revenues \$102,000; Appropriations \$102,000.

This establishes the 1997 Koppernick/Ronda Road Paving Special Assessment Debt Fund at \$102,000. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdiaz, to transfer \$43,980 from the Koppernick/Ronda Road Paving Debt Fund to the General Fund for the special

assessment administration fee permitted under the State statute. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdiaz, to transfer the remaining cash (approximately \$58,000) in the Koppernick/Ronda Road Paving Debt Fund to the General Fund. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdiaz, to close the Koppernick/Ronda Road Paving Debt Fund. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly, to award the bid for Spiewak Utility Jackets, at a unit cost of \$219.00 to Surplus City, 3144 West 12 Mile, Berkley, MI 48072. The total value of this contract will not exceed \$13,500.00 for 1997 and 1998 purchases. Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to waive formal bidding procedures and approve the purchase order to complete the GIS address component to Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment's Geographic & Information Systems Division, not to exceed \$59,514.00 as specified in the OHM proposal, plus a 10 percent contingency, for a total of \$65,465.00, based on OHM's experience in municipal GIS application development and their knowledge of the Township's existing mapping and GIS systems, and that it will be charged to the following accounts in the 1998 Budget:

101-853-818-0000	Contracted Services - Planning Services	\$16,366.00
592-560-818-0000	Contracted Services - Water Billing	16,366.00
207-301-818-0000	Contracted Services - Police	32,733.00

Further, to approve the following budget adjustment to the 1998 Budget:

Increase: 101-853-818-0000	Contracted Services	\$16,500.00
Decrease: 101-959-999-0000	Transfer to Fund Balance	16,500.00
Increase: 592-560-818-0000	Contracted Services	\$16,500.00
Decrease: 592-000-699-0000	Fund Appropriation	16,500.00
Increase: 207-301-818-0000	Contracted Services	\$33,000.00
Decrease: 207-301-999-0000	Contribution to Fund Balance	\$33,000.00

Motion carried.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly, to introduce and table for publication in the Canton Observer on December 18, 1997 the first reading of the amendments to Ordinance No. 34(A), Ambulance Service. Motion carried.

SUMMARY AMENDMENT

AMBULANCE SERVICE ORDINANCE NO. 34(A)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2 OF ORDINANCE NO. 34; PROVIDING FOR THE FEES FOR SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPT PERSONS; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF THE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCE AND THE SAVINGS OF ALL PROCEEDINGS; PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ORDAINS:

SECTION 1.

Section 2 of Ordinance No. 34 of the Code of Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton. This amendment to Section 2 of the above-referenced Ordinance provides that a reasonable fee for the use of the emergency ambulance and inhalator service is authorized and such fee is to be determined by the Board of Trustees. This amendment also provides that certain persons shall be exempt from the fee authorized.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 3. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND SAVINGS OF ALL PROCEEDINGS.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Adoption of this Ordinance does not affect proceedings, prosecutions, for violations of laws, penalties, and matured rights and duties in effect before the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon a second summary publication of the amendments on January 22, 1998.

Copies of the complete text of this Ordinance are available during regular business hours at the Office of the Township Clerk located at 1150 South Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188.

Copies of the complete text of this Ordinance are available during regular business hours at the Office of the Township Clerk located at 1150 South Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to move to a closed session at 8:10 P.M. for discussion on sale of property. Motion carried.

POLL CALL - CLOSED SESSION

Members Present: Bennett, Burdiaz, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Shefferly, Yack

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Machnik, Minghine

ADJOURN

Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly, to return to an open session and to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 P.M.

The above is a synopsis of actions taken at the Regular Board meeting held on December 9, 1997. The full text of the approved minutes will be available following the next regular meeting of the Board on January 13, 1998.

THOMAS J. YACK, Supervisor

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: December 18, 1997

Plymouth Observer

OPINION

A20(P)

794 SOUTH MAIN, PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 48170

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1997

Newsletters

Edwards was on right track

The recent rift on the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees spotlights a continuing problem: There's a great need for improved communications between the local government and its residents.

Treasurer Ron Edwards came under attack from fellow board members for sending out two newsletters to some residents, in addition to two annual treasurer's newsletters that were mailed with tax bills. He was on the right track. He put the problem in the clearest and simplest light: "Nobody communicates to residents."

The unhealthy part of this scenario is that Edwards' actions caused such a rift in the first place among board members. Rumors abounded from other camps in the township political landscape that his efforts to communicate with the public were purely political and an attempt to lay a foundation to run for township supervisor in the future.

Regardless of anyone's plans in the township, the point is that Edwards is the treasurer, one of three elected administrators for the local government. He and any other officials may communicate with anyone they choose, including the public. There's no need for an armed camp.

All the public wants to know is what's going on in the township; what issues are before the board and how will those issues affect the residents. It's that simple.

Other board members expressed concern that Edwards' newsletters used the township letterhead, thus implying that his message was endorsed by all the township officials. That concern is legitimate. But it could have been avoided.

Instead of fighting about it, why didn't township officials jump to attention and realize the newsletters are a good idea and join in — for the public's sake?

So in the end, Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy plans to send out a quarterly newsletter to residents. Newsletters haven't been produced in the last few years because of a lack of staff to do the work. That will change with the hiring of an administrative assistant. Good job.

But there's more to do. It's well-known that McCarthy meets with homeowners groups. That's a good start. Indeed, all township officials should be expected to communicate with the public. The fact that few, if any, residents, attend township board meetings is pathetic. It's pathetic for the township and should send a red flare to elected officials. It's pathetic for the public which by choice or through ignorance does not attend and does not get involved.

We are hopeful that cablecasting township meetings will go a long way in helping to inform, educate and mobilize the public. We are also hopeful about the planned newsletters from the township. Edwards received many positive responses to his effort, which he should continue doing specifically from the treasurer's office.

Township officials need to scope the landscape of their neighboring communities to see how to communicate with residents. It's necessary and it's a part of what their jobs are as elected officials. The local government — the closest to the people — should not be allowed to operate in a vacuum.

Celebrate with safety in mind

The holiday season is upon us and we remind homeowners to exercise caution and common sense in decorating, cooking and traveling to and from holiday celebrations.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, nearly 600 fires per year have been started by the ignition of Christmas trees, causing an average of 33 deaths, 117 injuries and \$23 million in property damage.

Be especially careful when decorating. Purchase laboratory-tested Christmas lights, unplug tree lights when leaving home or going to bed and use common sense when decorating with candles.

The Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross offers the following 12 tips to help Wayne and Oakland county residents prevent injuries or even fatalities this holiday season.

■ Beware of holiday candles: Be sure candles are kept away from decorations or other combustible materials. Don't leave children in a room with lit candles, and always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children. Never use candles to decorate a Christmas tree. Never display lighted candles in window or near exits.

■ Test tree trimmings: When decorating with lights, be sure to purchase only those approved by a testing laboratory. For outside decorations, use only those lights approved for outdoor uses. Don't overload electrical outlets and always unplug all lights before leaving home or going to bed.

■ Keep Christmas trees fresh: Choose a fresh Christmas tree and secure it in a sturdy stand. Place the tree away from heat sources

and exits and water it daily. If you purchase an artificial tree, make sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.

■ Inspect fireplaces: Have your chimney inspected by a professional and cleaned if necessary. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a fire if not properly cleaned. Never use flammable liquids in a fireplace. If you plan to hang stockings on your fireplace, do not use the fireplace for fires.

■ Buckle up: During the holiday months, people travel more than ever. Wear a seat belt and make sure all passengers buck up. Remember to seat children 12 and younger in the back seat of the car. Children under 40 pounds must ride in approved safety seats in the back seat.

■ Cook with care: When cooking, always turn pot handles in. Don't store items on the stove top, they could catch fire. Don't overload electrical outlets and don't use appliances with frayed or cracked wires. Turn off kitchen appliances after use.

■ Be cautious with portable and space heaters: Place space heater at least three feet away from anything combustible, including clothing, pets and people. Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to bed.

■ Prepare a winter storm plan: Have extra blankets on hand and ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat and water-resistant boots. It's also important to have your car winterized.

Lincoln comes to Plymouth



Unique: It's not everyday that a local community can boast about a spectacular collection of items related to President Abraham Lincoln at the Plymouth Historical Museum. The collection was amassed by Dr. Weldon Petz. A grand opening is set for Feb. 12, Lincoln's birthday. Contributions are still sought to complete the \$150,000 purchase of the collection. Contributions are tax-deductible. The collection contains 10,000 items including brass molds of Lincoln's face and hands, one of his law books, a lock of his hair, prints and statuary from his time. At the grand opening, Ford Motor Co. will present a \$50,000 check toward acquiring and displaying the collection.

STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

LETTERS

Not a bad idea

In response to the article in Sunday's Observer, "Letters Split Board."

I cannot believe that such a flak would result from an elected official doing his job, a job that we elected this official to do.

I found Mr. Edwards' newsletter to be very informative as well as enlightening regarding community issues and accomplishments.

I certainly appreciate a general breakdown as how my tax dollars are used. It was interesting to note who the top five companies are in the township as far as tax revenues received.

It was refreshing to see someone do his job for a change and keep us informed and working to make township government and services more accessible to the people. Isn't that what an elected official is supposed to do?

Mr. Edwards is bringing a refreshing change to this stodgy board of trustees. Of course they are upset. Change is always difficult. And in reference to Mr. Edwards running for supervisor, not a bad idea at all.

Dolores Wilhelm
Plymouth Township

Invaluable role

Thank you for the invaluable role you played in getting the University of Michigan versus EMU basketball game rescheduled by airing the concerns of college basketball fans like myself and by holding the proper authorities' feet to the fire.

It is doubtful that anyone will ever admit that your pressure brought this about, however, as of Wednesday afternoon the game had been "canceled," Eastern only had dates within the next week available for rescheduling and the position of Michigan's Athletic Department was that no decision would be made on whether the game would even be rescheduled until after the first of the year when there were no options available.

We now have a rescheduled game within the available week. Bravo for a job well-done!

Michael J. Gerou
Plymouth

Remarks off base

I read with disgust and dismay the petty, ungracious remarks made regarding the

legacy of former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young. Although I thoroughly support everyone's right to speak their opinion, I expected that the municipal leaders would not use Mayor Young's death as an opportunity to further divide the city and the suburbs.

I find (Tom) Yack's comments particularly disturbing because he just provides the fuel for those who believe that suburban leaders are simply Detroit bashers based on their own racism. I found it interesting that in 20 years only cross-district busing and Coleman Young were the only two things that have impacted this region. How could this municipal leader ignore the expanded Cobo Hall, the merger of Republic and Northwest Airlines, the Chrysler bailout and other things which have had a much stronger impact on the region than cross-district busing?

Then Sen. (Bob) Geake's comments were certainly interesting. Perhaps Mayor Young felt the same way about working with him. But I guess since Sen. Geake is searching for brotherhood and cooperation he isn't very comfortable working with state Rep. Deb Whyman either.

As for the comments of Township Trustee Arnold I think the term "raped" is reactionary, rude, crude and very disrespectful as well as being blatantly false. If he "raped" the city then so did every business that left their environmentally unsound facilities empty as they moved to "greenfield" sites.

I think the residents of Plymouth and Canton expect the municipal leaders to uphold high standards of decorum and to be gracious. Believe it or not, when you leave Michigan and go to other parts of the nation, Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Romulus, Taylor, Troy, Rochester, etc. are really just a part of Detroit. We need to overcome the racism or whatever divides our region.

It would certainly help if our municipal leaders would lead.

Fred Gaddy
Canton

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a contact telephone number.

Letters should be mailed to: Editor, The Plymouth Observer, 794 South Main Street, Plymouth, 48170.

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

What would you like for Christmas?

We asked this question at the Plymouth Inn in Plymouth.



"Just to have my family happy."
Rose Pompei
Plymouth



"I'd like to have my children home from California."
Wanda Perry
Plymouth



"A million dollars."
Edward Rix
Plymouth



"I'd like cologne and stuff."
Dorothy Caporosso

Plymouth Observer

JOANNE MALISZEWSKI, COMMUNITY EDITOR, 313-459-2700
SUSAN ROSIEK, MANAGING EDITOR, 313-953-2149
HUGH GALLAGHER, ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR, 313-953-2118
PEG KNOESPEL, ADVERTISING MANAGER, 313-953-2177
LARRY GEIGER, CIRCULATION MANAGER, 313-953-2234
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— Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Take control: Holiday shouldn't break the bank

The holidays aren't happy or wonderful for everyone. The couple was stressed. She was crying and he was visibly frustrated.

"Our family's tradition is to buy holiday gifts for everyone. 'Tis the season to be jolly' and we want to give, but our giving is causing financial problems. We give to relatives, neighbors, pastor, mailman, and all the teachers, including our children's Sunday school and catechism teachers. But, every year we feel pressure to buy more gifts. Last year it took until July just to pay of all of our Christmas debt. We couldn't even afford a summer vacation."

Holidays need not be stressful. Giving nicer and more expensive gifts is fine, if you can afford them. However, the average American workers' real income is actually being reduced. You must make a decision: be solvent or insolvent. The first gives you control and choices; the second gives you no

control, no choices, and heaps of heartache.

It may not be evident, but there is no requirement for Americans to be in debt and stressed. It's all up to you. Decide now to get control and reduce your financial stress by climbing out of the "tradition rut." Financial freedom is exhilarating and fun! Get the "jolly" back into your holiday finances:

■ Give yourself permission to downsize your gift list. Talk privately to relatives who are on fixed incomes and share with them your need for a change. Brainstorm together for a solution. Solution: Adult relatives purchase only one adult gift, limited to \$20. Create a gift picking game. The first adult takes a gift from under the tree and holds it wrapped. The next adult may go to the tree for a new gift, or take the chosen gift from the first relative, and so on.

■ Know your financial limits when shopping. Fold an 8-by-10-inch piece

GUEST COLUMNIST



PHYLLIS WORDHOUSE

of paper into half repeatedly until you have one section for each person you are buying gifts. Write one name on each section, along with the limit you can afford to spend on that person. As you shop, record the gifts purchased and deduct the amounts spent from each person's limit on their section of the paper. Once you reach a limit, stop buying.

■ Short of money? Give "Acts of Kindness" certificates. For busy parents, watch their children for a weekend. They'll certainly appreciate a getaway. If you have children with similar ages as theirs, have their kids sleep over your house for a slumber party! A single person might enjoy a weekend at your cottage or a day just to be with you. Grandparents would always cherish a love letter from their grandchildren.

■ Senior citizens in retirement homes don't need more "stuff." Give them perishables: magazine or home-town newspaper subscriptions, monthly fruit or flowers, favorite restaurant coupons, taxi service to their doctor, a day at the mall. One of the least expensive, yet nicest gifts you can give an older person is your time and attention.

■ Be a role model to adult children or parents who have everything. Give a donation to their favorite charities

in their names. Request they save all their December donation requests, bringing them to the family holiday get together. After the family dinner, place all the requests on the table. Declare to the family the total amount you are willing to donate to their favorite causes. However, they are required to agree 100 percent on the amounts to be gifted to each charity. Write the checks to the charities as soon as the decisions are final, right then and there in front of the family. The children can mail them immediately.

This experience is very revealing. It's a good beginning in training you in the true joy of unconditional giving and at the same time eliminate holiday financial stress.

Phyllis J. Wordhouse is a family wealth counselor and financial educator. Visit her Web site: <http://ic.net/~pwordhou/index.htm>

Our public education in better shape than parenting

The politicians who want tax money for parochial schools won't use the word "parochial."

They use the code word "parents" or "parents' choice," whether they are trashing the Michigan Constitution or pushing private school tax credits, the latest snake oil of the Mackinac Center. They worship at the idol of "competition," as if there really were a knowledgeable consuming public shopping for schooling.

The hard truth is that parenting is deteriorating, and parents are becoming less knowledgeable, even as public schools continue their upturn in test scores. The Michigan Association of School Boards has compiled, for everyone's convenience, the track record of parents in the fall MASA Journal.

Major culprit: the "parent time deficit." Kids lost 10-12 hours of parenting time per week in the past few decades. Family vacation time shrank 14 percent. Family dinner time decreased 10 percent in the last

decade.

Top reasons:

■ Parents working longer - six hours more per week between 1973 and 1989.

■ Moms in the workforce. "Nearly 70 percent of mothers work today, but this large child care vacuum has not been filled ..."

■ "Divorce takes its toll." Moms do double duty - working and caring for the household - alone. "Divorcing parents is also a primary factor in the teenage suicide rate," which tripled in the past 25 years.

■ "Teen parents," a euphemism for out-of-wedlock births. From 4 percent in 1950, births to unwed mothers leaped to 25 percent by 1988. Michigan's rate is one of the highest in the industrialized world. "Children of teen parents are more likely to: perform less well in school; score lower than children of other parents on standardized tests; exhibit more behavior problems and emotional disorders ... Teen pregnancy is also a



TIM RICHARD

foolproof prescription for poverty for both mother and child."

■ Father abandonment - "Male desertion generally catches up with girls between ages 12-15 and boys ages 16-18 ..." Kids have lower SAT scores. "Growing up without a father in the family reduces math and verbal skills in both males and females ... Fatherless families also struggle more with drug abuse."

Public schools people feel they are wrongly blamed for the ills of kids that are really

the fault of parents who say: "Educate them in the basics, teach them the social graces, teach them to drive a car and to cook and sew, and give them some understanding of ethics ... We don't have time."

There's a delicious quote from Andy Rooney, TV commentator: "We don't need better schools; we don't need better teachers. We need better parents." End of MASA Journal report.

Rooney echoed the remark of (now U.S. Sen.) Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who, in the days when he worked for Richard Nixon, said: "Schools don't count. Families do."

In past columns, I have reported how Betsy DeVos, the unsuccessful Republican state chair, has intoned about "parents' rights"; how Senate majority leader Dick Posthumus refuses to address the failings of charter schools by saying "parents" want them; how Clark Durant, once active on the State Board of Education, uses "parents" as a code word to ram home

his view of religion.

On one point they are right. Parents are extremely important in children's academic success and mental health. But the ideology peddlers are 180 degrees off course in peddling "parental choice" as the cure for education, with vouchers, parochial, charter schools and tax preferences being the tools.

Of the two institutions - public schools and parenting - the schools are in better shape.

Footnote from the governor's office: By Christmas, John Engler will sign 10 child protection laws. One will require termination of parental rights in abuse and neglect cases. Another will "strengthen the role of the child's attorney." A third will create local teams "to review child fatalities."

Tim Richard reports on the local implications of state and regional events. His voice mail number is (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1881.

Legislators wisely improved High School Proficiency Test

It's easy to take a poke at the Michigan Legislature. "There are two things you don't want to watch being made too closely: sausage and legislation," goes the old saying.

Legislators respond to an enormous number of influences: lobbyists, interest groups, constituencies, donors, friends, even voters. And when the Legislature is divided - one house controlled by Republicans, one by Democrats - partisan considerations come automatically into play.

So it's easy for columnists, me included, to make the Legislature as a whole look bad.

Fairness (amply mixed with the holiday spirit), however, does require when the Legislature does something sensible, even wise, that it be duly noted and praised.

Such is the case with modifications to the High School Proficiency Test (HSPT), which passed the Legislature last week with solid, bipartisan majorities in both houses.

The HSPT has been the center of controversy ever since a bunch of parents, mainly in Birmingham and Troy, kept their kids from taking the test. Some argued that the nomenclature for the endorsements on graduation diplomas - "proficient," "novice" and "not yet novice" - was demeaning. Others found it implausible that children with stellar grade point averages might score badly in the test and so jeopardize college admission chances. Still others objected to the length - 11 hours - of time taken up by the test.

Lurking behind all the objections was a streak of right-wing paranoid thinking that holds that any assessment of educational performance is an assault on parents' rights and the first step in a government-imposed curriculum. Some activists figured that complaints about the HSPT might be a maneuver to get rid of any kind of state standard in education.

Operating in the best legislative tradition of fact-finding, the House Education Committee, chaired by Sharon Gire of Macomb County, held extensive public hearings to listen to parents, students, educators and the general public.

"There was a negative connotation to the labels," said Sen. Joanne Emmons, chairwoman of the Senate Education Committee. "Another complaint was that the tests were scored in another state (North Carolina). We want Michigan teachers to score the test."



PHILIP POWER

Corrective bills were introduced in both the Senate and House. "The HSPT has had a lot of criticism, but it's bringing higher standards," said Emmons. "We have made every effort to keep the spirit of this reform bipartisan," said Gire, as the House agreed to adopt final legislation incorporating the Senate's version.

Changes were sensible:

■ The HSPT will be given at the end of the 11th grade instead of 12th, and it will take only eight hours, instead of 11.

■ Results will be expressed numerically, not in the hated labels, and will be printed on students' transcripts, not their diplomas.

■ Scoring will be done by Michigan teachers.

■ Students, parents and teachers will get prompt feedback on results, which will be used as indicators of school improvement and student achievement under the state school accreditation program.

In the end, the legislative process worked precisely as the civics textbooks say it should. Those advocating radical change were resisted; timely corrective legislation was passed.

The Legislature, especially committee chairs Gire and Emmons, deserves a round of congratulations. Students, parents, teachers and employers will all benefit from a corrected and improved HSPT.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@eonline.com.

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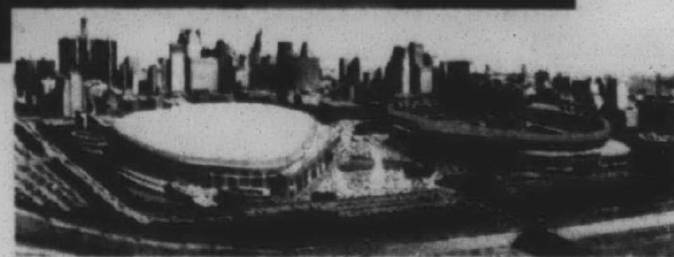
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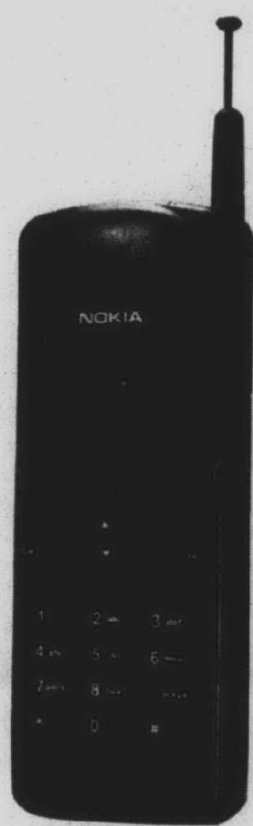


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JACK GLADDEN

Christmas still works its magic

She was 7 years old at the time, old enough to have heard the skepticism from her friends about Santa, but young enough to believe — because she still wanted to believe.

Her brother, on the other hand, was 17 and quietly rebellious. It had been a long time since he had participated in family activities. No more trips to Greenfield Village or the Renaissance Festival, no more family vacations, certainly no nights out at the movies with parents and little sister. He had his own friends and his own car and his own life now and home was a place to sleep and occasionally have a quick meal — in his room, of course.

Even holidays — especially holidays, it seemed — were times to be someplace else, anyplace else. Traditions were to be flouted. Thanksgiving was a time for a burger and fries at McDonald's, and Christmas Eve, this Christmas Eve anyway, a time to go an offbeat workshop in Ann Arbor and work on building chain mail armor with his equally rebellious buddy. A "new tradition," I suppose.

He said he'd be home sometime after midnight.

It wasn't a particularly memorable Christmas. The Feminist's relatives

Please see GLADDEN, B2

She puts her students on the road

■ Fran Bernard learned a lot about the big rigs and integrity from her father, so much so that she is following in his footsteps by opening trucking driving schools in Michigan and Oklahoma.

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

The hallway leading to Fran Bernard's office at International Trucking School Inc. in Ypsilanti is filled with history.

Just inside the doorway, a plaque holds a yellowed poem singing the praises of female truckers. They work as hard as men, they use sweet, feminine CB handles, and one day, they yearn to be homemakers and stay home to take care of their families, it reads.

Photos of her late father's trucks are plentiful. Richard Crane was the first person to have a classroom on wheels.

Most important to Bernard, a Canton resident and ITS's owner and president, is the framed statement about integrity.

"Wait, I want to show you something," Bernard said. "This is what I learned from my father — integrity."

She isn't alone in the respect she holds for her father. A truck show has been held in St. Ignace in his honor.

"They have big car shows at the end of June, and my father was really involved in that," she said. "He would bring his truck up there and eventually they (truckers) needed their own show."

Thanks to her father, Bernard literally grew up with the truck driving industry. A former truck driver, Crane started American Truck Driving Schools.

Born in Detroit, Bernard began working for her father in 1973 shortly after graduating from high school. She married John Bernard in 1976



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREESLER

Big responsibility: International Trucking School president Fran Bernard is dwarfed by one of the tractor-trailers her school uses to teach students the finer points of driving the big rigs.

and moved to Southfield.

The couple moved to Kansas City, Mo., and Traverse City where she worked for American Truck Driving School while her husband was employed as a police officer and a reserve officer in the sheriff's department, respectively.

"My dad had schools all over," Bernard said. "The main schools were in Michigan, Oklahoma and Texas, but they had satellite offices in other cities."

Just like Dad

In March 1990, Bernard opened

International Trucking School Inc. Her husband came on board shortly after his wife's parents died. Bernard's brother also owns a truck driving school in Coldwater.

"My father was very open with me and he wanted me to become whatever I wanted," she said. "I admired everything he did. I wanted to do everything he did and more."

The school does testing for general driver's license for cars and motorcycles, and it is a third-party tester for commercial driver's licenses for the State of Michigan.

ITS offers several different pro-

grams. The most popular, Bernard said, is the 206-hour, five-week program that costs \$3,695. In-house financing and scholarships are available.

"If they really want it, we try to make it possible," she said.

Some of the classes are taught in conjunction with Macomb, Oakland and Washtenaw community colleges and Schoolcraft College. ITS also works with numerous area agencies including JTPA and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. And Bernard is work-

Please see TRUCKING, B2

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38 metro Detroit locations including Fairlane, Laurel Park, Livonia, Pointe Plaza, Southland, Westland and Wonderland Malls.

Trucking from page B1

ing on putting together an associate's degree in transportation with an area school.

At Schoolcraft, students register with the college and go to class at the school for the first week. After that, the students move on to ITS, located in the main terminal building at Willow Run Airport.

"We offer hands-on training," she said. "You can't learn to drive unless you're in the truck."

Instructors teach students to back up on the pad, go on ramps, drive on the highways and city streets, which can be the most challenging. Future truckers are taught defensive driving techniques.

"Drivers don't look at trucks like truckers do," she said. "They can get behind them and think they can stop like they can. They can't."

The training range is five

acres under concrete with an additional three acres for its CDL testing site. The student/instructor ratio does not exceed 8-to-1 during range operation, 40-to-1 in classroom theory or lab work, and 3- or 4-to-1 during road driving.

Prospective students must be age 21 or older, have an acceptable driving and work record, the ability to write, speak and read English, pass a Department of Transportation (DOT) physical and obtain a valid license for driving a tractor/trailer unit.

Some carriers, Bernard explained, will not hire drivers who have had previous convictions for alcohol-related offenses. Job placement is practically guaranteed.

"If we can't place them with a job, we don't take them," she said.

ITS is the only privately

owned truck driving school accredited in Michigan. It's the first school in the state to be certified by the Michigan Truck Safety Commission.

"It's not for everybody and I tell them that when they come in," Bernard said.

Bernard explained that some schools graduate their students in the shortest amount of time possible. She said she feels those students are not trained as well as hers.

"I don't know about you, but I don't want somebody driving behind me with only 40 hours of training," Bernard said, adding that she couldn't teach accelerated classes like that. The shortest court ITS offers is 120 hours.

"I wouldn't do it; my dad didn't do it," she said. "It all comes down to integrity."

Ironically, Bernard herself doesn't know how to drive a

truck.

"I have my chauffeur's license; one day, I may learn to drive a truck too," said Bernard, who is taking business classes at Schoolcraft College.

Bernard is on the verge of truly becoming international. She is working on collaborating with a company in Canada. Kuwait University has also shown interest.

Devoted to her family, Bernard has decorated her office with photos of her three children — Angela, 17, the varsity captain of the pompon squad at Plymouth Canton High School, Michelle, 15, a member of the squad, and Rick, 11, a student at West Middle School.

Non-traditional role

Bernard is one of the few female owners of trucking schools. The Canton resident

admitted that it's been a rough road. Longtime workers in the male-dominated industry have had a hard time accepting women in the workforce.

"Being a woman, it's been an upward battle even though I've been cloaked by my father," she said. "If you want to do it, you have to do it 10 times better to be recognized."

"There's also great guys out there who are so supportive and helpful."

Bernard said the industry has come a long way. During the last 5-10 years more and more women have been getting involved in trucking.

"It used to be that no women went out on the trucks unless they were going for a little ride," she said. "Now we have husband/wife teams. Boyfriends and girlfriends are driving together. Some women are co-drivers, and

they make the same amount of money."

Bernard, who also owns Ardmore Truck Driving School in Gene Autry, Okla., has also had to combat the stereotype of truck drivers. Society views truckers differently in Oklahoma and Michigan.

"It's such a different attitude down there; I don't know how or why that happens," she said. "It's a career. It's like being a doctor. If I could bring that attitude up here, it would be wonderful."

The style and comfort of the trucks probably even surpass most people's expectations. Cabs of the trucks look like mini-homes similar to larger boats or campers. They have beds, refrigerators, microwaves, televisions, satellite dishes and computers.

"It's like a house on wheels," Bernard said.

Gladden from page B1

may have been over for Christmas Eve dinner. I don't recall. I know we stayed home, listened

to carols and maybe watched a Christmas movie or two. The Christmas tree lights were on

and a fire was going in the fireplace.

Before she went to bed, the 7-year-old left a snack for Santa on the mantel, cookies and milk, between the empty stockings that were hung for her and her brother. She insisted that both their stockings be hung on the mantel, never mind that he was 17, because that wouldn't matter to Santa.

After she went to bed, The Feminist and I stayed up and attended to last-minute chores. There were toys to be assembled — there was always something to be assembled — and somebody had to make sure those stockings were filled. Then there was the milk and cookies. There had to be an empty glass and crumbs on the plate on Christmas morning.

I went to bed first — I usually do — but we were both up early, if not bright to make the coffee and turn on the tree lights before the 7-year-old charged downstairs to check out the gifts from Santa (unwrapped, of course).

■ There were toys to be assembled — there was always something to be assembled — and somebody had to make sure those stockings were filled. Then there was the milk and cookies. There had to be an empty glass and crumbs on the plate on Christmas morning.

After a quick examination of the big presents, she emptied her stocking. It contained the usual variety of "stuffers." The plate and glass were empty, as they should have been. But there was something else.

"What's this?" she asked.

"What's what?"

"This note."

There, underneath the plate on the mantel, was a piece of paper.

"I don't know," I said. "What does it say?"

She read it:

"Dear Leigh,

"Thanks for the cookies and milk. But next year, tell your dad to put out the fire in the fireplace before he goes to bed."

"Love,

"Santa."

Her eyes were wide. She giggled a bit and said, "Didn't you put out the fire?"

"Well..." I said. "I, uh, I guess I forgot."

The Feminist looked at me, smiled and shook her head. The 7-year-old giggled some more and disappeared into the bathroom.

"Nice touch," The Feminist whispered after she left.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"The note," she said. "That was a nice touch."

I looked at her.

"I didn't write that note. I thought you wrote it."

She looked at me with raised

eyebrows.

"Yeah, right. I didn't write any note. You wrote it."

"I did NOT," I said. "I didn't write any note."

"Well neither did I!"

We looked at each other for a few seconds, then at the note, then at each other.

"Well," I said quietly, "if you didn't write it and I didn't write it, then who..."

"Geoffrey!" We both said it at the same time. His car was in the drive. He had come home some time after we were in bed.

"I guess he finally got in the spirit of things," I said.

When he surfaced a couple of hours later, I called him aside and echoed The Feminist's comment to me.

"Nice touch," I said. "The note was a nice touch."

"Note?" he said. "What note?" But he was smiling.

Jack Gladden is a copy editor for the Observer Newspapers. He lives in Canton Township.

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Listings for the Crafts Calendar should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (313) 591-7279. For more information, call (313) 953-2131. **SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE** Applications are being accepted

for the spring craft show March 7 at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia. The fee is \$90 for a 12-by-12-foot space, \$55 for a 10-by-10-foot space and \$40 for a 8-by-9-foot space or an 8-by-4-foot hallway space. There is an additional \$15 fee for electricity. Applications must be received by Jan. 9 to be eligible for the first jury round. To

receive an application, call the department of marketing and development at (734) 462-4417.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY Madonna University is accepting applications from crafters for its 13th annual spring arts and crafts showcase 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 28 in the Activities Center on campus, Schoolcraft and Levan, Livonia. Booth space

measuring 9 feet by 6 feet with two chairs and one 6-by-8-foot table is \$50. Booths with electricity are limited and are an additional \$5. Exhibitors may purchase up to three spaces. Crafters will receive a \$5 discount in their forms are received by Feb. 1. For more information, call the university at (734) 432-5603.

Stott-Li

Mr. and Mrs. Stott-Li are coming married. Amy M. David Lillian and Mrs. David of Westland.

The bride, Eastern Michigan University. She works for Her fiancé, Madonna University. Employed Police Department. A Decen planned at M at Greenfield.

Cook-S

Roger and Livonia are the son of Susan, to the son of Schollmeyer and the late of Michigan with a b degree in ci is employed ing in Taylor.

Her fiancé, Michigan C at Ferris St expects to 1999. An Aug planned at Motor Lodge.

Werblin

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Westland and Edward M 19 at the B den City Ho ter, Nicole, Baldwin, 5 Susan Talag

Martin a of Canton a Rachel M wood Hospit Wayne. She Tony, 4, and parents ar Longley of Karen Rhod Stephen McKenzie announce Anthony Birthing Ce

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WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Stott-Lilienthal

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Stott of Westland announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Amy Marie, to Thomas David Lilienthal, the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lilienthal, also of Westland.

The bride is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She works for Vista Maria.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Madonna University. He is employed by the Dearborn Police Department and Meijer's.

A December wedding is planned at Martha Mary Chapel at Greenfield Village, Dearborn.



Cook-Schmitzer

Roger and Susan Cook of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Susan, to Andrew Schmitzer, the son of Robert and Kathy Schollmeyer of Frankenmuth, and the late Thomas Schmitzer.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in science degree in civil engineering. She is employed by Somat Engineering in Taylor.

Her fiancé is a student of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University. He expects to graduate in April 1999.

An August wedding is planned at the Bavarian Inn Motor Lodge in Frankenmuth.



Werblin-Donaldson

Jeff and Carol Werblin of Syosset, N.Y., announce the engagement of their daughter, Wendy Leilani, to Douglas Michael Donaldson, the son of Mike and Virginia Donaldson of Canton.

The bride-to-be graduated from Syosset High School in 1988, Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., in 1992, and Fuqua School of Business at Duke Uni-

versity in Durham, N.C., in 1997. She is employed by APM Management Consultants in Chicago, Ill.

Her fiancé graduated from Plymouth-Salem High School in 1988, the University of Michigan in 1992, Fuqua School of Business at Duke University in 1997. He is employed by Arthur Andersen Business Consulting in Chicago, Ill.

No wedding date has been set.

Etnyre-Metriyakool

Somrak Metriyakool and Aaron Etnyre were married Oct. 4 in Ann Arbor.

The bride is the daughter of Somsak and Krisanna Metriyakool of Bloomfield Hills. The groom is the son of Terry and Ingrid Etnyre of Springfield, Va.

The bride is a graduate of Cranbrook Kingswood School and the University of Michigan. She is a civil engineer with Orchard, Hiltz & McClement in Livonia.

The groom is a graduate of the University of Michigan. He is an environmental engineer with Montgomery Watson in Novi.

The couple received guests at the Crowne Plaza in Ann Arbor before leaving on a honeymoon



trip to Hawaii. They are making their home in Livonia.

Petersen-Pogarch

Lori Ann Pogarch of Detroit and James Michael Petersen of Livonia were married Sept. 13 at St. Paul Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Dr. Thomas P. Eggebeen.

The bride is the daughter of Ken Pogarch of Detroit and the late Susan Pogarch. The groom is the son of Daniel and Paula Petersen of Livonia.

The bride received her bachelor's degree from University of Michigan-Dearborn and her master's degree from Wayne State University. She is employed by Sears Roebuck.

The groom is a graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He is a subcontractor with General Motors.

The bride asked Lisa Pogarch to serve as maid of honor with Kim Stone, Michelle Newton and Renee Postler as bridesmaids.

John Petersen served as best man with Jim Stone, Rob Lam-



bert and Keith Postler as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at Hawthorn Valley Country Club in Westland. They are planning a July honeymoon at Walt Disney World in Florida. They are making their home in Detroit.

Andrikides-Cadaret

Dimitrios and Carol Andrikides of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Michele Lynn, to Douglas L.N. Cadaret, the son of Bernard and Nancy Cadaret of Northville, formerly of Livonia.

The bride is a 1994 graduate of Northville High School and a December graduate of Western Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Her fiancé is a 1991 graduate of Northville High School and a 1995 graduate of Western Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in public relations. He is employed by Concord Financial in West Bloomfield.

A spring wedding is planned at Holy Trinity Church in Livonia.



Feierfeil-Cermak

David Feierfeil and Julie Annette Cermak were married Sept. 6 at the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth by Dr. Dean Klump and the Rev. Gerald Feierfeil.

The bride is the daughter of William and Susan Cermak of Canton. The groom is the son of Gregory and Pamela Feierfeil of Canton.

The bride is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School. She is currently employed with the Michigan Peer Review Organization of Plymouth.

The groom is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in business. He is currently employed by Pro-Trans International.

The bride asked Kristen Blazek to serve as her matron of honor with Ruth Summerman, Tina Lucas, Shannon Fairchild and Jennifer Guiles as bridesmaids. Deanna Lucas was the



flower girl.

John Cole served as best man with Jeff Feierfeil, Andy Feierfeil, Michael Cermak and Norman Alexander as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at St. Aidan's Hall in Livonia. After a honeymoon in Florida, they are making their home in Redford.

NEW VOICES

Teresa Marie Baldwin of Westland announces the birth of **Edward Michael Doll III** Oct. 19 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins a sister, Nicole, 2, and Michael David Baldwin, 5. Grandparents are Susan Talaga and Gene Talaga.

Martin and Pamela Rhodes of Canton announce the birth of **Rachel Mae** Oct. 18 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She joins two brothers, Tony, 4, and Brandon, 2. Grandparents are Phil and Sharon Longley of Canton, and Joe and Karen Rhodes of Marquette.

Stephen and Cherie McKenzie of Westland announce the birth of **Lucas Anthony** Oct. 23 at the Birthing Center of Garden City

Hospital. He joins a brother, Andrew Stephen, 2.

Kevin and Traci (Breniser) Hawkins of Canton announce the birth of **Brooklyn Kelsey** Aug. 19 at University of Michigan Hospital. Grandparents are Ronald and Nancy Hawkins of Canton, and Harry and Patricia Breniser of Saline, formerly of Plymouth.

Jon and Stephanie Daniels

of Redford Township announce the birth of **Raechel Chesney Daniels** Oct. 23 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Ken and Jackie Daniels of Garden City, and Maxine Chesney of Northville.

Daniel Sr. and Tina Hejka of Westland announce the births of **Jessica Angela** and **Andrew Nicholas** Sept. 26 at University of Michigan Hospital. The twins

are the siblings of the late triplets Daniel Jr., Nicholas, and Angela. Grandparents are Anthony and Elizabeth Apone, and James and Constance Hejka, all of Westland.

Chris Freyman and Amanda McEuen of Westland announce the birth of **Bailey Jean Freyman** Oct. 24 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Bailey joins a brother,

Derrian Tylor Freyman, 2 1/2. Grandmother is Linda Freyman of Garden City.

Keith and Beth Wilson of Westland announce the birth of **Veronica Lorraine** Nov. 7 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She joins two brothers, Sean Keith Wilson, and Daniel Anthony Schmidtke. Grandparents are Sheila Pellar of Redford, and Mary Wilson of

Peoria, Ariz.

Kelly James LeBlanc and **Brenda M. Hill** of Westland announce the birth of **Austin Francis LeBlanc** Oct. 25 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Joan P. Sefa of Holly, and Franklin D. Hill of Howell.

Claus and Jennifer Raddatz

Please see VOICES, B7

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METROTIMES

Gifts make holidays bright at Youth Living Centers



Ho-ho-ho: Youth Living Centers director Cathy Anderson (from left), Licensing Placement Supervisor Noreen Green and Director of Community Recreation Jose Mangune of the agency's Foster Care and Adoption program stand among some of the many toys that were collected for its clients this Christmas.

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The generosity of strangers is making sure Christmas will be merry for the children and youths who are cared for through programs offered by Youth Living Centers.

Businesses, churches and senior housing complexes have come up with an estimated 600 gifts that are being delivered to children in YLC's foster care and independent living programs as well as families and children who have utilized YLC's Counterpoint Shelter and Safe Stay house, live in public housing or are on public assistance.

"We have people calling every day and say, 'How can we help?' which is really neat," said Melinda Klines, YLC director of communications and marketing. "We've been doing this since the foster care program started in the early '80s."

The gifts began arriving at YLC's offices in Inkster on Dec. 15 and were distributed to the different programs on Dec. 17. By week's end, the gifts were on their way to their recipients living throughout the area.

In addition to the gifts, the staff also puts together more than 100 food baskets for families who request them.

"The gifts are generally for children birth through age 20, while the families usually are looking for food and gifts for their children," Klines said. "The staff does a nice job of making people feel it is OK to ask for help around the holidays and that's a real compliment to the

staff."

The donors range from individual families "and a lot of people who care," Girl Scout and Brownie troops, senior citizens, churches, the YLC staff to several area businesses, according to Klines.

This is the second year YLC has distributed such a large number of gifts and food baskets and it reflects the growth in the number of programs it offers.

Founded in 1975 as a nonprofit human service agency, YLC specializes in serving at-risk children and youth and families in need. It provides residential and community-based programs for children from birth through age 21 as well as support, education and crisis programs for parents and other community members.

The agency's Safe Stay Crisis Nursery and Family Respite Center has provided 24-hour residential crisis and respite care for children and home-based services for almost 400 families.

It also has some 70 children in its specialized foster care program and another 100 youths ages 16-20 making the transition from residential care to independence in its supervised independent living program.

"We'll give out 500-600 gifts this year and gave out that much last year," said Klines. "The agency has grown so that we serve a larger community. We had five programs where we now have 20."

People interested in helping YLC make Christmas brighter for its clients can call the agency at (734) 728-3400.

BY MARY ROY
STAFF WRITER

Laurie P. degree car Motors para write and il book. It just

The Farm always disp She won M distinguish her poet exhibited al local jur

Her new Trampoline tions, Ann cover), feat and an equ illustrations It was in

Resource Center offers divorce support group

The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College a Divorce Support Group twice a month in Room 225 of the McDowell Center.

The group meets 7-9 p.m. with the second Tuesday of the month facilitated by Kathy Koppin, a professional counselor.

The fourth Tuesday of the month is the speaker's session that address the legal, financial and emotional concerns that arise during the divorce process.

Topics to be covered include "The Divorce Process" with attorney Theodore Johnson on Jan. 27 and "Meeting the Financial Challenges of Your New Lifestyle" with certified financial planner Elizabeth Allen on Feb. 24.

On March 24, attorney Christa Coxon also will discuss the divorce process, followed by information on LEAP (Lawyers for Equal Access Project Inc.)

which provides clients of moderate means with legal assistance, counseling and equal access to the courts.

Bert Kelly, licensed psychologist with Family and Marriage Therapy, will speak on "We Are Where We Came From" on April 28. The session will help participants understand that how they interact in relationships as adults is directly related to their experiences in their families of origin and how to "do" relationships.

There is no fee to attend the group and registration isn't required.

The WRC also sponsors "Ask an Attorney" 5-7 p.m. the third Monday of the month. An attorney with the firm of Woll & Woll is available to discuss divorce and family law. Clients are served on a first come-first served basis. No appointment is necessary and it is free of charge.

For more information, call divorce support coordinator Anita Lumpkin at (248) 349-2476 or the Women's Resource Center at (313) 462-4443. Schoolcraft College is 18600 Haggerty Road, north of Six Mile Road, Livonia.

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Paralegal spins her tale in 'The Spider Trampoline'

BY MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER

Laurie Palazzolo — master's degree candidate, General Motors paralegal — didn't plan to write and illustrate a children's book. It just sort of happened.

The Farmington resident has always displayed a creative side. She won Madonna University's distinguished writing award for her poetry in 1994 and has exhibited her paintings in several local juried shows.

Her new book, "The Spider Trampoline" (Proctor Publications, Ann Arbor, \$14.95 hardcover), features 16 pages of text and an equal number of color illustrations.

It was inspired by a towering

oak tree she encountered on a visit to Baraboo, Wis., a few years ago with her husband, Wally. The couple visited an oak savanna in Wisconsin's hilly wine country and learned its history. Fire had swept through the area a century earlier destroying everything in its path except the mighty bur oak trees, which survived because of their thick bark.

Before she knew it, Palazzolo was spinning a tale about a mighty oak tree and a lively colony of dancing spiders in her mind.

"I carried the poem in my head for six weeks; the illustrations came later," said Palazzolo, who saw her story come to life page

by page, watercolor by watercolor, spread across her dining room table.

The book tells a whimsical tale in rhyme about the dancing spiders playing in a huge web spun atop a giant oak tree. Illustrations show cane-carrying spiders in straw hats, in ballerina dress, in top hat and tails, in all kinds of costumes tripping the light fantastic. She suspects the book will appeal primarily to children ages 3 to 7 years old.

Palazzolo took a couple of art classes while she was a student at Thurston High School in Redford Township (where her parents, Ted and Ruth Gomulka still live), but moved in a different career direction in college.

She is currently working on a master's degree in English/business-technical writing from Wayne State University. She earned a bachelor's degree from Madonna in 1994.

"I would have loved going into art, but somehow I ended up in the legal profession. I always knew I'd go back to art," she said. "It's like a calling."

Her story in a nutshell: "The spider chooses the bur oak tree as the site for her trampoline. Nighttime is the cue for all the spiders in the forest to migrate to the top of the tree, where they hold hands, sing and dance until dawn."

Palazzolo says the underlying message of "The Spider Trampoline" is that if we listen to the small voice of faith within us in

times of darkness, the dark times won't last.

"If we support each other in troubled times, a new day will dawn," she said.

She credits her husband, a nature photographer, as another source of inspiration.

"He taught me to observe the tiny ecosystems that thrive on the forest floor," she said.

It's not surprising then that the book is dedicated to him — "the joy and the promise."

Palazzolo has two grown stepdaughters and several nieces and nephews.

"I see what they enjoy reading," she said. "I've also been a friend of the Farmington Library for 15 years."

When it was time to shop for a publisher, Palazzolo tried a few

of the large New York companies before thumbing through the Yellow Pages for local possibilities. Proctor Publications in Ann Arbor bit after reading her text and seeing just a few illustrations. She finished painting the pictures during a two-week vacation last summer.

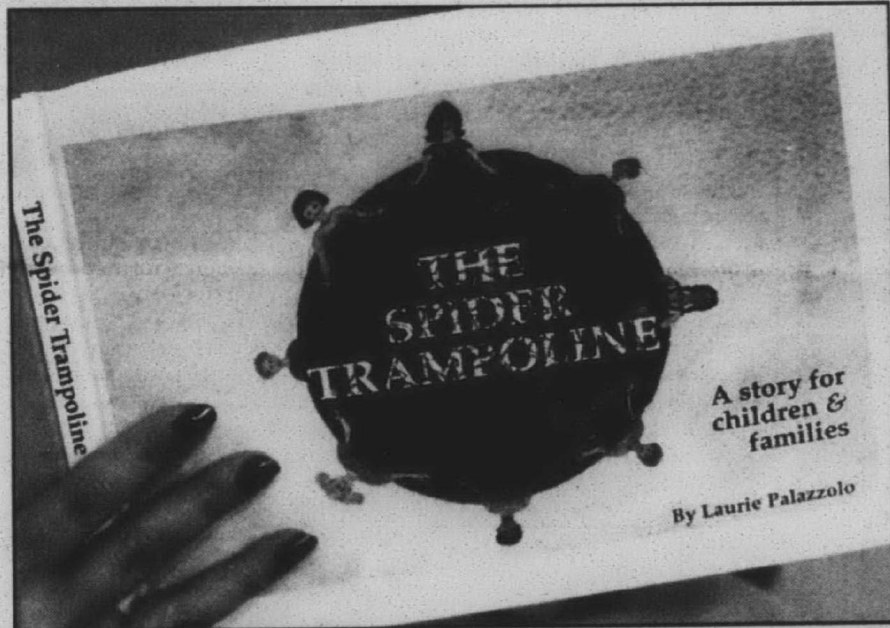
The first printing is 5,000 copies.

"I have another book written on bullfrogs, and another one in the works," she said. "I've already told my family and friends to expect books for Christmas."

Laurie Palazzolo will do a book signing at Books Abound at Border's Books and Music on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL



Work zone: Laurie Palazzolo's dining room table has served her well. In addition to seeing duty at dinner time, it has been the "easel" for the watercolor drawings Palazzolo created for her children's book, "The Spider Trampoline."

Children's '97 Directory

Children have many special needs... and because parents don't always have a lot of time, the Observer & Eccentric has created this unique directory to make life just a little easier.

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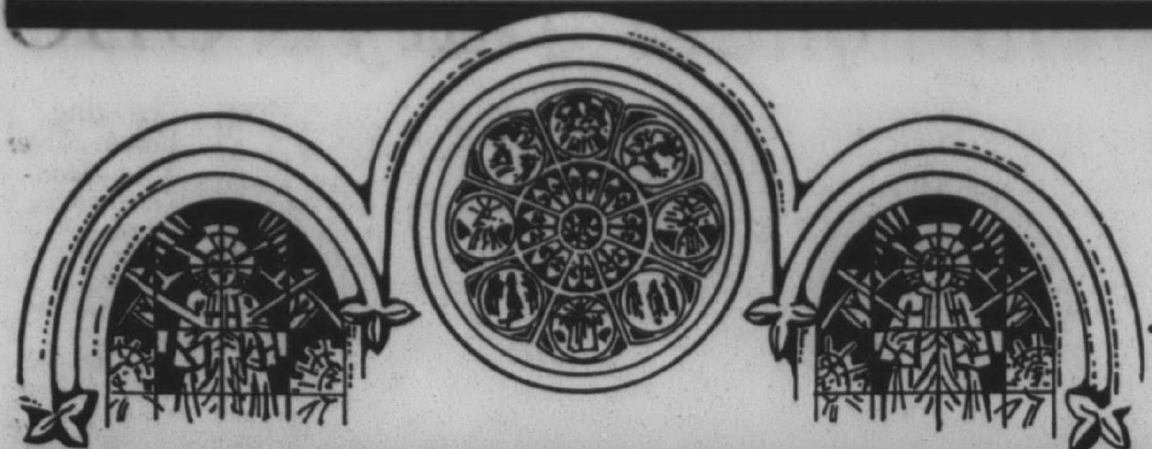
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Sunday School 10:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
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Wed. Family Hour 7:15 P.M.

December 21st
11:00 a.m. Christmas Cantata "Gloria"
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
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Wednesday Children, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.



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16360 Hubbard Road
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Mon-Fri. 9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Dinner & Classes
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Sunday 7:45 & 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist
10:00 A.M. Christian Education for all ages
Sunday Morning - Nursery Care Available

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Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Phil. 2:11

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9083 Newburgh Road • Livonia • 591-0211
The Rev. Emery F. Gravelle, Vicar

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Sunday Service 10:15
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Bible Study/Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
School Grades Pre-School - 8
Church & School Office: 422-6930

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
17810 Farmington Road • Livonia
(313) 261-1360
May thru October • Monday Night Service • 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 A.M.

Lola Park Ev. Lutheran Church
14750 Kinkoch • Redford Twp.
532-8655
Pastor Gregory Gibbons

Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:45 a.m.

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(N. of I-96)
Sunday Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Sunday School 9:45 am
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(West of Canton Center)
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:45 am
(313) 414-7422

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.cmaa.edu/~lcmcoos>

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
20805 Middlebelt (corner of 8 Mile & Middlebelt)
Farmington Hills, Mich.

WORSHIP SERVICES
Saturday Evening 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning 9:15 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30

Pastor John W. Meyer • 474-0675

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN Church & School
5885 Venoy
1 Blk. N. of Ford Rd., Westland 425-0260

Divine Worship 8 & 11:00 A.M.
Bible Class & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.
Monday Evening Service 7:30 P.M.

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Kurt E. Lambert, Assistant Pastor
Jeff Burke, Principal/D.C.E.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY
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WORSHIP SERVICE
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery Provided

Rev. Victor F. Halbooth, Pastor
Rev. Timothy Halbooth, Assoc. Pastor

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9600 Levee • So. Redford • 937-2424
Rev. Lawrence Witto

WORSHIP WITH US
Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:45 a.m.
Thursday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.
Christian School: Kindergarten-8th Grade 937-2233

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New Life Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship-10 a.m.
(with children's message/nursery)
Youth & Adult Education: 9 a.m.
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16115 Beck Rd. (between 5 & 6 Mile Rds.)
Pastor Ken Roberts (ELCA)
313 / 459-8181

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Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
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Reading Room - 445 S. Harvey, Plymouth
Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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5 Miles W. of Sheldon Rd.
From M-14 take Gottfredson Rd. South
Dr. Wm. C. Moore - Pastor

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9:30
Lifeline Contemporary Service
11:00
Traditional Service
SUNDAY SCHOOL (NURSERY PROVIDED)
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST SERVED
8:30-9:30 A.M.
Sunday School for All Ages

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17000 Farmington Road
Livonia 422-1150
Dr. James N. McBride, Pastor

Worship Services
Sunday School
8:00, 9:15, 10:45 A.M.
and 12:05 P.M.
Evening Service
7:00 P.M.
Shuttle Service from
Stevensen High School
for All A.M. Services except 8:00 A.M.

Nursery Provided
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WUFL-AM 1030

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Sun. BIBLE STUDY & WORSHIP - 9:00 A.M. & 11:15 A.M.
Sunday School - 10:05 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
FAMILY NIGHT - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
Arthur C. Magnuson, Pastor
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN: 455-3196

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Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday School for All Ages: 9:30 a.m.
Family Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sermon Title: "Keeper of Promises"
Rev. Dr. Janet Noble, Pastor
A Creative Christ Centered Congregation

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We Welcome You To A Full Program Church
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PLYMOUTH

Worship Services 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
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Senior Minister Associate Minister
David J.W. Brown, Dir. of Youth Ministries
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School (313) 459-8222

UNITED METHODIST

Clarenceville United Methodist
20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
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Rev. Jean Love

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Nursery Provided
Sunday School 9 AM
Office Hrs: 9-5

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST
30900 Six Mile Rd. (Bet. Farmington & Middlebelt)
Chuck Sonquist, Pastor

10:00 A.M. Worship & Church School
11:15 A.M. Adult Study Classes
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Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack, preaching

Senior Minister: Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack
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Minister of Visitation: Rev. Robert Bough

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Church School 10:00 am
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8:00 a.m. - Contemporary, Basic
9:30 a.m. - Contemporary, Family
11:00 a.m. - Traditional, Full Church

Emphasis: Advent: Peace
Scripture Focus: Isaiah 11: 1-10
Rev. Bob, preaching
Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Children-Youth-Adults

Worship

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Saturday - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

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Rev. John J. Sullivan

Masses: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 A.M., Sat. 5:00 P.M.
Sunday 8:00, 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M.

Church of St. Alexander
Rev. James B. Wright
Pastor
27835 Shawnee
Farmington Hills, MI
248-474-5748

St. Al's...Where People Come To Belong
Mass Schedule
Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 9 am & 11 am
Monday 7:30 pm
Mass for Peace

Christmas Eve
4 pm & 6 pm Children's
10 pm Mass
Christmas Day 10 am

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Dinner to honor achievements of St. Mary's CEO

While Sister Mary Modesta Piwowar will leave her post at St. Mary Hospital on Jan. 1, she won't be closing out her 39-year career with the medical facility.

St. Mary's president and chief executive officer for 15 years, she will take on a new role as senior vice-president in charge of special projects, a position she sees as offering new opportunities.

"Becoming senior vice-president will afford me a number of challenging opportunities," said Sister Modesta who has been a Felician Sister for 54 years. "I hope to encourage interaction with patients, family members and hospital staff on supportive care for terminally ill and dying patient."

"And I plan to offer support to the administrative executive team in any way possible."

Filling the hospital's top spot will be Sister Mary Renetta Rumpz, the current executive vice-president and chief operating officer.

Sister Modesta will be the guest of honor at a reception and dinner at Laurel Manor in Livonia on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

The reception will be at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., David Brandon, chairman of the hospital's Board of Trustees and president of Valassis Communications, will emcee a special program that will honor Sister Modesta's life and achievements.

Tickets cost \$50 and proceeds will benefit the St. Mary Hospital Institute for Supportive Care.

The institute provides for the appropriate management and integration of care to meet the physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual needs of patients with chronic, life-threatening

and terminally ill conditions.

Among the things the institute will fund are focus groups, speakers and education. It also will help create programs that teach supportive care skills and provide training for staff and volunteers in the various aspects of supportive care.

The deadline for ordering tickets is Friday, Dec. 26. To order or for more information, call the community relations department at (734) 655-1590.

Sister Modesta has been a part of St. Mary Hospital since its opening in 1959. She served as its chief medical technologist, helping to organize and direct the hospital laboratory, until her appointment as vice-president responsible for diagnostic services in 1977.

As the administrative medical technologist, Sister Modesta was involved in the planning of the original laboratory and its expansion in 1972.

"With the teamwork of the laboratory staff, we implemented new procedures and automated technology in all areas of the laboratory, increasing the number of laboratory tests from 81,000 in 1960 to 1.5 million in 1977," she recalled.

During her tenure as vice president of diagnostic services, she expanded management opportunities to seven diagnostic service departments and three other patient-related areas and organized the first Quality Assurance Program in 1980.

She stepped up to the position of president and CEO in 1982. Under her leadership as president and CEO, the hospital affiliated with William Beaumont Hospital in a partnership of shared programs and resources

and received accreditation with commendation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization.

"This distinction demonstrates a hospital-wide commitment to provide our community with continuous high quality care," she said.

Sister Modesta also has overseen four major and nine minor expansions of the hospital, including the opening of the St. Mary Hospital Pavilion and Marian Professional Building in 1988, Emergency Center in 1995 and the west addition, which houses the Miracle of Life Maternity Center, the Marian Women's Center, Surgical Center and Central Processing Department, in 1997.

She also was involved in the construction of the Marywood Nursing Care Center, Marybrook Manor and the St. Mary Hospital Child Care Center on campus.

"I've seen so many changes in the health industry and at St. Mary Hospital over the years," she said. "We opened in 1959 with a 180-bed hospital and grew to more than 300 beds by 1972."

But for Sister Modesta, her most fulfilling accomplishment to date has been in developing the hospital's logo in 1985 and introduction of the "I Care" program in 1987.

The distinctive blue and white logo features a cross, symbolic of the Golden Rule, inside a heart, denoting the sensitivity, love and care of those served at the hospital, positioned in a circle, denoting the continuance of care from birth to death and the comprehensive services provided through a team effort.



Changing times: Sister Mary Modesta (left) will step down as president and chief executive officer of St. Mary Hospital in Livonia on Jan. 1, turning the helm of the city's fourth largest employer over to Sister Mary Renetta, the current executive vice president and chief operating officer.

FILE PHOTO

Sister Modesta is a graduate of Madonna University, Wayne State University and Notre Dame University and holds master degrees in medical technology and hospital administration.

In addition to her responsibilities at the hospital, she also has served on the boards of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, Livonia Prayer Breakfast, Hearts of Livonia, Southeast Michigan Hospital Council, Council on

Healthcare and Health Emergency Medical Service.

She also has been active with the Greater Detroit Area Health Council, Michigan Hospital Association Catholic Health Association and American Hospital Association.

She also is a diplomat in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

"The biggest challenge today is to provide quality care at an

affordable price to our customers whether they are patients, family members, physicians, staff, vendors, third-party payors or anyone using the services of St. Mary Hospital," Sister Modesta said. "Through the ongoing implementation of our mission, I believe St. Mary Hospital will continue to meet and even exceed the needs and expectations of those who depend on us for their health care."

Voices from page B3

of Canton announce the birth of **Katja Barrett** Oct. 27 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. Grandparents are Dwight and Gabriele Raddatz of Ridgeway, Colo., and Thomas and Susan Memmel of Bolingbrook, Ill.

Brett Fee of Garden City and **Angela McNeil** of Wayne announce the birth of **Katilyn Elizabeth McNeil Fee** Oct. 7 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Millard and Kathryn Fee of Garden City, and Joe and Deborah McNeil of Wayne.

Bill and Kim Downer of Garden City announce the birth of **Paige Karilyn** June 15 at the Birthing Center of St. Mary Hos-

pital. Grandparents are Barbara Jones of Garden City, Keith Jones of Florida, and June and Jerry Downer of Garden City. Great-grandmother is Edith Jones of Westland.

Curtis and Crystal Thompson of Garden City announce the birth of **Hunter Curtis** Oct. 7 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins a brother, Bryan, 19 months. Grandparents are Mike and Sharon Wallen of Westland, and Frank and Michele Diepenbrock of Armada.

Stuart and Lori Palm of Westland announce the birth of a baby boy Oct. 31 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. He joins three brothers,

Bradley, Stuart and Garrett. Grandparents are Bonnie Preston of Redford, and Patricia Palm of Westland.

William and Debra Wilson of Westland announce the birth of **Christian William** Oct. 8 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins two brothers, Joshua, 8, and Gregory, 5, and a sister, Tammy, 2. Grandmothers are Connie Shonbarger of Rochester Hills and Barbara Wilson of Dearborn Heights.

James and Helene Rucker of Westland announce the birth of **Tyler James** Nov. 4 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. He joins a sister, Donna Nicole. Grandparents are Bud

and Virg Rucker of Algonac, and Walter and Victoria Gorney of Warren.

Charles B. Bourbeau and Louise B. Atchley of Livonia announce the birth of **Catherine Beatrice Bourbeau** Oct. 26 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She joins a brother, Michael Atchley, 2. Grandparents are Robert and Beatrice Roderick of Livonia.

Steven and Tiffany Harvey of Westland announce the birth of **Brendan Eric** Nov. 2 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Wayne and Cheryl Peeler, Ray Harvey and Laraine Harvey, and Gail Skrandis, all of Westland.

Richard C. and Kimberly S. Brumm announce the birth of **Kyndra Lee** Oct. 10 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Kyndra joins a sister, Meggan Tyler, 3. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Stehney of Redford, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schmidyke of Garden City.

James A. and MaryAnne Schira of Garden City announce the birth of **Bethany Anne** Oct. 31 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She joins a brother, David Derkatch, and a sister, Jessica Schira. Grandparents are John and Sally Schira of Westland, and Pete and Terry Derkatch of Garden City.

Rob and Carrie McGaffey of Westland announce the birth of **Jamie Lynn** Oct. 10 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Jamie joins a sister, Dana, 4. Grandparents are Sharon Geyer, and Robert Sr. and Debbie McGaffey of Dearborn Heights.

Ronald and Annette King of Okemos announce the birth of **Samuel Aaron** Nov. 7 at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. He has two brothers - Ben, 7, and Mitchell, 3 - and two sisters - Carly, 5, and Alexandra, 1 1/2. Grandparents are Robert and Marilyn Bryce of Plymouth and Lester and Barbara King, also of Plymouth. Great-grandmother is Grace Gibb of Dearborn.



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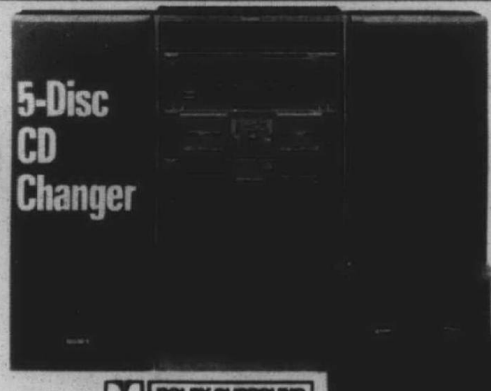


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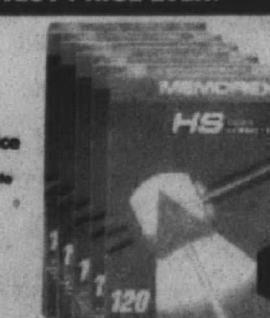
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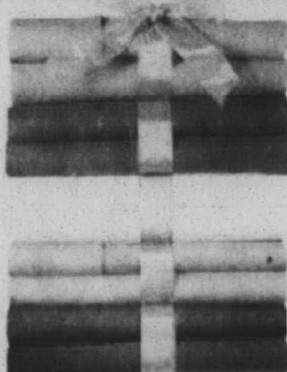
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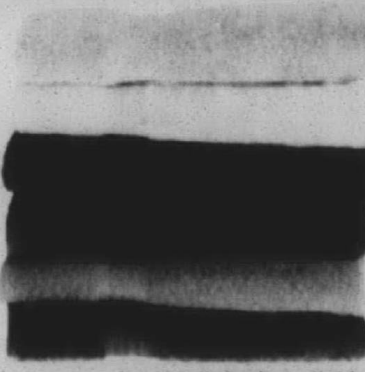
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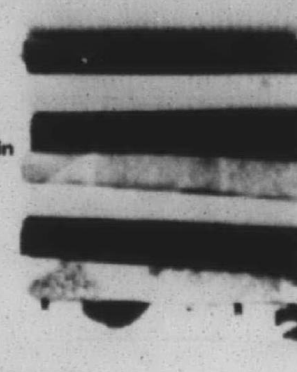
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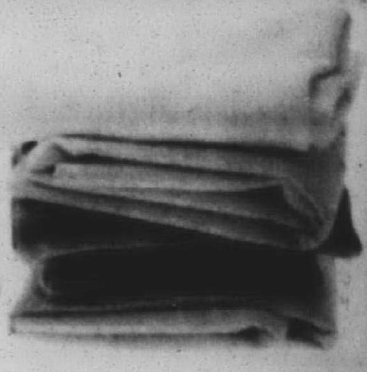
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Southgate
313-285-4400Montgomery Ward
28800 DeQuindre
Warren
810-751-7500Montgomery Ward
28500 Telegraph Road
Southfield
248-358-1200Montgomery Ward
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3341 S. Linden Rd., Flint
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RELIGION CALENDAR

Listings for the Religion Calendar should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131.

LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

For the 17th year, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene is presenting "The Living Christmas Tree: Music of the True Meaning of Christmas" directed by Dan Whitney, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road, three miles west of I-275, Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-1525.

SUP AND CELEBRATE

Trinity House Theatre presents community theater in a festive tradition - with a double bill and shared meal of bread bowls, hot soup and cider - 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 18-20, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the theater, 38840 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia.

The Bayards celebrate 90 years of family relationship in Thornton Wilder's "The Long Christmas Dinner," while three bumbling shepherds search for a lost sheep and find the wonder of Christmas in "The Sheep Thief," a comic adaptation by Ford Ainsworth of "the Second Shepherd's Play."

Seating is limited to 50 and tickets cost \$8, not including the shared supper. For more information, call (734) 464-6302.

Kindergartners, first and second graders are invited to an Advent class 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Activities include making ornaments, gifts, cooking, stories and worship. Participants should bring a sack supper; milk will be supplied. For more information, call (734) 422-0149.

YOGA CLASSES

The Unity of Livonia Church, located at 28660 Five Mile Road in Livonia, hosts yoga classes from 10-11:30 a.m. Thursdays throughout November and December. The class, taught by Linda Haught, is offered on a love offering basis. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-1760.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

The children of Alpha Baptist Church will present a Christmas musical program, "Three Wise Men and a Baby," at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 28051 W. Chicago, Livonia. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-6300.

Temple Baptist Church is presenting its annual musical production, "The Glory of Christmas: A Holiday of Hope," at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays Dec. 19-20, and at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 49555 N. Territorial, Plymouth. Tickets are priced \$6 to \$10 and can be purchased at the church's ticket

office, or Visa/MasterCard by calling the ticket hotline at (734) 414-3980. No children younger than age 4 will be admitted to the performances.

The Chancel Choir of St. James Presbyterian Church will present a Christmas cantata, "Rejoice in his Coming," at the 10 a.m. worship service Sunday, Dec. 21. The church is at 25350 W. Six Mile Road, Redford. For more information, call (313) 534-7730.

For the 17th year, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene is presenting "The Living Christmas Tree: Music of the True Meaning of Christmas," directed by Dan Whitney, 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday, Dec. 19-21, at the church, 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road, west of I-275, Plymouth.

The choir will step into the branches of a 30-foot high tree to sing the songs that articulate the reason for the birth of Christ. No tickets are necessary and seating will be on a first come-first seated basis. Nursery will be provided for children under age 3. For more information, call (734) 453-1525.

The Student and Adult choirs of Merriman Road Baptist Church will perform a musical drama, "Room in the Inn," at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. "Room in the Inn" is great family entertainment that presents the age-old Christmas message in a contemporary urban setting.

The presentation is free of charge. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-0472.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church will present a choir Christmas cantata at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 27475 Five Mile Road, east of Inkster Road, Livonia. For more information, call the church at (734) 422-1470.

The Archdiocesan Chorus and orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Noah Duncan IV, will present its second annual festival of Christmas Music concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit. Advance tickets are \$5 and \$10 at the door.

The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament is at 9844 Woodward Ave., Detroit. For further information, call (313) 865-6300 during the day.

PRAYER GROUP

The Madonna University prayer group will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, in Patio Classroom 1 on the ground floor of the University Center, 14221 Levan, north of Schoolcraft, Livonia. For more information, call John at (734) 422-5611 or Cecile at (734) 591-3247.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

St. John's Lutheran Church of Redford will present its annual children's Christmas program during the 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday, Dec. 21. The church is at 13542 Mercedes Ave., east of Inkster Road and

south of Schoolcraft Road, Redford. For more information, call (313) 538-1248.2

FAMILY SERVICE

The Detroit First Church of the Nazarene will have a Family Christmas service at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Children will be included in the service with special recognition of "Baby's First Christmas" at which time babies born since last Christmas will be introduced and a special gift presented to each child.

Between services, the children's department will host a Christmas open house 9:45-10:45 a.m. Detroit First Church of the Nazarene is at 21260 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 348-7600.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

St. Aidan Youth Group is raising funds in December by selling the Entertainment Ultimate Book which contains discounts on dining, travel, shopping, movies, special events and sports. The books cost \$40 with a portion of the proceeds going to help fund youth conferences and workshops. For more information, call (734) 425-5950 or (248) 474-1396.

St. Matthew United Methodist Church is also selling the 1998 Entertainment book. The cost is at \$40 with \$8 going to the church's Mission Committee. To order, call Dick Horie at (734) 522-4856.

SUNDAY LESSONS

"Love" will be the lesson at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Church of Today West in Village Oaks Elementary School, 23333 Willowbrook (between

Haggerty and Meadowbrook roads), Novi. The lesson for Sunday, Dec. 28, will be "Lessons Learned."

The church also offers youth education, a course in miracles at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and others courses in 4T, meditation and unity basics. For more information, call (248) 449-8900 or at its Web site, <http://www.cotw.com>.

DIVORCECARE

DivorceCare, a special video seminar and support group, has begun a 13-week session, 7:15-9:15 p.m. Sundays at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton Township. The series features nationally recognized experts covering such topics as "Facing Your Anger," "Facing Your Loneliness," "Depression," "New Relationships," and "Forgiveness." Child care is available. Call (734) 459-3333 for more information.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

The radio series, "What is This Christian Science and Who Are These Christian Scientists?" is being broadcast at 1:30 p.m. Sundays of WQBH-AM 1400. The topic will be "How can anyone have that much faith?" on Dec. 21, and "Just what is a Christian Science practitioner?" on Dec. 28.

"The Christian Science Sentinel-Radio Edition" also can be heard at 9:30 a.m. Sundays on WAAM-AM 1600. The conversational program discusses current public topics as well as shares healing through prayer from people all over the world.

TEAMKID

TeamKid, a unique club which blends activity with interactive

Please see RELIGION, B12

LHM sponsors airing of 'Red Boots'

Just because the story of Christmas is 2,000 years old doesn't mean the methods of telling that story have to be.

For years, that thinking is what has led Lutheran Hour Ministries, a worldwide multimedia ministry organization, to try new ways to share the Gospel with people all over the world. And this year is no exception.

Through the award-winning animated television special, "Red Boots for Christmas" released in 1995, Lutheran Hour Ministries hopes to reach millions around the globe with the "true" message of Christmas.

The colorful 30-minute family special is set to broadcast locally on WADL-38 a 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Following the broadcast, viewers will be given the opportunity to call a toll-free number to receive a free children's storybook version of "Red Boots."

"Red Boots for Christmas" is based on a German folk tale about a grouchy shoemaker named Hans who, with the help of his pet crow Aldo and a visit from an angel learns to embrace the true meaning of Christmas and receive the ultimate gift from God, the Savior. For more information about "Red Boots for Christmas," call the

toll-free "Red Boots" hotline at (800) 442-0324. Internet users can visit "Wired With the Word" at <http://www.lhm.org>.

Lutheran Hour Ministries also will fill the airwaves with a host of colorful personalities on its nationally-syndicated radio talk show, "Woman to Woman."

The weekly half-hour program is heard locally at 5:30 p.m. Sundays on WAAM (1600) on the AM dial. The talk show is hosted by Phyllis Wallace.

The "Woman to Woman" Christmas special on Sunday, Dec. 21, is "Mysteries Revealed." The guest list includes children's author Dandi Daley Mackall,

author of the new Lutheran Hour Ministries children's book series featuring The Puzzle Club.

The program also includes interviews with cartoonist Charles Schulz, known for his lovable Peanuts characters, and Dr. Raymond Damadian, the inventor of the magnetic resonance imaging scanner (MRI).

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a service of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, a volunteer organization of 150,000 members. The league is an auxiliary of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Lutheran Church-Canada.

Dear Santa...

There's still plenty of time to buy that Special Something!

15 BREAKFAST SPECIALS Starting at \$1.65

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Broasted Chicken Dinner... \$6.25

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Madison Heights • 29075 Dequindre Redford • 14152 Telegraph
Roseville • 28450 Gratiot

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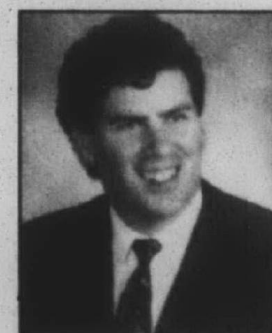
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and **GERMAINE R. FRITZ, D.O.**

— have joined —

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Farmington Hills, MI 48336

The physicians are on staff at
Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills



Tri-County Orthopedic Group, P.C. is pleased to announce the addition of **Miles L. Singer, D.O.** Dr. Singer served his internship and orthopedic residency at Botsford General Hospital and has recently completed an accredited spine surgery fellowship with E. Shannon Stauffer, M.D., at Southern Illinois University. Dr. Singer's subspecialty is the treatment of acute and chronic degenerative conditions of the neck and back.

Tri-County Orthopedic Group, P.C. is pleased to announce the addition of **Germaine R. Fritz, D.O.** Dr. Fritz completed her internship and orthopedic surgery residency at Botsford General Hospital and a hand and microvascular surgery fellowship at Riverside Methodist/Ohio State University Hospitals. Dr. Fritz's subspecialty is the treatment of acute and chronic conditions of the upper extremity including microvascular surgery.

CALL NOW FOR APPOINTMENT: (248) 474-5575

Religion from page B11

learning, discipleship and Bible memory, meets 5:45-8 p.m. Sundays at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. The program is for children in grades 1-6 and provides practical Biblical answers to a fun and interesting setting. For more information, call the church office at (734) 421-0472.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Salem National Evangelical Lutheran Church will have its Sunday School children's service at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 32430 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. The service will be based on the theme of "A Christmas Surprise" and will highlight many of the Sunday School children and staff. For

more information, call (734) 422-5550.

LATKE PARTY

Congregation Beit Kodesh will have its annual Hanukkah Latke Party at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the synagogue, 31840 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia. There will be entertainment and a 50/50 raffle. The cost to attend is \$6 per adult, \$3 per child ages 3-12. Children under age three will be free of charge. For more information, call Anita Cottrell at (734) 453-7141.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Men Who Make a Difference, a small group of Christian men dedicated to the biblical principles of building a "Godly Man,"

meets at 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. The group is open to men of all denominations who wish to diligently seek the face of Jesus. For more information, call (734) 421-0472.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Ward Presbyterian Church will celebrate New Year's Eve with an evening of fellowship, beginning at 9 p.m. with a sacred Christian concert, featuring Dale Hicks, at the church, 17000 Farmington Road, Livonia. A buffet is available at 10 p.m. by advance reservation only.

The evening will conclude with

a Watch Night service at 11 p.m. Chimes will ring in the New Year and close the service just after midnight. For more information, call (734) 422-1826.

NEW BEGINNINGS

New Beginnings, a grief support group held year-round at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile Road, east of Merriman Road, Livonia, continues with its monthly speaker series on Thursday, Jan. 8, with "Moving On."

There are no fees. Anyone may attend any or all sessions as they feel the need. For more information, call the church office at (734) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903,

or Rosemary Kline at (734) 462-3770.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience for married couples to improve their communication skills, learn the value of intimacy and renew their love for each other Friday through Sunday, Feb. 13-15 and March 20-22, at St. John's Family Life Center in Plymouth. For more information or to register call (248) 528-2512 or (810) 286-5524.

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance divorced and separated Christians, will have a

dance at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, West Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. The cost is \$8 and includes refreshments. For more information, call Roase at (734) 464-3325.

The group also meets on Sundays for breakfast and Mass - 10 a.m. at the Redford Inn, Five Mile Road west of Beech Daly Road, Redford, and at 11:15 a.m. at St. Aidan's Church, Farmington Road north of Six Mile Road, Livonia - call Val at (734) 729-1974; for coffee and conversation at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Archie's Restaurant, Plymouth Road east of Merriman, Livonia, and for pinocle at 7 p.m. every other Friday - call Rose at (734) 464-3325.

CLASS REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please include the date of the reunion and the first and last name of at least one contact person, and a telephone number.

BELLEVEILLE

Class of 1988
A reunion is planned for Sept. 19.
(800) 677-7800

BLOOMFIELD HILLS LANSE

Class of 1987
March 21 at Doubletree Guest Suites, Southfield.
(248) 360-7004, press 2
Class of 1978
Aug. 1 at Somerset Inn, Troy.
(248) 366-9493, press 3

CHERRY HILL

Class of 1983
Reunion and alumni family picnic is planned for August 1998.
(734) 729-6783

DETROIT CASS TECH

Class of 1968
Looking for classmates for a reunion in 1998.
Pam Yee Gianola, 1243 Smith Road, Beulah, Mich., 49617-9493 or e-mail at mie-nai@aliens.com
Classes of 1980-82
Are planning a reunion.
Stephanie Bradford Wright '80, 1753 Cornell, Southfield 48075, (313) 945-8473; or Dylan War-

mack '81, 2131 Bryanston Ct., Detroit 48207, (313) 963-7665
Class of 1988

Is looking for names and addresses of classmates.
(313) 896-0736, (313) 859-0261 or (313) 882-1632

DETROIT WESTERN

Class of 1978
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 442-9320, by fax at (248) 442-8830 or Sharon Law-Williamson, 28479 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia 48152

DETROIT KETTERING

Classes of 1971-72
Is planning a reunion.
Send names, addresses and telephone numbers to Ron or Pat (Tish Mack) Matthews, P.O. Box 7647, Bloomfield Hills 48302, or call (810) 745-8422, (248) 696-6342 or (248) 857-6043.

DETROIT PERSHING

Classes of 1949-53
Are planning a reunion.
(248) 471-5609 or P.O. Box 530-244, Livonia 48153-0244
January-June classes of 1952
A fall 1998 reunion is being planned
(248) 623-2454, (810) 771-9810 or (810) 979-4594

DETROIT SOUTHEASTERN

50th anniversary
May 30 at the Somerset Inn,
Troy. Cost is \$50 per person with checks payable to Audrey (Laird) Poole, 1640 Oxford Road, Grosse Pointe Woods 48236.
(248) 879-9779, (313) 884-2462 or (248) 546-3500

DETROIT WESTERN
Class of 1949
Is planning at 50th reunion.
(313) 274-3214

FARMINGTON HARRISON

Class of 1988
A reunion is planned for July at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, Westland.
(248) 442-2862

FRASER

Class of 1972
A reunion is being planned for Fraser Steffens Park.
(810) 293-2160

GARDEN CITY

Class of 1987
A reunion is planned for October.
(810) 765-1380 or (734) 513-6071

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Class of 1978
A reunion is planned for Aug. 8.
(800) 677-7800

HAZEL PARK

Class of 1978
Is planning a reunion.
(800) 677-7800

HIGHLAND PARK

Class of 1969
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 864-5943, (313) 583-5418 or (313) 867-3201
Class of 1978
Planning a 20-year reunion for July 1998. Seeking classmates.

Fax info to C. Jones (313) 836-5302 or write to HPCHS reunion committee, c/o P.O. Box 760484 Lathrup Village, MI 48076.

MADISON

Class of 1948
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 548-5470 or (810) 264-9191

MARIAN

Class of 1982
11:30 a.m. Dec. 27 at the Fox & Hounds Restaurant, Bloomfield Hills.
(248) 644-1750

OAK PARK

Classes of 1957-59
Is planning a reunion for November 1998.
(248) 559-1746 or (248) 354-0092

PLYMOUTH CANTON/SALEM

Classes of 1988
A joint reunion will be held June

20.
CEP Class of '88, P.O. Box 5356, Plymouth 48170

ST. ALPHONSUS

Class of 1958
A reunion is being planned for 1998.
(513) 878-7483 or (734) 455-1277

ST. HEDWIG HIGH

Class of 1958
Is planning a reunion.
(734) 953-1011

ST. JOSAPHAT

Class of 1943-46
Are planning a reunion.
(313) 886-0770 or (810) 783-6889

STERLING HEIGHTS

Class of 1978
July 25 at Gino's Surf Restaurant, Harrison Township.
(248) 360-7004, press 6

STERLING HEIGHTS STEVENSON

Class of 1988

Is planning a reunion.
(800) 677-7800

WARREN WOODS TOWER

Class of 1988
Is planning a reunion.
(810) 790-4214 or (810) 771-7328

WATERFORD KETTERING

Class of 1968
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 628-3926, (248) 681-1768 or (248) 623-6057

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Class of 1983
Sept. 26 at the Roma Banquet Center, Garden City.
(248) 360-7004, press 1

YPSILANTI

Class of 1988
Aug. 8 at Doubletree Guest Suites, Southfield.
(248) 366-9492, press 1

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Southland Center TAYLOR (313) 287-4250
Tel-Twelve Mall SOUTHFIELD (810) 356-3320

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

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Dearborn Heights, The Heights • (313) 274-8200
(Ford Rd. between Inkster and Beech Daly)
Livonia, Merri-Five Plaza • (734) 522-1850
(On corner of Five Mile and Merriman)
Novi, Novi Town Center • (248) 349-8090
Rochester, Meadowbrook Village Mall
(248) 375-0823

Sterling Heights, Eastlake Commons • (810) 247-8111
(On corner of Hall Road and Hayes Road)
Troy, Oakland Mall • (248) 589-1433
West Bloomfield, Orchard Mall • (248) 737-8080
(Orchard Lake and 15 Mile)

OUTSTATE:
Ann Arbor, Colonnade • (734) 761-1002
(On Eisenhower Pkwy. west of Briarwood Mall)
Grand Rapids, Breston Village Mall • (616) 957-2145
(Breston Rd. and Burton Rd.) • Open Sundays!
Okemos, Meridian Mall • (517) 349-4008

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Sisung All-America

Madonna University junior outside hitter Karin Sisung (Monroe St. Mary's Catholic Central) was named to the NAIA All-America Volleyball second team.

The Monroe native averaged 3.7 kills per game, 0.83 blocks per game and compiled a .884 passing percentage as the Lady Crusaders finished the year with a 34-15 overall record.

Madonna won both the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season and playoff championship before reaching the regional semifinal.

Senior outside-hitter Erin Gregoire, a senior outside-hitter from Monroe CC, earned NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete honors for the second straight year. Gregoire compiled a 3.65 grade-point average.

Wildcat tryouts

The Western Wayne Wildcats AAU girls basketball teams will have a series of open tryouts next month for all those interested female players.

•**16, 17 and 18 and under players:** Tryouts for all three will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 at Pioneer Middle School in Plymouth;

•**15-and-under:** Tryouts will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 at Pioneer MS in Plymouth;

•**14-and-under Blue:** Tryouts will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7 at West Middle School in Plymouth;

•**14-and-under Red:** Tryouts will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5 at Pioneer MS in Plymouth;

•**13-and-under:** Tryouts will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12 at Pioneer MS in Plymouth.

Tryouts for 10-and-under, 11-and-under and 12-and-under teams will be announced later. For further information, call Fred Thomann at (313) 459-7315 or Bob Blohm at (313) 459-1763.

Soccer refs

New soccer referee training will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Jan. 31, Feb. 7, Feb. 14 and Feb. 21 at the Canton Township Hall. Those interested in becoming a soccer referee must attend all four sessions.

You must be at least 12 years old to take this class. To register, send your name, social security number and a check for \$43 made payable to the Michigan Referee Committee to: P.O. Box 700260, Plymouth, MI, 48170-0945.

For further information, call (313) 454-7335. Class size is limited.

Motor City Bowl

The Ford Motor City Bowl, featuring Marshall (10-2) — the Mid-American Conference champion — against Division I University of Mississippi (7-4), will be played at the Pontiac Silverdome beginning at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26.

Tickets are \$27 and \$22.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. For every ticket the MHSFCA sells, it will receive \$10 in return for the High School Football Hall of Fame that will be built at the University of Michigan.

To order tickets, please send a check made out to the MHSFCA and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Donald G. Lessner, Executive Director, MHSFCA, 2903 Riverside, Trenton, Mi. 48183.

Hockey contest

Red Wing fans, take notice.

MediaOne and ESPN have joined forces to bring the Hockeymania! contest to Michigan. The contest runs through March 27 and will include five raffles for hockey and Red Wings-related prizes.

There is no purchase necessary, but the contest is open to Michigan residents 18 and older. Complete contest details and entry forms are available at all Michigan MediaOne locations.

Prizes include a trip for two to Chicago for the Wings/Blackhawks game Dec. 11; a trip to Vancouver to see the 1998 NHL All-Star game; a bundle of prizes on Jan. 19, including three ESPN2 NHL jackets, 24 "Fire on Ice" T-shirts, and 24 ESPN2 hats; a trip for two to the ESPN world headquarters in Bristol, Conn. Feb. 19; and a trip for two to a 1998 Stanley Cup championship game April 1.

Rocks get on track with Belleville win

After all the hype, all the promise, Plymouth Salem's basketball team got what it needed most as it entered the second week of the season — a win.

The Rocks were expected to be the team to beat in the Western Lakes Activities Association, but they didn't look like it last week when they lost at Monroe and Ann Arbor Huron. The tailspin was halted Tuesday in their home-opener, when a strong second half propelled them to a 68-50 victory over Belleville.

The loss was the Tigers' first after two wins.

Getting that first 'W' was a relief for Salem coach Bob Brodie. "It sure is," he said. "It would have been an awful Christmas otherwise."

The Rocks are idle until Dec. 27, when they play in the Grosse Ile Holiday Tournament.

"We've progressively gotten better," the Rocks' coach added. "And I guess that's what you want. Against Monroe, we were just awful. (Last Friday) Against Huron, we were better but we just didn't finish it off."

"We were better today, but we've still got some work to do."

The game was tight through three quarters. Salem took a 23-21 lead into

halftime, then stretched that to 43-34 after three periods.

Of course, it didn't require a long memory to recall that at Huron last Friday, Salem led by 11 going into the last quarter — and lost.

The difference against Belleville was free throws. Although the Rocks were up on Huron the entire game, they took just five free throws, one in the fourth quarter.

Against Belleville, Salem was 19-of-35 (54.3 percent) and attempted 22 free throws in the last quarter. The Tigers were 3-of-6 (50 percent).

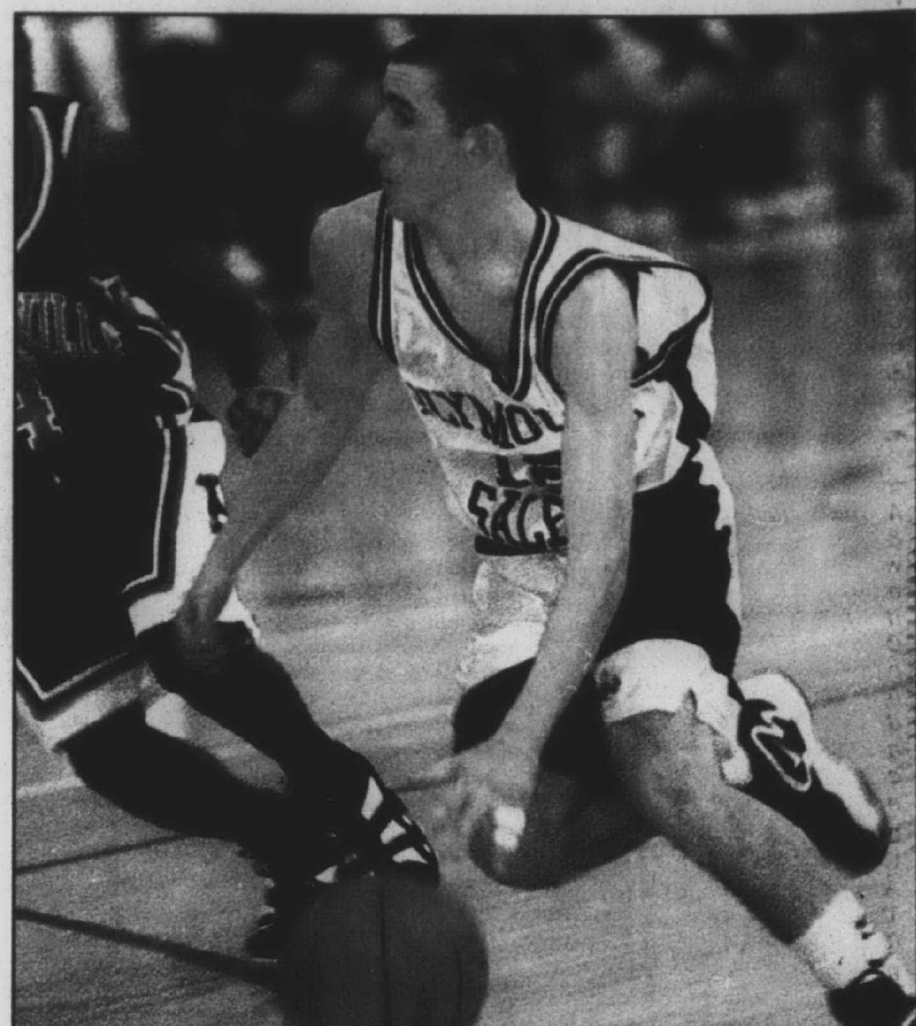
"We took the ball to them and drew some fouls," said Brodie. "They were aggressive, playing in-your-face pressure defense. And we took it inside better than we have."

Bhavin Patel and Tony Jancevski topped the Rocks with 15 points apiece. Patel also grabbed a team-high nine rebounds; Jancevski had seven.

Matt Mair added 10 points, Andy Power scored nine and dished out four assists, and Jeff McKian totaled eight assists and five boards.

The Tigers were paced by John Edwards with 12 points and C.J.

Please see BASKETBALL, C3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Turning it on: Andy Power helped Salem win its first game this season Tuesday, scoring nine points and dishing out four assists.

Salem edges Holt for tourney title

One of the smallest guys on Plymouth Salem's wrestling team proved to be one of the toughest at Saturday's Salem 8 Invitational.

John Mervyn pinned all four of his opponents in the 103-pound weight division to finish first and lead the Rocks to a team title.

Salem scored 251 points to narrowly edge two-time defending Class A state champion Holt, which scored 247. A week earlier at the Holt Invitational, the Rams beat Salem by 11 points.

Wyandotte Roosevelt placed third with 179 points, followed by Saline (173.5), Redford Catholic Central (158), Adrian (157), Brighton (124) and Ann

Arbor Huron (91).

It took Mervyn a total of 2:16 to win his three pool matches, against Brighton's Nick Brown (:33), CC's Chris O'Hara (:41) and Saline's Chris Kilbane (1:02). In the championship match, Mervyn pinned Holt's Jack Scott in 1:10.

His was one of three weight-division championships for Salem. The Rocks also had four seconds and two thirds.

Dan Morgan, wrestling at 119, won all three of his pool matches on pins,

WRESTLING

over CC's Klai Shirlin (1:02), Adrian's James Cousino (1:49) and Saline's Kory Kramer (1:40). In the final, Morgan bested Holt's Manuel Garcia 9-1.

The Rocks third title went to Teono Wilson at 189. In pool matches, Wilson got one win on a void, then pinned both Holt's Tom Shaver (1:04) and Adrian's Nick Vanover (1:28). In the final, Wilson outscored CC's John Abshire 15-6.

Heavyweight Charlie Hamblin went 3-0 in his pool, edging Holt's Cedric Ford 2-1 in overtime, then pinning Saline's Ben Ewoldt (:27) and Brighton's Chris Childs (:22), before

Please see WRESTLING, C3

Mat death gives a cause to pause

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR

The tragic death of University of Michigan wrestler Jeff Reese last week has forced everyone involved in the sport to take a closer look at how things are done.

But at the high school level, it serves more as a vindication of what is termed the Alpha weigh-in process.

Reese died Dec. 9 from heart and

Please see MAT TRAGEDY, C5

Rocks gunning to make it 6 straight



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Eying something big: Salem's Tim Buchanan returns for his senior year after placing seventh at state meet last season in the 200-yard freestyle. Hopes are high for both Buchanan and the Rocks, who took 10th at state.

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR

There are some notable losses among the 13 seniors who swam on Plymouth Salem's boys team last season, including Kyle Petroskey (who's now at West Point), Mark Dettling, Otto Geiseman and Luke Woodcock.

They played a major role in Salem's claiming a fifth-straight Western Lakes Activities Association championship last winter. And although the losses are great, the good news is there's plenty more where they came from.

"We lost 13 seniors but we still have 48 (swimmers) on the team, with 16 freshmen," said coach Chuck Olson. "With the number of freshmen we have, we should be in for another exciting year."

The Rocks finished 10th in the state at last year's Class A meet, and came away with the feeling they could have done better. That could be a motivational factor this season — starting Saturday at the Western Lakes Activities Association Relays Meet, the traditional season-opening event hosted by Salem.

As strong as the Rocks have been year-in and year-out, they have not fared well recently at the Relays meet. Plymouth Canton has won the past two. Salem is planning to end that run.

The 10-relay meet starts at noon Saturday.

"We're looking forward to the relay meet," said Olson. "We're looking forward to meeting the challenge."

The Rocks were in position to win each of the past two meets, but both times a mistake that led to their backstroke relays disqualification cost them.

"We had (the championship) in our grasp the last

Please see SALEM SWIM, C5

Problems can't keep Canton down

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR

Last season was so close to perfect for Plymouth Canton's swim team, in terms of expectations compared to results, that challenging it would have indeed been a challenge.

It now appears the Chiefs won't even get much of a chance, at least as far as results are concerned.

The pre-season has been costly for Canton. The Chiefs lost nine seniors, among them Pat Krause, B.J. Page, Adam Allen, Ryan Dahlman, Dave

Schacht and Robert Brooks.

Bad enough, right? Well, it got worse.

Canton also lost its best swimmer, Alex Rottgers, who finished seventh at the Class A state finals in the 100-yard breaststroke last season. Rottgers' family moved to Alabama.

In addition, Don LeClair and Steve Blossom — both scorers at last season's Western Lakes Activities Association championships — are injured and feared to be out for the season. And David Le, another scorer at the WLAA meet, has left the team to con-

centrate on academics.

"We've run into a lot of mishaps," said Canton coach Kyle Lott. "And we didn't gain a lot of (immediate) help in our freshmen. It's a good group, but I'm not sure they'll be ready to contribute at the conference level this year."

Which means a repeat of last season's performance — Canton was impressive in placing second to Plymouth Salem at the WLAA meet — seems unlikely, particularly in view of Livonia Stevenson's emergence. The Spartans could battle Salem for the

league crown.

And Canton? Well, enough doom and gloom. All is not lost for the Chiefs.

"I'm having a lot of fun with these kids," said Lott, who refuses to term the year as "rebuilding."

He knows, had everything gone right, he could have had a team that also might have challenged Salem for the WLAA crown.

"I think we could have done it," he said. "As good as Salem is, I thought

Please see CANTON SWIM, C5

ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

Goin' to the hoop

Observer's teams rank with the state's best

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

Selecting the best girls basketball team in Observerland wouldn't be any real problem: Redford Bishop Borgess lost once all season, rolling through the Class C state tournament with relative ease en route to its third state championship in five years.

Which is why the Spartans' Aiysha Smith was selected as Miss Basketball, with some controversy.

Choosing the rest of the team wasn't so easy, simply because

defeated a very tough Salem squad en route to a district title.

Canton was 19-5 for the year and came within an eyelash of upsetting Birmingham Marian in the state regional final.

What makes all this more remarkable is that the Chiefs' biggest starter was 5-foot-8 1/2 Nkechi Okwumabua. Canton lacked size and was not a great offensive team, but Blohm's motion offense — which stressed patience — wore opponents down and put Canton in control.

Which is why he was chosen. Now the rest of the team.

FIRST TEAM

Aiysha Smith, 6-1 Sr., Bishop Borgess: The Miss Basketball winner did a little of everything for the Class C state champion Spartans. She averaged 10.8 points, 11.8 rebounds, 4.5 blocks, 4.1 steals and 3.5 assists per game while shooting 52 percent from the floor and 62 percent at the free throw line.

"I think she is the best defensive player, most versatile — and best player in the state," Mann said. "I had the opportunity to compare her first-hand to (Flint Northern's) Tawana McDonald and (Detroit Dominican's) Raina Goodlow."

Borgess, which finished 27-1 overall, beat Northern in the regular season and Dominican in the regionals.

Amanda Abraham, 6-1 Sr., Plymouth Salem: Asking what Abraham did for Plymouth Salem would be a difficult question. Better to ask what she didn't do.

That's because there wasn't much. A four-year starter for the Rocks, Abraham has been their point-forward the past two years, shouldering the responsibility of handling the ball the most.

That, however, did not harm the rest of her game. Abraham led Salem in just about everything this year: scoring (12.4 points), rebounding (6.7), steals

1997 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Aiysha Smith, 6-1 Sr. Borgess
Amanda Abraham, 6-1 Sr. Salem
Koren Merchant 6-0 Sr. Borgess
Amy Roble 5-8 Sr. Harrison
Melissa Marzolf 5-7 Sr. Canton

SECOND TEAM

Christina Anderson 5-6 Sr. Borgess
Andrea Pruett 6-2 Jr. Salem
Nkechi Okwumabua 5-9 Sr. Canton
Sarah Poglits 6-1 Sr. Ladywood
Kellee Fournier 5-6 Sr. N. Farmington

THIRD TEAM

Samantha McComb 5-7 Fr. N. Farm.
Tera Morrill 5-11 Soph. Franklin
Tiffany Grubaugh 5-8 Soph. Salem
Kasie Mathena 5-8 Sr. Redford Union
Mahogany Fletcher 5-8 Sr. Harrison

FOURTH TEAM

Tonya Crawford 5-11 Jr. Wayne
Jessie Brennan 5-9 Jr. Mercy
Kristin Lukasik 5-7 Sr. Canton
Tiffany Simon 5-9 Jr. Borgess
Kersten Conklin 5-9 Jr. Churchill

COACH OF THE YEAR

Bob Blohm Plymouth Canton

HONORABLE MENTION

Redford Bishop Borgess: Shermaine Drake; Plymouth Canton: Kristin Mayer, Janell Twietmeyer; Plymouth Salem: Christine Phillips, Bree Pastalanec; Farmington Hills Harrison: Ari Ault, Amy Jenkins, Kristin Knutson; North Farmington: Melissa Gatz, Katie Vihtelic; Livonia Ladywood: Erin Hayden, Jenny Lachapelle, Kelly Jeffrey, Cheryl Wroblewski; Farmington Hills Mercy: Susie Roble, Ashley Schumacher, Kelly Moug, Katie Van Leeuwen; Livonia Stevenson: Carolyn Courtright, Stephanie Dutz, Lindsay Gusick; Livonia Churchill: Terri Owens, Stacey Supanich; Wayne Memorial: Erica Davis, Natalie Garrison, Beth Molitor; Livonia Franklin: Lori Jendrusik, Julie Warner; Westland John Glenn: Rola Amad, Latoya Chandler, Samantha Crews; Farmington: Beth Jager, Jamie Jakacki; Garden City: Sarah Talbot, Missy Bako, Shannon Faber; Redford Union: Katie Thomson, Laura Hillson; Redford Thurston: Kelly Grenan, Christie Koester; Redford St. Agatha: Katie Miller, Chris Woods; Lutheran Westland: Anna Schweske, Bekah Hoffmeier, Kierra Decker; Livonia Clarenceville: Danielle Siedz, Michelle Berry; Westland Huron Valley Lutheran: Sara Tacis; Plymouth Christian Academy: Liz Pugno, Jenny Sutherland; Canton Agape Christian: Kim Ther, Margie Henry.



Bob Blohm
Canton coach

Canton, Plymouth Salem, North Farmington and Farmington Harrison.

Selecting an Observerland coach of the year was also a difficult task. It might seem Borgess' Dave Mann is being penalized because he had a team so loaded with talent and wasn't our choice.

Instead, the honor goes to Canton's Bob Blohm.

It shouldn't be any real surprise, considering what Blohm's Chiefs accomplished this season. They won the Western Lakes Activities Association championship with an 11-0 record and

(2.6) and assists (4.0). Indeed, she was a double-figure scorer throughout her four-year varsity career.

"She's a player who's got a complete game," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "She can handle the ball, she's a great finisher, she's an excellent defender, she's got great quickness, she runs the floor and she handles the ball."

"She's just an excellent high school player."

Abraham has been recruited to play college basketball by several NCAA Division I schools. Her list has been pared down to Central Michigan, Bowling Green, Ohio University and Holy Cross.

Koren Merchant, 6-foot Sr., Bishop Borgess: Merchant dropped the tag of enigma and became a star most of the time for the Spartans, averaging 15.0 points, 7.8 rebounds, 1.5 assists, 2.1 steals and 1.6 blocks per game. She made 49 percent of her field goals, 74 percent of her free throws.

The only thing she failed to do was dunk, as she promised midway through the season. That'll have to wait for AAU season.

"She's the most athletically-gifted kid in the state and at times the most offensively explosive," Mann said. "She improved defensively quite a bit this year."

Amy Roble, 5-8 Sr., Farmington Hills Harrison: Simply put, Roble was Miss Everything for the Hawks this season.

An All-WLAA player for the second straight season, she led Harrison in scoring with a 14.6 average while shooting 43 percent from the field. Roble also averaged better than five rebounds — not bad for a shooting guard.

"She'll leave Harrison as one of our best players ever," said coach Pete Mantyla. "She made great contributions to the program and her teammates."

Roble also earned fifth team all-state honors this season. Mantyla said she didn't have a bad game.

"She was a model of consistency," he commented.

Besides playing great offense, Roble new how to play defense, too. She averaged three steals per game and is the

school's career leader in that category. Roble is also the career leader in three-pointers with 85.

"She's very versatile," Mantyla said. "She could shoot from the perimeter, take it to the basket and post up."

Melissa Marzolf, 5-7 Sr., Plymouth Canton: Another four-year starter, Marzolf was part of a Canton team that needed everybody to do a bit of everything if it were to succeed.

The Chiefs did, coming within a possession or two of reaching the state quarterfinals. And Marzolf was a major reason why.

The team's second-leading scorer (10.5 points per game), Marzolf led Canton in assists (4.3 per game) and steals (2.7), and averaged five rebounds as well.

The Chiefs' career leader in assists and steals, she also has more starts than anyone with 91. Canton was 73-20 during her career, winning three district championships and reaching the state semifinals once.

"She's great in the open court, she sees people and is a great passer," said Canton coach Bpb Blohm. "She allowed people to get open and got the ball to them when they did."

"That kind of player fits in really well with us. She was a good decision-maker."

Marzolf has already signed to play at NCAA Division II Northwood University.

SECOND TEAM

Christina Anderson, 5-6 Sr., Bishop Borgess: A three-year starter, Anderson averaged 9.8 points, 6.0 assists, 4.2 steals and 4.2 rebounds per game. She made 43 percent of her field goal attempts, 61 percent at the free throw line.

"She probably enjoys playing more than anyone I've had," Mann said. "During the time she's on the floor she has a good time. She shows it, always smiling. She's a great, great guard with exceptionally quick hands. She's a good passer and shot the ball great toward the end of the year."

Andrea Pruett, 6-1 Jr., Plymouth



Amanda Abraham
Plymouth Salem

First team



Melissa Marzolf
Plymouth Canton



Aiysha Smith
Redford Bishop Borgess



Amy Roble
Farmington Harrison



Koren Merchant
Redford Bishop Borgess



Nkechi Okwumabua
Plymouth Canton



Sarah Poglits
Livonia Ladywood



Christina Anderson
Redford Bishop Borgess

Second team



Kellee Fournier
North Farmington



Sarah Poglits
Livonia Ladywood



Christina Anderson
Redford Bishop Borgess

Salem: What Pruett accomplished as a junior was, simply put, pave the road for what figures to be a very impressive senior season.

A threat in the low-post as a sophomore, Pruett showed improvement there, and also took her game outside more.

"Through the middle of the season, we spent time with her playing facing the basket," said Thomann. "So her perimeter game improved, and that made her a more complete player."

"She's already got a really nice inside game, and her facing-the-basket game is really getting better."

Thomann also called Pruett, who was second on the team in scoring (11.2 points) and rebounding (6.6), "a great defender and a good rebounder. I thought, by the end of the year, she was the kind of player who wanted the ball."

Nkechi Okwumabua, 5-9 Sr., Plymouth Canton: Okwumabua led an over-achieving Canton team in both scoring (11.6 points) and rebounding (7.0).

"What made her production more remarkable was that she was forced to play center against teams with far bigger players at that position."

"She did a great job getting open," said Blohm. "She's just a great athlete. Her athletic ability and her ability to get out in the open court really put pressure on opposing defenses."

"She also did a great job on defense for us. She and (Marzolf) led our team in deflections defensively."

A statistic even more impressive concerning Okwumabua is her 4.0 grade-point average. That will take her on an academic scholarship to the University of Michigan.

Sarah Poglits, 6-0 Sr., Livonia Ladywood: Helped lead Ladywood to the regional finals and a 12-13 overall

record. The Catholic League All-Central Division pick finished the year averaging 12.5 points, seven rebounds, and 1.5 blocks per game. Poglits shot 49 percent from the field and 72 percent from the free throw line.

In five state tournament games, Poglits stepped up her game by averaging 17 points, seven rebounds, while shooting 56 percent from the field and 87 percent from the line. Her best outing was against Livonia Stevenson with 22 points (on 11 of 15 shooting), eight rebounds, five blocks, five assists and two steals.

"Sarah was a lot more aggressive offensively this year," Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski said. "She was always a good shooter. When she got the ball inside she was committed to scoring."

Poglits, who committed to Loyola Chicago to play volleyball, carries a 3.9 grade-point average.

Kellee Fournier, 5-6 Sr., North Farmington: The Raiders were one of the area's most improved teams this year. Fournier was one of the reasons why.

"Her senior leadership on the floor was tremendous," North Farmington coach Linda Perkins said. "She was always in the right place on offense and defense."

Fournier was a varsity player for four years for the Raiders. At shooting guard this season, she averaged in double figures while connecting on 34 percent of her three-point attempts.

Fournier also averaged better than two steals per game and nearly four rebounds.

"I think she played the best she has ever played this season," Perkins said.

"She's been a tremendous player to coach."

"Every year she developed more court sense. She had a great senior season."

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two years and Olson said.

That alone sharpened its focus. Returnees to the Rocks include Nick C and Tim Buch returning to

Corden in the yard freestyle individual men's stroke, and 100, 200 and 100 butterfly.

Buchanan, only one to score at last event at last he finished free.

"We weren't what we hoped for," said O. The senior

losing to Cass on a fall in the second at 16 Tom DeGran Smith (:27) Woodring (17) the final, W Greene edged

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The Rocks from Rob Ash ed CC's Christi Wyandotte's and got one Adrian's Eric

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Salem swim from page C1

two years and let it get away," Olson said.

That alone should help Salem sharpen its focus Saturday.

Returnees who will help guide the Rocks include senior co-captains Nick Corden, Brent Mellis and Tim Buchanan. All three are returning state meet qualifiers, Corden in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle, Mellis in the 200 individual medley and 100 backstroke, and Buchanan in the 100, 200 and 500 free and the 100 butterfly.

Buchanan, however, was the only one to score in an individual event at last year's state final — he finished seventh in the 200 free.

"We weren't quite ready to do what we hoped to at state (last year)," said Olson.

The senior co-captains and the

rest of their teammates plan to change that this season. Indeed, Olson believes Corden, Mellis and Buchanan all believe this team is one of the best in the state.

There is plenty of depth and senior leadership, to be sure — 10 other seniors, in fact: Chris Cameron (diving), Dan Kelly (freestyle), Scott Brown (breaststroke), Brian Satwicz (breast), Brad Schopieray (free, butterfly), Jim McLenaghan (breast, individual medley), Dustin Winter (all strokes), Brian McKay (free), Matt Bright (fly) and Adam Borchardt (free).

"They've all been on the team four years," said Olson. "They've all hung in there. It's a pretty solid group."

Leading the junior class are Matt Casillas (backstroke, all

other strokes), Kevin Crabill (IM and back) and Andrew Lock (sprint free, IM and breast). All three scored at last year's WLAA finals as sophomores.

So, too, did current sophomores Mike Belvitch (diving), Dan Jones (free) and Jason Rebarchik (IM, breast and sprint free) when they were freshmen.

Olson thinks he might have another productive freshmen class this year. Among the more promising are Brian Mertens (all strokes), Paul Perez (fly, free and IM) and Aaron Shelton (back and free).

With such an overflow of talent — Olson admits his biggest task may be sorting through it all to get the best possible lineup — ending Salem's string of WLAA championships may be nothing more than wishful

thinking.

"It's early, but I can see where we'd be pretty hard to match up against," the Salem coach admitted. "Breaststroke is the only stroke where we're not real solid."

"But I think everyone has some holes. We just have fewer holes and more people to plug them."

Canton, which finished second in the WLAA to Salem last season, looks strong again, and Livonia Stevenson appears to be very tough. North Farmington, too, has a lot of good swimmers returning.

"I don't think there are any really weak teams," Olson added.

That could be true. Then again, none appear to be in Salem's class, either.

Canton swim from page C1

we had a shot at the conference title."

That won't happen now, and the Chiefs know it. "Yeah, they know it," Lott said. "They know the situation, they know what they have to do. We're back at square one."

But his team remains upbeat. "We're really working hard on letting that go and looking ahead," the Canton coach said. "The guys are looking good, and I don't want to take away anything from them."

It's a team that could develop and, by season's end, be among the top four at the WLAA meet. But as for defending the WLAA Relays Meet title, which Canton has won the past two years, well

"Don't expect us to win it," said Lott.

Although the numbers are down — Canton had more than 40 swimmers on the team last year, but the losses to graduation and other situations have trimmed that to 23 — the Chiefs have a solid nucleus to build around.

Seniors include Matt Heiss (breaststroke), Jason Musson (100, 200 freestyle), John Theisen (butterfly), Mike

Dempsey (backstroke, 200 individual medley) and John Cook, all seniors; Kurtis Hornick (all free distances), Justin Allen (back) and Bill Stewart (distance free), all juniors; and Ryan McMann (distance free) and Aaron Reeder (back, IM), both sophomores.

Heiss, Musson, Theisen, Dempsey, Hornick, Allen and Reeder were all scorers in individual events at last season's WLAA finals.

"We've got some real talented younger kids, who are very promising," said Lott. "This team is going to have to develop. We have all the swimmers we need, but we can't have any more mishaps. The kids have to step into their roles."

"I think by the end of the season, we could be battling for a top four spot at the conference meet."

Lott picks Salem to win its sixth-straight title, with Stevenson "easily in second." Northville and North Farmington look good, too.

By season's end, Canton could work its way into that grouping.

Wrestling from page C1

losing to Casey Rogowski of CC on a fall in the final.

Anwar Crutchfield also took a second at 160, beating Saline's Tom DeGrand (2-1), Holt's Lyle Smith (2:27) and Adrian's Nate Woodring (1:19) in his pool. In the final, Wyandotte's Aaron Greene edged Crutchfield, 5-2.

Josh Henderson breezed through his pool at 125, pinning Holt's Jon Zolnai (1:38), CC's Matt Goward (3:06) and Saline's Chris Harrison (4:00). In the final, Henderson was pinned by Brighton's Adam Kushner (3:12).

The Rocks got another second from Rob Ash at 112. Ash defeated CC's Chris Pedersen (3:37) and Wyandotte's Greg Thieson (1:39) and got one void. In the final, Adrian's Eric Jones beat Ash 10-4.

Third-place medals went to Dan Hamblin at 140, who pinned Adrian's Buster Adams (2:02) in the consolation final, and James Greene, who pinned Saline's Scott Schuyler (1:10) in the consolation final at 152.

The Rocks Sam Boyd, wrestling at 145, lost to Saline's

Chris Schwyler in the consolation final to finish fourth.

CC had one other champion: Mitch Hancock won the 135 division, beating Holt's B.J. Eding in the final 10-5. The Shamrocks also got a second from Brock Naysmith at 215.

Salem travels to CC Friday for a double-dual meet against the Shamrocks and Clio.

Canton impresses

No, Plymouth Canton wasn't the best team at last Saturday's 21-team Berkley Invitational. But they got some pretty good performances in finishing 11th, including three medal-winners.

"It was encouraging to us," said Canton assistant coach John Demsick. "These are the five guys we're expecting to do things for us."

The five wrestlers Demsick referred to were the Chiefs' three medal-winners — the top four medaled — and Kevin Stone (140 weight class) and Brian Musser (145), who placed in the fifth-sixth place bracket, one match win from a medal.

Canton's two thirds went to

senior Brent Buttermore at 135 and senior John-Peter Demsick at 171. Buttermore pinned Southfield's Isaiah Smith (2:49) and defeated Lake Orion's Mike Lambie 18-2 before losing to Dearborn Edsel Ford's Chris Luther. In his match for third, Buttermore pinned Harper Woods Notre Dame's Mark Goleski (2:37).

John-Peter Demsick won his first two matches on pins, over Notre Dame's James Tourville (2:23) and Anchor Bay's Eric Bohannon (1:18). Dan Thompson of Walled Lake Western, however — the tournament's No. 1 seed — bested Demsick 15-0. The Canton wrestler rallied after that, pinning L'Anse Creuse's Mike Neil (3:45) and then edging Sterling Heights Stevenson's Paul Clor, the No. 2 seed, 3-2 for third.

Another Demsick, Robert, placed fourth at 160. Robert pinned Southfield-Lathrup's Mark Hanna (3:32) and outscored L'Anse Creuse's Tony Tocco 11-6 before losing to Port Huron Northern's Nate Hurst, the divi-

sion's top seed. After beating Novi's Jell O'Sullivan on an injury default, Robert lost in the third-place match to Berkley's Reuben Goodman 10-8.

The Chiefs host the Canton Invitational Saturday, starting at 9 a.m.

Mat tragedy from page C1

kidney failure, brought on by dehydration after two hours of excessive exercise in an overheated room as he tried to cut weight for a dual meet the next day.

"It's a tragic setback for the school and for us personally," said Canton assistant wrestling coach John Demsick, a U-M graduate who knew Reese.

According to reports, Reese was trying to cut 17 pounds. "He was trying to cut weight too fast," said Demsick. "The time frame was utterly ridiculous."

The implementation of the Alpha process should make a repeat of this tragedy impossible at the high school level, Demsick

said. The Alpha process is a test of a wrestler's body fat, which helps determine which weight classes he can compete in. The wrestler must be hydrated; tests will reveal if he is not.

"In high school, wrestling has stricter weigh-in regulations, so this really couldn't happen," said Demsick, who wrestled at U-M.

The Alpha process has been criticized by high school coaches, but according to Demsick, "I think it's well worth the pain adjusting to it. I've heard a lot of coaches complaining about it, and it is a lot of paperwork."

"But nonetheless, it is to help make it fair and make it safe."

Demsick added that Reese's death should bring about revisions, both at the collegiate level and in the thinking of prep wrestlers.

"It's created a sort of pause point for high school wrestlers," he noted, "that a big-time college wrestler could push himself so far."

"I believe the NCAA is going to come around and do something about it. I know U-M is going to."

Demsick added that at Canton, cutting weight is not promoted. "We want to build a team that builds muscle and doesn't depend on weight-cutting," he said.

Basketball from page C1

Grantham with 10.

PCA 67, St. Florian 60: Everything is looking rosey for Plymouth Christian Academy right now.

The Eagles super sophomores combined for 34 points Tuesday to carry PCA past visiting Hamtramck St. Florian, its fourth-straight win.

"We're rolling," said first-year coach Doug Taylor, "and the kids are having fun doing it."

The triumph over St. Florian did not come easily. "The difference in the game was in the second half, Nick Brandon really stepped up his defense," Taylor said, "and Derric Isensee scored 10 points in the game's last four minutes. We really rode him home."

Isensee finished with a game-high 19 points; he also nabbed eight rebounds. Jordan Roose scored 15 — both are sophomores.

Scott Carty added 11 points and Chris Brandon netted 10. Both are seniors.

PCA trailed 29-27 at the half, but rallied to take a 46-42 lead into the final quarter.

Eric Gutowski's 18 points topped St. Florian, which slipped to 1-1. Terence Jackson chipped in with 13 and Terence Williams scored 11.

Last Saturday, the Eagles overcame a six-point deficit after one quarter by outscoring Southfield Franklin Road Christian 41-14 over the next two periods to win easily, 69-57, in the championship game of their own Eagle Kickoff Classic.

It was just the second time in the Classic's five-year history that the host team has won it.

PCA trailed 19-13 after one quarter. "We went to a press late in the second quarter and stayed in it early in the third," said Taylor.

And that changed the momentum. Isensee's 18 points paced PCA; Roose contributed 14. Franklin Road, which fell to 2-1, got 13 points from both Josh Odom and Jon Semizian and 12 more from David Damesworth.

Agape 70, Saline Christian 50: Canton Agape Christian had no trouble in its Metro Christian Conference opener Tuesday at home, taking a 15-point lead into the half and cruising to victory from there.

The Wolverines evened their record at 2-2 overall. Saline Christian is also 2-2 overall, 0-2 in the MCC.

Agape got 14 points and nine rebounds from Jason Melton, 14 points from Steve Mecklenburg, 13 points and five assists from Paul Anleitner, and 10 points from Julian Wettlin. Robert Smith's 15 points was best for Saline.

Agape jumped out to a 14-4 lead after one quarter, pushing that to 35-20 by halftime. A 22-8 third-quarter surge made it 57-28 and assured the victory.

Last Saturday in the consolation final of the Eagle Kickoff Classic Tournament, hosted by Plymouth Christian Academy, Agape was beaten by Academy of Detroit and finished fourth.

John Glenn 52, A.A. Huron 48: Ty Haygood scored 14 points to lead Westland John Glenn to its first win of the season Tuesday against visiting Ann Arbor Huron.

Stephan Lawson and Eric Jones each added nine points for the victorious Rockets, 1-2 overall.

Glenn led 27-21 at intermission and extended its lead to 46-34 after three quarters as Jason Crofton hit a pair of three-pointers to spark a 19-13 third-quarter surge.

Sophomore Matt Kohn led Adrian (1-2 overall) and all scorers with 19 points, 15 coming in the second half. He hit three triples.

Chris Howard added 19 points for the Maples, who trailed by as many as 14 during the final quarter before making an ill-fated late run.

Luth. Westland 65, Harper Woods 46: Junior forward Thomas Habitz and senior guard Scott Randall each tallied 14 points Tuesday, leading Lutheran High Westland (1-2, 0-1) to its first win of the season against the host Pioneers (0-4, 0-1) in a Metro Conference encounter.

The Warriors opened up a 30-21 halftime lead with a 19-9 second-quarter run.

"We got a few transition basketball and we switched defenses and I don't think they (Harper Woods) got as many good looks at the basket," Lutheran Westland coach Dan Ramthun said.

Senior center Jason James added 11 points for the winners. Habitz and Brad Woehlke also pulled down nine rebounds apiece.

The Warriors were 10 of 19 from the line, while Harper Woods was 11 of 14.

Senior guard Dino Sipsas led Harper Woods with 13 points.

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Rocks tumble in semifinals at Madonna

For a team with promise, a team with high expectations, last Saturday's season-opener wasn't all it was hoped to be.

Plymouth Salem's volleyball team has put itself high up on the ladder; anything less than a league championship and/or a long run in the state tournament

VOLLEYBALL

will make this season a disappointment.

With that in mind, making the semifinals of last Saturday's Madonna University Invitational, and then losing to finish 3-2

for the tournament, wasn't good enough.

"It wasn't really what we set as our goal," said Salem co-coach Allie Suffety. "But you take the good with the bad. It's still early in the season, we just have to assess our situation and go on from here."

The 10-team tournament started well enough for the Rocks. They handled Center Line St. Clemens 15-1, 15-12 and Kalamazoo Central 15-4, 15-7, in their first two matches.

But then they came up flat against a good Pinconning team. The result was predictable: a 15-8, 15-10 loss.

"They're a good team, but we didn't play our best," said Suffety. "We made a lot of errors in serve receive and blocking."

Salem did recover from the disappointment quick enough to dispose of Dearborn Divine Child in its final pool-play match, 15-9, 15-4. That made the Rocks sec-

ond in their pool and sent them to the semifinals.

Their opponent: state-ranked Temperance Bedford. Salem played some good, some not so good against the Mules and ended up with a 9-15, 15-9, 15-9 defeat.

The Rocks trailed 8-4 in the first game before rallying to outscore Bedford 11-1 for the victory. In the third game, however, the tables were reversed — Salem led 7-2, then surrendered 12-straight points. The Rocks missed six serves in the game.

For the tournament, Jenny Trott led Salem with 27 kills and 51 digs. Amanda Abraham contributed 23 kills, 14 solo blocks

and 14 block assists, and Angie Sillmon collected 21 kills, 16 solo blocks and 11 block assists. Andrea Pruett finished with 16 kills.

The Rocks are now idle until Jan. 3, when they travel to the Kalamazoo Sportswear Invitational, hosted by Portage Northern.

Agape wins

Canton Agape Christian improved its volleyball record to 2-0 with a 15-4, 15-11 victory over Saline Christian Tuesday at Agape.

Caley Mullen led the Wolverines with five service aces. Kim Ther added three kills.

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Whalers blast Toronto



Harold Druken got a goal in each period Sunday, helping the Plymouth Whalers

romp past the Toronto St. Michaels Majors 8-4 in an Ontario Hockey League match.

Druken's three goals gave him 13 for the season. David Legwand, the Whalers' rookie sensation, pushed his point total to 59

— one behind OHL leader Peter Sarno of Windsor.

Legwand had two goals against Toronto, including the game-winner, giving him an OHL-best 36 for the season. Julian Smith added a goal and two assists, Luc Rioux had a goal and an assist, Jamie LaLonde scored a goal, and Andrew Taylor and Shaun Fisher each picked up two assists.

Robert Esche was in goal for

Plymouth, making 19 saves to improve his record to 16-5-1; he has a 3.06 goals-against average with an 88.9 save percentage.

The win pushed the Whalers' record to 18-9-3; their 39 points puts them second in the OHL's West Division to the London Knights (20-10-1, 41 points), who have played two more games.

Last Friday, Plymouth lost at Sudbury.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 18

Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Ypsi Lincoln at Farmington, 7 p.m.
N. Farmington at Milford, 7 p.m.
Harrison at Riv. Richard, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19

West Wayne at Agape, 6:45 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Luth. N'west, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Ypsilanti, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Wyandotte, 7 p.m.
Lincoln Park at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Allen Park at Thurston, 7 p.m.
Canton at A.A. Pioneer, 7 p.m.
Redford CC at O.L. St. Mary, 7:30 p.m.
Immaculate at St. Agatha, 7:30 p.m.
Huron Valley vs. St. Alphonsus at Marshall Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Dec. 20

Madonna at Northwood, 1 p.m.
Kellogg at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 19

Tiffin (Ohio) at Madonna, 7 p.m.
S'craft at Macomb Tourney, TBA.

Saturday, Dec. 20

Tiffin (Ohio) vs. Kalamazoo at Madonna Tourney, 3 p.m.
S'craft at Macomb Tourney, TBA.

Sunday, Dec. 21

Kalamazoo at Madonna, 2 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Thursday, Dec. 18

Redford Union vs. U-D Jesuit at Redford Ice Arena, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19

Franklin vs. Stevenson

at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20

Redford CC vs. Brother Rice at Compuware Arena, 3:45 p.m.

Churchill at Dearborn, 8 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Thursday, Dec. 18

Ply. Whalers at Windsor, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20

Ply. Whalers vs. North Bay at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Friday, Dec. 19

West Wayne at Agape, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20

Taylor Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
Delta CC Invitational, 9 a.m.
USA Tourney at Grand Rapids, TBA.

TBA — time to be announced.

CC defeats Wyandotte, 3-1

Redford Catholic Central improved to 3-0-1 overall with a 3-1 victory Saturday night over Wyandotte Roosevelt in a Michigan Metro High School Hockey League game played at Redford Ice Arena.

Royal Oak 6, Stevenson 2: "It was one of those nights, we hit

HOCKEY

the post three times and the nob of the goalie's stick on another," Livonia Stevenson coach Mike Harris said after his Livonia Stevenson squad was bounced Saturday by host Royal Oak. Stevenson is now 6-3 overall.

Royal Oak led 6-1 after two periods.

John May and Jeff Lang (power-play) tallied goals for Stevenson.

The Spartans' Chris McComb worked in goal the first two periods before giving way to Matt McLeod.

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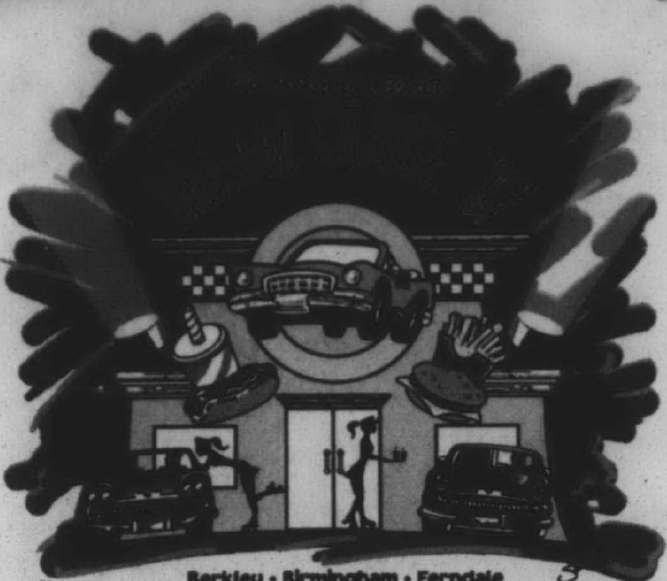
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33rd ANNUAL GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL

Saturday, December 27

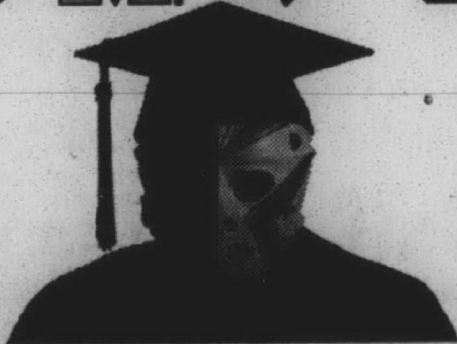
Michigan vs. St. Lawrence • 3:00pm

Michigan State vs. Michigan Tech • 6:30pm

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Crusaders falter

It's going to be a long year for Madonna University's men's basketball team.

In fact, it already is.

The Fighting Crusaders might have been respectable this year, their first as members of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, before losing their two biggest players, Mike Maryanski to a possible season-ending knee injury and Kristian Magro, who dropped out of school.

Now it should be evident to anyone involved that they'll have to play well above themselves to get a win.

On Monday, that challenge escaped them. St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake built an eight-point lead by halftime, then repelled all Madonna comeback attempts in posting a 73-63 triumph at Madonna.

The loss dropped the Crusaders to 1-11.

Poor shooting was the biggest factor in the Crusaders' loss. They converted 24-of-65 shots from the floor (36.9 percent) compared to St. Mary's 28-of-58 (48.3 percent). In addition, Madonna made just 3-of-17 three-point tries (17.6 percent); the Eagles were 4-of-10 (40 percent).

A Nick Hurley (from Plymouth Canton) layup with 11:19 left in the first half gave Madonna a 16-9 lead, its biggest of the game. St. Mary's answered with eight-straight points to start a

MADONNA

19-6 run, a run that would give the Eagles the lead for good.

The closest Madonna got in the first half was 28-27 on a Erick Giovannini (Livonia Stevenson) three-pointer with 4:31 left. During the remainder of the half, the Eagles outpointed Madonna 13-6.

In the second half, the closest the Crusaders got was 44-41 on another Giovannini triple with 16:51 left. St. Mary's answered with a 13-2 run, and it was never close after that.

Giovannini finished with a team-high 14 points; he also had five rebounds. Hurley totaled 13 points, four boards, three assists and three steals, while Narvin Russaw collected 11 points, 10 rebounds and three steals.

For St. Mary's, Pierre Brown led the way with 17 points; he also had three steals. Kevin Spencer scored 16 points, Jason Karyl got 11 points and 12 boards, and Shawn Hurt totaled 10 points, seven boards, six assists and three steals.

Ferris State 92, Madonna 62 (women): A poor first half put the Lady Crusaders into a hole they could not climb out of Monday in Big Rapids.

The loss was Madonna's second in a row, dropping the Crusaders to 6-4. Ferris is 6-3.

Madonna hit just 8-of-33 floor

shots in the first half (24.2 percent) and trailed 51-24 at the break. The Lady Bulldogs were 20-of-34 (58.8 percent) in the opening half.

Katie Cushman's 16 points paced Madonna. Chris Dietrich had 13 and Dawn Pelc scored 11.

Ferris was paced by Valerie Scott's 20 points. Julie Anthony added 15, Heather Rozneck scored 13 and Tianna Kirkland got 11, as 14 of 15 of the Bulldogs played and scored.

Lake Superior 78, Madonna 62 (women): Again, a poor start proved costly to Madonna as Lake Superior State used a 45-21 first-half barrage to propel it to the win Saturday in Sault Ste. Marie.

Lori Enfield, a freshman center, was one of the few bright spots for the Lady Crusaders. Enfield came off the bench and in just 10 minutes of action, hit 8-of-14 shots to score a team-high 17 points. She also grabbed six rebounds.

Chris Dietrich added 11 points and Katie Cushman collected 10 points, nine assists and two steals.

For Lake Superior, four players reached double-figures in scoring: Jill VanderEnde with 20, Becky Murray with 18 (and 11 rebounds), Heather Bertram with 13 (and 11 assists) and Holly Hockin with 12.

Madonna was outrebounded, 45-33.

Ocelots on a roll

The doubters are dwindling. And after Saturday's thrilling, come-from-behind 77-71 overtime victory over highly-regarded Grand Rapids CC, the ranks of the Schoolcraft College men's basketball doubters have become slim indeed.

The Ocelots ran their record to 8-2 with their second victory this season over GRCC, which slipped to 6-3.

"It showed character to come back and beat a good team like that," said SC coach Carlos Briggs. "The kids showed a lot of pride and heart."

Emeka Okonkwo drained a three-pointer with 1:30 left to tie

SCHOOLCRAFT

the game. In overtime, the Ocelots outscored GRCC 11-5 to win easily.

SC trailed 34-23 at the half. "We got off to a slow start, then in the second half we picked it up defensively," Briggs explained.

Part of that defensive adjustment included a 1-3-1 half-court zone that "took them out of their offense," Briggs said. "We kept switching defenses, and that kept them off-balance."

Kevin Melson, the third-leading scorer in the NJCAA (28.7

points per game), led SC with 28 points and 16 rebounds. Okonkwo added 18 points, Dave Jarrett (from Westland John Glenn) scored 10 and grabbed 10 rebounds, Pete Males (Garden City) totaled 10 points and six assists, and Jamar Eddins collected eight points and 10 boards.

Damion Powell's 16 points paced GRCC; Delshan Adams added 15.

SC hit 23-of-47 from the field (49 percent) and grabbed 45 rebounds, 21 of those offensive. The Ocelots are averaging 101.1 points per game, seven-best in the NJCAA.

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YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND PLYMOUTH

WEEKEND

HOLIDAY DOLL SHOW

Dealers, collectors, doll artists and hobbyists will all be featured at the Holiday Doll Show 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St. Doll making supplies, doll clothes, doll furniture and new, used, antique and collectible dolls will all be available. Cost is \$4 for adult and \$1 for children. Call 455-2110.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Fox Hills is hosting the third annual Christmas Brunch 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. This special brunch will feature breakfast, main dishes, salads and desserts from many parts of the globe. Adult price is \$19.95 and price for children ages 3-12 is \$8.95. Call 453-7272 for required reservations.

SINGLES DANCE

West Side Singles Friday night dances are held every Friday at the Burton Manor, Schoolcraft Road, west of Inkster Road, Livonia. Admission is \$5. Early bird special \$3 before 8:30 p.m. Ages 21 and older welcome. Music by professional DJ. Top 40 current hits. Dressy attire (no jeans). 981-0909.

Suburban Singles presents a "Singles Mingle Dance" every Wednesday and Sunday at the Bonnie Brook Country Club, Telegraph Road, south of Eight Mile in Redford. Admission is \$4. Early bird special \$3 before 8:30 p.m. Ages 21 and older. Fashionable attire (no jeans). For more information, call (313) 849-5275.

West Side Singles presents a Christmas Dance Friday, Dec. 26, at the Burton Manor in Livonia. Cost is \$3 before 8:30 p.m. Ages 21 and over. Dressy attire (no jeans). 981-0909.

A New Year's Eve Dance will also be hosted by the West Side Singles on Wednesday, Dec. 31, at Burton Manor in Livonia. The event is from 7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., with a cash bar. A DJ will play Top 40 Music, and there will be party favors, balloon drop and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Dressy attire (no jeans). 981-0909.

AROUND TOWN

UNIQUE GIFTS

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce offers gift ideas for year-round. Gift certificates for over 40 Plymouth area retail shops and eateries as well as Plymouth sweatshirts. Call 453-1540.

TOYS FOR KIDS

Mel's Golden Razor will be collecting new and used toys in good condition through Dec. 19. They will also be taking donations for families they provide for at Christmas. 595 Forest. Call 455-9057.

BUILD BOOK COLLECTION

Join the Plymouth District Library and help build the collection. Choose to donate to the adult or

youth collection with \$25. The staff will help select a title and a bookplate will identify your donation to honor a friend or family member. Call 453-0750, Ext. 213.

BET CHAVERIM

Congregation Bet Chaverim will be having their monthly service 7:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at the United Methodist Church in Canton. Many Shabbat and Hanukkah celebrations will be taking place throughout December. Call 480-8880 for the CBC hotline.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

Fox Hills Golf Club will be hosting this event 7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31. Tickets are \$79 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, free drinks, live music, desserts and noisemakers. Call 453-7272 for required reservations.

LIBRARY EVENTS

The Plymouth District Library is hosting many exciting events this month: a holiday card display, Internet youth classes and book discussions. Call 453-0750.

ART WORKSHOPS

D & M Studio's Once Upon an Easel in Canton is offering a variety of holiday art workshops for adults and youths. Call Sharon, 453-3710.

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will sponsor two holiday art and music workshops for children kindergarten through fifth grade Saturday, Dec. 20. "Songs of the Season" will be 9:30-11:30 a.m. and includes a look at different holiday celebrations including Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. "Christmas Around the World," noon to 2 p.m., will focus on holiday songs and customs from other countries. Classes are \$15 per child. Free child care during lunch will be provided if both sessions are attended. Call the arts council at 416-4278 to sign up. The classes are at the arts council, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

Livonia Little People's Co-op Preschool has openings for the 1997-98 school year in the 3- and 4-year-old classes. The preschool is located at 8820 Wayne Road, just north of Joy. For more information, call (313) 454-4964.

ADULT CPR

St. Mary Hospital in Livonia will offer a Basic Life Support Adult Heart-Saver Course 1-3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, in the Marian Pavilion Conference Room B, near the South Entrance on Levan Rd. The cost is \$20 per person. To register, call (313) 655-2922 or 1-800-494-1650.

PLYMOUTH YMCA

Through Dec. 19. Practices for the Basketball Travel League are on Monday or Wednesday with Friday or Saturday games. This is a league for both girls and boys. Divisions: Passers: third-fourth



Celebrate: Deborah Monusko of Plymouth (second from the left), an office manager at English Gardens, marched along the company float in America's Thanksgiving Parade. Monusko was dressed as a pretty maiden for her first-ever parade. The 2-1/2-mile parade route was no big deal for Monusko who works out regularly. She also had to learn a dance step for the parade and went through fittings for her costume.

grade; Shooters: fifth-sixth grade; Blockers: seventh-eighth grade and Jammers: ninth-twelfth grade. Call the Plymouth Community Family YMCA to register by phone at (313) 453-2904 with Visa or MasterCard or for further information.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY

Madonna University's open registration for winter term continues through Friday, Jan. 2, for new and returning students. Office hours will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and until 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, with some exceptions. All offices will be closed for Christmas (Dec. 24-Jan. 1). Classes begin the week of Jan. 5. For more information, call the admissions office at (313) 432-5339.

HANUKKAH POTLUCK

Congregation Bet Chaverim will be holding a Hanukkah Potluck Dinner 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at the Freitag house. Bring your menorahs and candles to light at 5:15, to be followed by food and conversation. Call 420-2214 for reservations.

YOUTH SOCCER

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department will be taking Spring Youth Soccer registration

during the month of January, at the Recreation office, 525 Farmer St., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. A birth certificate is required, \$40 for residents, \$60 for non-residents. Call 455-6620.

FUNNIEST VIDEOS

Enter "Michigan's Funniest Videos" at East Lansing's first annual Film Festival on March 29. Tapes should be acceptable for family viewing and no longer than 10 minutes. Deadline is Feb. 10. Send them to: Michigan's Funniest Videos, P.O. Box 025035, Lansing, Mich. 48909-5035. Call (517) 336-5802.

SALVATION ARMY

Senior citizens of all ages, get your exercise and have a good time, too, in the Senior Volleyball Program. The program meets 10 a.m. to noon, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. There is an annual fee of \$10. For more information, call the Salvation Army (313) 453-5464 and ask for Martha.

The Salvation Army offers open gym time 1-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. There is a \$1 per person fee. For more information, call (313) 453-5464.

STOCKING STUFFERS

Stocking stuffers are

available for Plymouth-Canton Educational Park seniors. The parents' committee, helping to plan the 1998 Senior Party part of graduation festivities, will be offering the early sale of 1998 Senior Party tickets. Information, Sue McCusker at 981-2361 or Theresa Little at 459-6399. (313) 462-4463.

HOT FAMILIES

Madonna University is searching for host families to give their international students an opportunity to experience a traditional American holiday during Christmas (Dec. 24-Jan. 1). Those interested in learning more should call Madonna University's Student Life Office at (313) 432-5428.

SUPPORT GROUPS

DIABETES

St. Mary Hospital Diabetes Support Group will be having a meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, in the hospital auditorium. There is no charge or registration required. Call (313) 655-2922 or 1-800-494-1650.

GYPSY MOTH

There will be a meeting for those who have dealt

with a gypsy moth problem this year 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at the Dexter Township Hall, 6880 Dexter-Pinckney Road. Call 971-0079, Ext. 2608.

HIV/AIDS TESTING

The HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) offers free walk-in testing at a variety of locations throughout Washtenaw, Livingston and other counties. Call (313) 572-9355.

NEW BEGINNING

The New Beginnings Grief Support Group meets 7 p.m. every Monday at the Plymouth Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon, just south of Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Anyone who is grieving a loss of a loved one is invited to attend. There is no charge. For information, call (313) 453-7630.

ARBOR HOSPICE

A seven-week support and educational group for parents who have lost an adult child will be offered by Arbor Hospice. Groups will meet 4-5:30 p.m. Thursdays at Arbor Hospice, 3810 Packard, Ann Arbor. The group is open to any parent who has experienced the death of an adult child, regardless of whether the loss occurred recently or many years ago. A minimal donation will be requested. For more information and to register, call Arbor Hospice at (313) 677-0500 or 1-800-783-5764.

LIFE MINISTRIES

Have a problem? Want to talk? Call Life Care Ministries (313) 427-LIFE 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Confidential. No charge.

LEARNING DISABLED

Joel's Group is a group for the learning disabled and the educable mentally impaired that is looking for members. The group meets for social and educational activities Saturday nights. Call Joel Marwell at 476-8741.

MDDA

MDDA (Manic Depressive-Depressive Association) holds its meeting the second and fourth Sundays 2-4 p.m. at Oakwood-Canton Health Center Community meeting room. For more information, call Nancy at (313) 455-8598.

VOLUNTEER WORK

VOLUNTEERS

The Alzheimer's Association is seeking volunteers to provide companionship to people experiencing memory loss. Those who volunteer receive an excellent orientation that provides them with the information and skills to brighten the life of someone with Alzheimer's. To learn more or to volunteer, call Adam Sterling, (248) 557-8277.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. Meetings are 7-9 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Livonia Senior Center on Farming-

ton Road, south of Five Mile Road. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others are welcome to attend meetings which serve Plymouth, Canton, Westland, Livonia, Redford and Garden City. Interested volunteers may call 459-0216 or 421-4208.

BEAUMONT HOSPICE

Beaumont Hospice invites you to become part of its hospice team by volunteering your services to support the care of patients with terminal illnesses and their families. Information, (248) 828-9514.

CLUBS

MOTHER OF MULTIPLES

The Plymouth-Canton Mothers of Multiples club meets 7 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month. Call Barb at (313) 207-5224. Playgroup meets every other Tuesday; call Sue at (313) 459-9324.

CAREER WOMEN

The National Association of Career Women West Suburban Chapter meets on the third Tuesday of each month, at Ernesto's Restaurant, 41661 Plymouth Road in Plymouth; from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For information, call Judie, (313) 453-7272, Ext. 223.

GOODFELLOWS

The Plymouth Goodfellows meet 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at the City Hall on Main Street. Call 455-8611 or 451-3554.

BNI

Business Network International, Plymouth Chapter, is holding its regular meeting 7-8:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at the Water Club Seafood Grill, Ann Arbor Road and I-275. Call (313) 844-3432.

M.O.M.

Meet Other Mothers (M.O.M.) offers guest speakers and discussion. It meets at 9:30 a.m. the second and fourth Friday of the month at the First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth. Babysitting is provided. For more information, call Kate at (313) 453-3675.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets at the Livonia Senior Citizens' Activity Center, 15128 Farmington Road, southeast corner of Five Mile and Farmington roads, behind the Golden Lantern Restaurant, Livonia. Meetings are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. All meetings are open to the public at no charge. A beginning genealogy class meets at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (313) 425-8832 or (313) 455-1122.

TOASTMASTERS

Join the Oral Majority Toastmasters Club at 6:45 p.m. Sundays at the old Friendly's building, at Ann Arbor Road and Lilley. For more information, call Marc Sullivan at (313) 455-1635.

CALENDAR FORM

The Plymouth Observer welcomes Calendar items. Items should be from non-profit community groups or individuals announcing a community program or event. Please type or print the information below and mail your item to The Calendar, Plymouth Observer, 794 South Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, or by fax to 313-459-4224. Deadline for Calendar items is noon Friday for the following Thursday's paper. Call 459-2700 if you have any questions.

Event:

Date and Time:

Location:

Telephone:

Additional Info.:

Use additional sheet if necessary

MILITARY NEWS

To submit your military announcement, send the material printed or typewritten to: Plymouth-Canton Observer, 794 S. Main St., Plymouth, Mich. 48170.

ENLISTMENTS

Connie L. Prince, daughter of Alan L. Prince of Plymouth and Judith M. Prince of Westland, has enlisted in the U.S. Army. During the eight weeks of basic training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C., Prince will study drill and ceremony instruction, weapons, map reading, first aid and many other military lessons. She is a 1990 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School.

Phillip, N. Jeffers, son of Phillip W. Jeffers of

Canton and Debra M. Norman of Canton, has recently enlisted in the U.S. Army. During the eight weeks of basic infantry training, he will develop basic combat skills and experience using a variety of weapons, as well as many other skills necessary to an infantry soldier. He is a 1997 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School.

William R. Iler, son of Bonnie and Donald Iler of Canton, enlisted in the Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program.

Iler, a 1997 graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School, is scheduled for enlistment in the Regular Air Force, April 1. Upon graduation from the Air Force's six-week basic training course in San Antonio, Texas, he is scheduled to receive technical

training as an information management apprentice. He will earn credits toward an associate degree in applied sciences through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and technical training schools.

GRADUATED

Air Force Airman Michelle T. Alcini has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks of training, Alcini studied the Air Force mission, organization, and received special training in human relations. She also earned credits towards an associates degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Alcini is the daughter of Bar-

bara and George Holmes of Canton. She is a 1996 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School.

DEPLOYMENT

Marine 1st Lt. Douglas W. Smith, son of Nicholas and Joan E. Smith of Plymouth, recently participated in Exercise Bright Star '97 while on a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean sea with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The unit was in a multinational exercise which involved naval and tactical air, amphibious assault, undersea, special forces and ground combat training. Smith joined the Marine Corps in 1988.

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MARRIAGE-MINDED

DWF, 28, 5'7", 130lbs, attractive blonde/blue, pre-school child, multi-degreed RN, enjoys working out, cooking, family-oriented activities, seeking a serious, ambitious, family-oriented SWM, 28-40, financially independent, successful, no tattoos, drinks, no recreational problems, smokers, drugs! #8465

LADY WITH CLASS

Biracial SWF, 40ish, enjoys jazz, weekend getaways, dining, concerts, movies, theatre, and quiet evenings at home. Seeking spontaneous SWM, 45-55, 6', must have good sense of humor. Race open. #8477

WOULD YOU BE MY ANGEL?

SWF, 43, 5'7", brown/hazel, N's, enjoys sports, jazz, C&W, quiet times at home. Seeking honest, family-oriented SWM, 38-53, N's, #8479

HAWAIIAN HEART

Attractive, sincere, kind-hearted, humorous DWF, 38, 5'6", dark/brown, Hawaiian, part-time college student, mom, enjoys bowling, billiard, dancing, sunbathing. Seeking honest, sincere, fun-loving SM. #8517

BEAUTIFUL SUCCESSFUL DOCTOR

30s, 5'5", white, slim, elegant, charming, accomplished, well-traveled, honest, sincere. Loves sports, golf, theatre and cooking. Seeking educated, successful, mature gentleman, 32-45, for peer relationship, to start family. #8470

FIRST TIME AD

DWF, 50s, seeks confident, tall SWM, financially secure, who enjoys travel, dining, movies, sports, for friendship first. #8475

SWIFT BLUE-EYED BLONDE

Pretty, intelligent SWF, 27, college student, seeks sweet, honest, funny, intelligent, attractive SWM, 22-30, who enjoys music, travel, hockey, winter romance, for friendship first, maybe more. #8476

ATTRACTIVE MAN WANTED

Seeks handsome SM, 6', slim build, who enjoys going out, and having fun, for LTR. #8519

LOG CABIN DREAMING

SUV owner wanted SWM, N's, no dependents, 35-50, enjoys nature, outdoors, up north, log cabins, dogs, blue jeans, spontaneous, college educated, has lowcountry style and old fashioned values. Serious about settling down. #8300

LET'S LIVE

Attractive, SWF, 5'10", 29, outgoing, enjoys traveling, sports, music, "week-end" out and laughing, seeking SWM, 30-42, fit, fun-loving, and very responsible. Not married to his job and a good sense of humor. #8515

PRETTY, SLENDER, SENSUAL

Sophisticated, athletic, "week-end" play! Seeks best friend/lover for life; good-looking, in-shape-refined, cultured, romantic, 50s, "nice guy". Let's enjoy adventure and world travel and life's finer things. #8317

NOT DESPERATE

DWF, 45, 5'3", 130lbs, N's, no kids, seeks the same in many ways. I'm caring, giving, intelligent, hopelessly romantic, down-to-earth, employed. Would like to meet special friend, or more. Royal Oak. #8361

SEEKING TOOL-TIME AL

SWF, 33, 5'5", N's, enjoys the outdoors, sunbathing, fishing, seeks SWM, 28-37, who would someday like to build a dream house in the mountains. #8362

COULD CONNECT...

with tall, HW proportionate, sincere, ethical, nice-looking guy with hair. Pretty dark-haired SWFF, 40ish, 5'4", 115lbs, with varied interests, great legs and good heart, would like to talk with you. #8209

MUST HAVE A NICE SMILE

Outgoing, fun-loving SWF, 27, 5'5", tall, fit, N's, N/D, enjoys opera, classical music, movies, sports, bowling. Seeking tall, well-proportioned, N's, N/D, for friendship, possible relationship. No kids please. #8222

WHO KNOWS?

Versatile, independent, family oriented DWF, 41, hoping to meet someone 33-48 who's similar. #8223

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Attractive, affectionate, honest, adventurous, warm, romantic DWF, 5'5", 50, blonde/blue, medium build, educated, seeks SWM, 5'9"-6'4", 48-62, who's honest, N's, who likes the arts, outdoors, travel, for possible LTR. #8224

PRETTY BLONDE LADY

Refined, giving, loving, educated, young 60ish, 5'5", good figured, N's, many interests, seeks SWM, 55-75, with sense of humor, caring, intelligent, N's, N's, for lasting relationship. #8117

UNCHAINED MELODY

Slender, attractive DWF, 50, N's, seeks SWM, 45-55, 5'8", N's, for companion, for C&W, dancing, rollerblading, and companionship. West Side area. #8121

HAVE HERPET?

SWF, 38, smart, attractive, fun-loving, great sense of humor, enjoys sports, travel and more. Seeking a humorous, honest, marriage-minded, N's man with herpes, to build a relationship. #8130

IN YOUR DREAMS

If you're a tall, medium-large built SWM, honest, affectionate, N's and financially secure. DWF, 37, 5'9", light-brown/blue, attractive, full-figured, N's, various interests, with a child. #8178

LOOKING FOR LOVE NOT GAMES

Attractive DWF, young 48, 5'4", brown/blue, N's, financially/motionally secure, enjoys movies, dining, sports, travel, and romance. Seeking attractive, honest, caring, compassionate SWM, 45-55, financially secure, for friendship, leading to LTR. #8363

SEEKING THE MAGIC AGAIN

Are you? DWF, young 54, varied interests. Seeking older soulmate, social drinker only, who'll treat a lady like lady, for special relationship. Loves a warm South Carolina beaches, and fishing for fun. #8303

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED IF...

you're looking for a petite, creative, sensitive, sexy, attractive, multi-degreed SWF, 49, with a twinkle in her eye and rollerblades on her feet. Seeking intelligent man, 45-60, Physical fitness important. #8781

SPECIAL LADY

Sensuous, attractive DWF, 5'5", 135lbs, black hair, sexy eyes, seeks tall WM, 45+, to share, fun, romance, and adventure, in rewarding LTR. Serious only reply. #8303

SOULMATE, WHERE ARE YOU?

SWF, 40s, dark, hairless, seeks outgoing, fun-loving SWM, mid-30s-mid-40s. My interests: bowling, bingo, auto races, spectator sports, gambling trips, walking, funny movies. #8304

ATTRACTIVE ASIAN

Non-smoking AF, 36, very attractive, health-conscious, dependent-free WM, 30-40, 5'9", for casual dating, possible LTR. #8340

54 AND PRETTY

Two lives can be joined together in friendship. Pretty SWF, short blonde/blue, sometimes shy, but always honest, enjoys live dining, and casinos. #8342

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Active SWF, 25, 4'10", 145lbs, blonde/blue, enjoys movies, quiet evenings, skating, long walks, hockey and football. Seeking SWM, 25-35, who is looking for a LTR. #8344

NORDIC SKI ENTHUSIAST

Attractive, fit, petite SWF, 40 plus, seeks ski partner, for weekend trips, North, Lower, Up. If you know difference between "free styling/skiing" and "classical", can ski 20K plus (both styles), call me. #8346

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

SBF, 24, 5'4", dark skinned, curvaceous, feminine, seeks financially secure, WM, 30+, for fun and friendship. #8349

FUN-LOVING, PRETTY, CULTURED

Blonde lady, fun and adventuresome, respects life and people, appreciate kindness and honesty. Seeking emotionally available, sincere, tall gentleman, 60, for travel, adventure, and companionship. #8350

I HAVE ELAN

Eclectic, attractive, active, classy, slender SWF, 5'7", brunet/hazel, N's, enjoys tennis, golf, dancing, boating, music, gardening, spectator sports. Seeking a tall, social, lively, active flexible, fun gentleman, 50+. #8386

OUR TURN NOW

why not. DWF, late 40s, seeks dejected, N's, for life's finer moments, let's journey through life together, enjoys dining, plays, stimulating conversation, travel, and animals. Now that the kids are raised, it's our turn to enjoy life. #8380

FAST, CHEAP, OUT OF CONTROL

that's not me. Humorous, honest, intelligent DWF, mid-40s, N's, seeks fun, romantic, financially secure gentleman, 40-49, with similar qualities. The only games I play are monopoly and pinball. #8315

PRINCESS NEEDS PRINCE

Playful, fun SWF, 27, 5'2", medium build, brown/brown, enjoys outdoors, sports, camping, dancing, and much more. Seeking SWM, 24-35, with similar interests, to make me laugh for friendship, and maybe more. #8351

MISSING SOMETHING?

Me too...someone to share fun, quiet times with. SWF, 45, 5'2", brunet/grey, intelligent, caring, and quite evenings at home. Seeking SWM, 40-50, who cares about who cares back, who enjoys movies, family, having fun. #8369

WHERE'S MY KNIGHT?

Cute, nice DWF, 35, 5'7", 125lbs, fun, down-to-earth, one's N's, enjoys going out, dining, and quiet evenings at home. Seeking SWM, 35-49, who's fun, caring, financially secure, N's, to enjoy life with. #7692

DYNAMIC, BEAUTIFUL, P.L.D.

Cultured, mean apple pie, Golf, tennis, and dining enthusiast. Theater addiction, dance fever. Seeking male counterpart, 34-47. #8799

LADY IN WAITING

Foxy 45 year old DCBFF, hopeless romantic, 5'5", 145lbs, enjoys traveling, cooking, theater, and quiet evenings at home. Seeking SCM, 40-50, with similar interests, N's, for friendship, possible more. #8770

WAITING IN WESTLAND

Passionate, affectionate, honest, humorous DWF, 43, 5'6", 160 lbs, long brown/hazel, smoker, social drinker, N/Drugs, enjoys bowling, movies, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking gentleman, 40-55, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. #7701

YOUR LUCKY DAY!

Classy, upbeat, witty, vivacious, professional SWF, 52, 5'5", 150lbs, quiet at home, seeks SWM, 55-65, humorous, N's, PM, 5'9", to let her cherish. #8776

LET ME BE YOUR SUNSHINE

Widowed SWF, 59, 5'2", N's, social drinker, blonde/blue, emotionally/financially secure, seeks honest SWM, 57-65, with sense of humor. #8775

PICK ME

Lonely, attractive, petite SWF, 25, seeks honest, reliable, sincere, hard-working, semi-intelligent SM, for companionship, friendship, possible relationship. If you cheat, don't bother calling. #8760

YOU AND ME

Shapely, sharp, first class, modern SWF, 5'12, natural blonde/green, seeking SWM, 45-50, nice thick hair, same qualities, to share life's simple pleasures and...? Truth is foremost. #7668

I'M NOT BARBIE...

so you don't have to be Ken. DWF, 40ish, realistic, we still look good, but aren't 20 anymore. Seeking fun, romantic, smart, funny SWM, 39-49, N's, drinker. Let's play! #8767

LAUGH WITH ME

DWF, seeks SWM, 55-62, who likes to dance, take walks, has good sense of humor, family oriented, a good communicator. Serious inquiries only. #7712

SEEKING ROMANCE

I'm attractive, slender, tall, and a young lady looking 51, plus intelligent, refined, humorous and a smoker. Seeking gentleman who's 50-65, intelligent, tall, classy, confident, and selectively marriage-minded. #7759

FROM THE HEART

Affectionate, warm, sensitive SWF, 48, enjoys movies, plays, music, dining out, sports, quiet times. Seeking tall SWM, 44-55, with sense of humor, with similar interests, for LTR. #7754

GEMINI GIRL

DWF, 43, 5'5", slender, medium-length blonde hair seeking for tall, outdoorsy type of guy, who's happy, caring, communicative, financially secure, who likes kids, for friendship and possible romance. #7761

BLUE EYES, FULL LIPS

SWF, 57, enjoys "Northern Exposure", travel, current events, entertaining, active, good cook. Seeking male, 40-60, with big ego. Self-respecting and kind-hearted only apply. #7812

101 WAYS

SWF, Mom, Big Beautiful Woman, seeks N's man, 40-65, who is into a little bit of everything. #7813

GO NO FURTHER

DWF, 40s, professional, blonde, attractive, slender, seeks gentleman, N's, professional, 40s, for dining out, theater, travel, quiet evenings at home, possible LTR. #7814

I'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES

Attractive, intelligent, refined, affectionate, humorous JF, 54, blonde/green, 5'5", seeks classy guy, who is sweet, intelligent, honest, polite, for a real relationship. #7819

NEW TO THIS, ARE YOU?

Humorous SWFF, 32, 5'7", physically fit, enjoys golfing, cooking, going up North, boating, amusement parks. Seeking humorous, trustworthy, sensitive, Catholic SWPM, 29-38, 5'10", physically fit, N's, for friendship first. Plymouth/Novi area. #7780

A GOOD WOMAN

Intelligent, attractive DWF, 38, blonde/green, full-figured, has kids and great sense of humor. Seeking stable, fun, tall, courageous, honest man for friendship, maybe more. #7846

SOMEONE SPECIAL

SWF, 70, feels younger, seeking WM, 65-70 who is sexy, passionate, loving and honest, who loves to laugh and have fun. I am a lady with many interests, so give me a call. #7849

OLD-FASHIONED

Divorced mother of one, 30, very shy, blonde/brown, blue eyes, 5'7", 110lbs, enjoys dancing, older mills, all winter activities. Seeking caring, true romantic, sensitive, old-fashioned guy. #7853

LADY LOOKING FOR LOVE

Fun, honest SWF, 33, loves animals, looking for marriage-minded SWM, 35, Plymouth area. #7864

ROMANTIC PARTNER WANTED

SWF, 47, 5'2", blonde/blue, home owner, no dependents, believes in God, enjoys stock cars, movies, travel, and more. Seeking SWM, animal lover, with passion for life, for romantic, monogamous LTR, possible friendship. #7824

PRETTY, PETITE, BRUNETTE

DWF, 40ish, N's single mom, enjoys movies, music, dancing, dining out, romantic, financially secure gentleman, 40-49, with similar qualities. The only games I play are monopoly and pinball. #7902

ARE YOU THE ONE?

Attractive SWF, 26, Auburn/blue, hopeless romantic, seeks attractive SWM, 26-32, who enjoys the outdoors, museums, sports, quiet times, for LTR, for Mr. Right. #7907

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

SWF, 41, 5'5", 120lbs, dark brown/hazel, sense of humor, honest, no children, enjoys quiet evenings at home, dining out, drag racing, bowling, and someone to share the winter movies and shows. Would like to meet for coffee, conversation. #7965

LUCKY YOU

Petite SWF, N's, outgoing senior, needs a sweet, sincere SWM, 66-71, to join me for golf, bowling, cards. Must enjoy movies and have family values. #7991

HAPPINESS IS A...

cute, petite, blonde/blue SWF, 27, down-to-earth with a good sense of humor, seeking friendship, possible LTR, with the right man. #7995

CASINO ROYALE

DWF, 39, full-figured, shy, hard worker, smoker, enjoys bingo, Vegas, travel, and quiet times. Seeking employed male, 30s-40s, who is honest and caring. Nationality unimportant. #7999

SWEET, SENSITIVE...

Intelligent, attractive full-figured woman, 22, seeks tall, financially secure, attractive, non-smoking, God-fearing man. Race unimportant. #8000

MISSING SOMEONE SPECIAL

Versatile, open and very honest DWF, 41, with kids, seeks attractive, confident, secure SWM, 30-50, N's, to enjoy life with. #8003

SPARKLING, SPUNKY, STYLISH

Sensual, gorgeous, fit, 40, 5'7", 130lbs, MA degreed, into baking, reading, antiquing, giggling, seeks SWM, N's, degreed, fit, outgoing guy. #7968

LET IT SHOW

Attractive, fun SWF, 5'5", blonde/blue, medium-build, seeks friendship, romance, and someone to share the winter and skiing, snowball fights, and hot chocolate by the fire. #8133

GREAT COMBINATION

Classy, vivacious, energetic SWFF, 23, blonde/blue, enjoys dancing, theater, travel, conversation, Pistons, and the Red Wings. Seeking SWPM, 30+, to share same interests. #8307

RUSBY BUT FUN

Petite SWFF, 45, enjoys reading, movies, sports, concerts, and lake living, seeks "normal" PM, 43-52, average height/weight. #8273

ATTRACTIVE, PETITE...

professional DWF, with a passion for love and life, enjoys jazz, the arts, fine dining, some sports, outdoors. Seeking financially secure, handsome, tall, confident, N's PM, 40-53. Race open. #7958

KIND-HEARTED

DWF, 40, autumn/green, 5'5", 120lbs, N's, no dependents, attractive, caring, enjoys movies, old cars, nature, antiques, art fairs. Seeking tall, fit WPM, 36-43, N's, N/Drugs. #7961

CAN YOU GIVE 110%?

If treated the same, you get it all: loving, caring, passionate, blonde/blue, 41-no one believes I love hockey, boating, 4-wheeling, sledding. Seeking Mr. Wonderful, 30-42, attractive, loves kids, you won't be disappointed. #7964

TEDDY BEAR WANTED

Seeking big, warm, cuddly S/DWM, 38-50, to keep cute, heavyset, romantic, caring, active SWF, 41, 5'5", warm. #8135

LIFE IS BEST WHEN SHARED

Attractive, warm female, 42, seeks attractive, healthy, warm male, for friendship, possibly romance. #8142

ABOVE THE LAW

SWF, 5'2", brown/brown, seeks law enforcement officer. #7861

LOOKING FOR THE SAME!

Let me introduce myself. I'm a 49, N's, DWF, with red hair, I only have one natural high and that's life! I have strong morals and values. Let's talk soon. #7953

CHRISTIAN EXEC

Attractive DWF, 48, Christian executive, highly educated, outgoing, very energetic, loves traveling, friendship, movies, plays, books, church. Seeking friendship with female professional, with similar background/interests. #8455

CHIVALRY ISN'T DEAD

Good-looking, spontaneous, open-minded SM, 43, 6'2", 220lbs, dark/dark, I value honesty, sincerity, and respect for life. Try anything once. #8458

SEEKING COMPANION

DWM, 40, 150lbs, European, homemaker, enjoys outdoor life, soccer, movies, and traveling, seeks attractive, loving, considerate, sharing woman, 30-45, kids welcome. #8459

POLISH

Nice-looking SBM, 33, enjoys working out, movies, delicious foods, coffee shops, videos, playing pool, and reading. Looking for an easygoing, passionate, full-figured SWF. #8460

WHY BE ALONE?

Good-looking, thoughtful, caring, affectionate, honest WM, 50, 5'7", 180lbs, enjoys dining out, movies, travel, warm vacations, holding hands, long walks. Seeking petite/medium-sized, warm, caring woman, 35-50, for LTR/monogamous relationship. #8462

TALL, HANDSOME, DOWN-TO-EARTH

SWM, 37, 6'2", 200lbs, athletic, brown/blue, home owner, work and trades, enjoys hockey and outdoors. Seeking trim, attractive, pleasant SF, 28-39, to build a strong relationship. #8466

MISSING SOMEONE SPECIAL?

Handsome, romantic, athletic, big-hearted SWM, 41, 5'8", 1

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

DATES/DEADLINES

DEER

The second archery season runs through Jan. 1 statewide. Muzzleloading season runs through Dec. 21 in Zones II and III. A special late antlerless only season will run Dec. 20-Jan. 4 on private land only in Zone III.

SQUIRREL

Fox and gray squirrel season runs through Jan. 1 statewide.

RABBIT

Rabbit season runs through March 31 statewide.

Senior Citizen's Center in the Livonia Civic Center. Call Jim Kudej at (313) 591-0843 for more information.

FISHING BUDDIES

Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. Call (810) 656-0556 for more information.

BASS ASSOCIATION

The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Dearborn Civic Center. Call (313) 676-2863 for more information.

FISHING CLUBS

CLINTON VALLEY BASS ANGLERS
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. The next meeting is slated for 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 11. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910 for more information.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS

Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1494 for more information.

FOUR SEASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the

ARCHERY

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (810) 623-0444 for more information.

JUNIOR ARCHERS

A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

OUTDOOR CLUBS

SOLAR

The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation, a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658 for more information.

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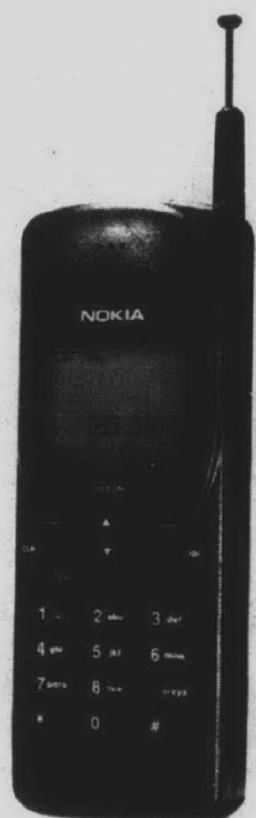
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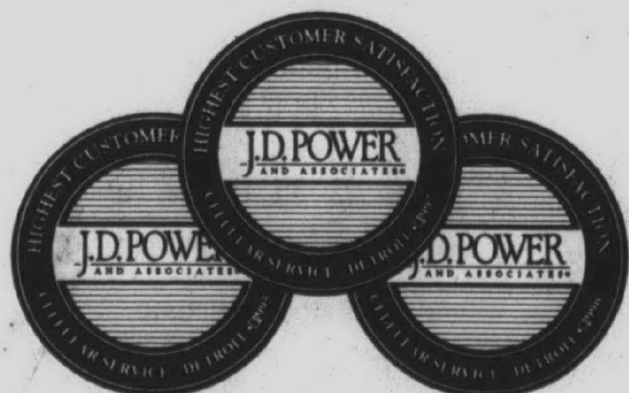
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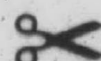
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Entertainment

The Observer

Page 1, Section E

Keely Wygonik, Editor 313-953-2105

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Thursday, December 18, 1997

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Amy Grant Christmas 7:30 p.m. at The Palace, 2 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills, with guests Michael W. Smith and CeCe Winans and the Nashville Symphony. Tickets \$34.50, \$27.50 and \$24.50, (248) 645-6666.

SATURDAY



Blessid Union of Souls and InDrama perform at The Palladium, 17580 Frazho Road, Roseville. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the 18 and older show. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. (810) 778-6404.

SUNDAY



Detroit Symphony Orchestra with guest artists and members of Dance Detroit perform "The Nutcracker" ballet, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets \$14-\$53 adults, \$10-\$24 children and seniors, (313) 833-3700.



Hot tip: Holiday Doll Show 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 at Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St., features new, used, antique and collectible dolls, Teddy Bears, stuffed animals, doll-house supplies and miniatures, (313) 455-2110.

Otter-knapping: Detroit Zoo staff spent nearly 20 minutes looking for Mack, a five-year-old river otter in the new exhibit. Mack eventually was found fast asleep. Here, he pauses between laps in the pool.



After the last prettily wrapped package is opened and the excitement of celebrating the holidays diminishes, one very special gift remains — time to spend with family, friends and other loved ones.

From visiting the new otter exhibit at the Detroit Zoo to learning about motors or viewing the first American race car to win an international competition, enjoy an educational adventure together.

Here's a few suggestions as to the learning experiences you can share:

Detroit Zoo

Otters, otters everywhere but not an otter in sight. That was the case last week at the new river otter exhibit as the Detroit Zoo staff searched in vain for the silky-coated creatures.

Finally Mack was spotted sleeping in a cozy spot behind a fallen tree. But Chirp, the female otter was nowhere to be found. It seems she and Mack need some time to get used to one another so only one of them at a time are allowed in the new exhibit. Eventually the two, 5-year-old mammals will share the \$700,000 home designed to mimic their natural environment.

Learning Experiences

■ Detroit Zoo
8450 West 10 Mile Road and Woodward, Royal Oak, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, \$7.50 adults, \$5.50 seniors/students, \$4.50 children ages two to 12, (248) 398-0903.

■ Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village
20900 Oakwood Boulevard and Village Road, Dearborn, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, \$12.50 adults, \$11.50 seniors over age 62, \$6.25 children ages five to 12, members free, (313) 271-1620.

■ Cranbrook Institute of Science
1221 North Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, until 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, \$7 adults, \$4 seniors/children, planetarium shows an additional \$1, Lasera show an additional \$2, (248) 645-3200.

interaction with people," said Kagan. "And because it's a Michigan animal, it's always fun to see an animal you can relate to."

The staff designed the waterfall, evergreens, rocks and pool to simulate the wetland environment where river otters live. The project was funded nearly in its entirety by the family of Edward Mardigian Sr., an enthusiast devoted to the preservation of wildlife.

"You can't go wrong if you recreate nature,"

Director Ron Kagan loves watching the underwater acrobatics of the river otters. Using his paws to push himself away from the glass, Mack swims back and forth through the water, gliding effortlessly. Then suddenly, he dives toward the bottom of the pool, burrowing his nose in the stones. He emerges a minute later to play with a leaf floating on top of the water.

"River otters are very active and curious and also appear to enjoy

SEASON'S A TIME FOR SHARING WITH 'Otters'

LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HOPMEYER

Otter Antics: Detroit Zoo director Ron Kagan loves watching the acrobatics of the river otters in the new Edward Mardigian Sr. Exhibit.

said Kagan. "Part of the view was developed for kids in strollers so they can see into the water."

Interpretive displays help visitors learn about the river otters' habitat, diet and unique characteristics like the clear membrane protecting the eyes and allowing the otter to see underwater. The otters are usually fed at the end of the day as an incentive for them to end their frolicking and leave the pool. In the wild, their menu includes frogs, crayfish, clams and slower fish such as sunfish and carp. Here at the zoo, the otters eat live fish, mostly trout and minnows.

"What's unique about the otter is this is a predator working in three dimensions not just two dimensions like a lion or tiger and you get to see that because it's an underwater exhibit," said Kagan.

The nice part for visitors is that they can view the otters either indoors or out regardless of the weather. Kagan presses the buttons on an interactive display. One by one the sounds of a bullfrog, great horned owl and blue heron create a wetland symphony.

"Part of the idea was to create more indoor exhibits so people realize this is a wonderful place to be in the winter," said Kagan. "You'd never be able to see otters underwater in the wild."

The goal is to make the zoo a year-round facility. Kagan encourages people to take advantage of the indoor exhibits of reptiles, penguins, birds, giraffe and snow monkeys currently in existence.

"A lot of the animals like the Siberian tiger are

more active in the winter," said Kagan. "A few winters ago my most unique experience was a couple of wolverines who were laying on the ground making snow angels."

Future exhibits planned for the zoo include Frog World, a new home for amphibians and the "Ring of Life," an arctic environment scheduled to open in 1999 as a holiday present to the community.

"It will be the largest polar bear exhibit in the world, four acres of tundra and packed ice with a 100-foot glass tunnel underwater," said Kagan. "The polar bears will swim all around you."

The zoo celebrates its 70th anniversary in 1998 with a big birthday party and numerous events scheduled all year long. What better gift to give a family member or friend than to adopt an animal. The Wildlife Preservers Program allows animal lovers to choose one of more than 100 species of mammals, reptiles, fish, birds, and amphibians. For a \$45 donation, the recipient will receive a bean bag animal in a take-home crate. Proceeds are used for veterinary care, exhibit renovations, educational classes and seminars. Call (248) 541-5717.

After the zoo closes for the evening, there's still plenty of activity. "Wild Lights" dazzles visitors with more than 50 animated animals displays and 350,000 lights 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 5:30-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday through Jan. 4. Admission is \$3 adults, \$2 children ages two to 12.

Please see OTTERS, E2

DANCE

'Tap Dogs' back with in-your-face dancing

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Dance has been having a renaissance the last two years, especially tap dance.

"Tap Dogs" proved so popular last February that it is back again at the Detroit Opera House, Dec. 26 to Jan. 4, with a different touring company. The two "Dogs" companies are dubbed Spot and Rover.

This time the Australian show will have an American flavor as four of the six dancers are from the United States.

Anthony LoCascio, 25, was teaching dance in the Howard Beach section of Queens, New York, when he found out about "Tap Dogs" on the Internet.

"I went down for an audition. Actually, my audition lasted four or five days, but I got the part," he said in his distinctive New York accent. "I made the group in April of this year, rehearsed for two weeks and did my first show May 1, off Broadway at the Union Square Theatre."

Since then, LoCascio's troupe has been crisscrossing North America — New York, Los Angeles, Hawaii, St. Louis, Milwaukee to Montreal, where he was reached by phone.

"Tap Dogs" is the brainchild of Australian choreographer Dein Perry. The show was an immediate hit when it premiered in Sydney in 1995, then

played to raves in Edinburgh and London. Following a March opening at the Union Square (where a company continues to perform), Perry won a Drama Desk nomination for choreography and the show won a 1997 Obie Award (given to off-Broadway productions). Perry's brother, Sheldon Perry, is the lead dancer in the touring company coming to the Opera House.

LoCascio said the interest in dance has been coming for a long time and "long overdue."

He said three hit shows define different approaches — from Savion Glover's tribute to old style tap in "Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk" to the Irish traditional step dancing of "Riverdance" to the hard edge of "Tap Dogs."

"Bring in 'da Noise' is like the history of tap, a

Tap Dogs

What: Heavy duty tap dancing to a rock beat.

Where: Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit.

When: Dec. 26 to Jan. 4, 8 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 7 p.m. Sundays.

Tickets: range from \$22.50 to \$36. Available at Fisher Theatre Box Office, Ticketmaster. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666. For information, call (313) 872-1000.

little more subtle with a message behind the story that you have to listen for," LoCascio said. "We're more in your face, more like a rock concert. We're going to give you everything we've got for 70 minutes. We're going to work and sweat and in time with each other. Audiences are definitely entertained and want us to keep going after we're done."

Sweat and hard work are the theme of this masculine dance show. The setting is a construction site.

"We get to build the set we dance on. It's a construction site. By the time we're done, we've built the set," LoCascio said.

In a solo number, LoCascio said he taps on a metal surface which creates an unusual rhythm, lighter than when dancing on a wood floor. In another number, the dancers tap up a metal ladder and come down on a metal plate. In another number, a dancer dances upside down.

The audiences have been enthusiastic. "Sometimes they're kicking, screaming and hollering through the whole thing and other times they're very quiet because they've never seen anything like this, and when it's over they give us big standing ovation," LoCascio said.



Heavy metal tap: The dancing in "Tap Dogs" has been called "testosterone tap" with its emphasis on masculine moves and heavy sweating.

Please see TAP DOGS, E2

Marquis Theatre 's 'Aladdin' a pleasure to treasure

"Aladdin" is now playing at the Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main Street, downtown Northville. Show times 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays until Jan. 25. Weekday performances 2:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 29-31; and Fridays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. Tickets, \$6.50, call (248) 349-8110.

BY LIBBY PRYSBY
SPECIAL WRITER

Take a well-known fairy tale, add talented actors, a beautiful set, great costumes, slapstick humor and joyous melodies - the product - an enjoyable performance by the Marquis Theatre. "Aladdin" is a pleasure for young and old to treasure. The actors are of varying ages, and have experience on stage. Donald Donnelly, 19 of Livonia, who plays the title role of Aladdin, shows excitement and energy from beginning to end. Talent must be contagious because another actor, Ghanghus D. Goins, 28 of Westland, who plays the "generous genie," does a splendid job. His exaggerated gestures and silly humor brings

the musical to life. Goins interacts with the children and other characters on stage. He is an excellent addition to the cast. Other adult actors that give to the performance are Steve Tadevic of Livonia, Magician Jackie Abercrombie, Aladdin's mother; Robert "Bobo" Lozelle, Sultan; Kathleen Coleman-Lozelle, Princess Jasmine.

Not only does this production have talented adult actors, but talented young thespians also highlight this fine performance. Sarah Kipperman of Farmington who plays Tareye, does a fantastic job on the stage. Kipperman, a fifth grader, shows a natural ability and is of good quality.

Many other children are a part of Aladdin's adventure as people in the marketplace and dancers. It is also nice to see the adults and children working hand in hand on such a wonderful production.

The set of "Aladdin" is another aspect to admire. The dreary cave and stunning palace scenes are just two of the different yet

interesting designs. The sets seem to whisk the audience off to a faraway land hundreds of years ago.

Creative costumes only add to this fabulous production. Exquisite fabrics and feathered pieces show what time and effort went into this production.

One of the most entertaining parts of this terrific performance is the lively music and singing. The actors sing with joy and move with rhythm which entrances the audience. Children love to see dancing and hear music and singing, so this should surely entertain any child.

For such a wide variety of ages and talent, "Aladdin" by the Marquis Theatre should be on the top of everyone's list. It is fun and low-priced entertainment for all to enjoy.

Libby Prysby, a junior at Groves High School in Birmingham, has been involved in children's and community theater for over 10 years.



CHRISTINA ZATTI

Children's presentation: Sultan (Robert "Bobo" Lozelle, top left to right), Genie (Ghanghus D. Goins), Princess Jasmine (Kathleen Coleman-Lozelle, left to right) and Aladdin (Donald Donnelly) star in the Marquis Theatre production of "Aladdin."

Otters from page E1

"The lights are fun, and especially with the snow, it's beautiful," said Kagan.

Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village

Experience the thrill of racing while learning about the first American race car to win the 1908 Vanderbilt cup in a display created by Exhibit Works of Livonia. Old 16, designed by Andrew Riker for the Locomobile Co., cost \$20,000 and still has

the original paint.

"It was a milestone that an American automobile won an international competition against the Europeans," said Jim Notarianni, project manager at Exhibit Works. "The exhibit is an introspective look at the excitement of racing at a time when two people were needed to run the car. There were no seat belts or a windshield so they wore masks because the car was capable of going over 100 miles an hour."

Exhibit Works designed the track underneath the car and the background, a 25-foot mural painted after a vintage photograph of the Long Island Race Track. Academy Award-winning producer Sue Marx created a film about the legendary race car that's part of the display.

"This was a time when only 200,000 cars were on the road, the average house cost \$2,500 and a Ford Model T was \$900," said Notarianni.

Cranbrook Institute of Science

Visitors to the Experiment Gallery are invited to become a scientist and explore, observe, tinker or dabble at 26 "investigation stations" that feature a variety of scientific principles of electricity, light and optics, mechanics, oscillators and resonance, pendulums, waves and weather. Lab assistants help visitors with experiments and discuss their findings. The exhibit continues through Jan. 4.

Created by the Science Museum of Minnesota as a fun and informal way to introduce the physical sciences, the Experiment Gallery appeals to people of all ages.

Discover how motors, lamps and resistors work at the electricity bench. Change the seasons by using a computer model to alter how the earth and sun interact. Generate, observe and filter sound waves with the assistance of musical synthesiz-

ers or the human voice. Make telescopes and microscopes using lenses and light.

Before leaving Cranbrook, be sure to stop by "Microscopes: the Hidden Art of High Technology" to see how everyday objects take on unrecognizable and artistic appearances when magnified. This series of photographs, taken through high-powered microscopes, reveals the beauty and mystery of the world of science.

Tap Dogs from page E1

Critics have called the show "sexy and sweaty" but LoCascio said no one has compared it yet to the hit "dance" movie "The Full Monty."

"We don't do a 'full monty' (frontal nudity), though a couple guys do take their shirts off. We work hard and it's hot up there and guys will take their shirts off. After all, we are on a con-

struction site, but we wear tap shoes," LoCascio said with a laugh.

For LoCascio, dancing has been a lifelong pursuit.

"When I was 2 years old I wasn't allowed to dance in the house unless I danced to the rhythm of the music. My father taught me how to listen to the rhythm," he said.

DANCE

He began dance lessons when he was 4 and has been teaching dance for the last five years. He said he enjoys when he can come into a city and arrange master classes with other dancers in the group. And he looks forward to a time when the show has finished its tour

and he can return to his first love.

"I'd like to go back to New York and teach, open a dance studio somewhere in New York or New Jersey," LoCascio said. "I enjoy performing a lot, but overall I want to teach. I like teaching kids, they're a lot of fun."

And the more kids LoCascio teaches, the longer the tap revival will continue.

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Student artists give holidays a different spin

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

On the computer screen of your mind, what icons appear when you think of the holidays? OK, it's a loaded question. (I'm even assuming that you're running Windows in your head - if Bill Gates hasn't gotten hold of your synapses yet...) But on tonight's Backstage Pass at 9:30 p.m. on Detroit Public Television, we'll see how a group of artists tackled the perceptions of holiday season.

A well-known annual event, donations and purchases from the Detroit Artists Market's (DAM) Holiday Exhibition help support the gallery's exhibition and educational programs, as well as generate revenue for participating artists. But title of this year's event, "Un-Defining ... the Holidays," implied a twist. So we put our crack Backstage Pass pop culture correspondent Lex Kuhne of the case.

Sure enough, Lex reports that the DAM has put a new layer atop an old favorite. "Un-Defining ... the Holidays" is really two exhibits: The first is what they've done for 36 years, which is to present wonderful works of local art for sale as gifts during the holiday season.

"The second exhibit puts the whole concept of gift-giving into pop-cultural context. Students from Wayne State, the Center for Creative Studies, and other schools provide their unique take on the holidays - through their generational filter."

Think about the generation of young artists in question. It's a unique group. Due to social changes, they have been the first

generation of children not just raised with television, but raised by television. And while the same may be true of children who followed, the impact of mushrooming media options - zillion-channel cable servers, satellite TV, video games (other than Pong), the Internet, et al - attenuated any sense of shared seasonal experience with the medium: Kids today can pop in a VHS copy of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" any time they want, so it's no longer an anticipated annual event that generates excited playground discussion.

"From these installations it's clear that these students' impression of the holiday pretty much exclusively has come through the media images they've seen growing up," Lex says. "So you have multimedia displays of Christmas themes, including a Santa Claus taking a nap over four monitors, tape

loops of choice moments from classic Christmas shows we grew up with, and remarkable murals, including one of Santa with DJ headphones and a gold tooth. Norman Rockwell, it's not."

Speaking of traditions, our Backstage Pass film correspondent, Elliot Wilhelm of the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts, will give us the scoop on his venue's latest offering, Spike & Mike's Festival of Animation. Says Elliot, "Spike & Mike's began in 1977, so this is its 20th anniversary, with 15 short films of animation this year. Some are Oscar winners and nominees, and most have appeared at festivals all over the world. Spike & Mike's is the foremost touring package of short animated films. The program is extremely popular here, as it is everywhere."

But why a festival of animated shorts? "You have to put anima-

tion into context. There used to be an expectation associated with arthouse or experimental exhibition. When I was running the Wayne State Cinema Guild in 1966, audiences expected some shorts - experimental animated films from the world over - and we always ran two or three of them prior to the feature. That's changed. In fact, audiences have become quite resistant. It's just the way exhibition has gone. But there's still an enormous audience for animation. What's become increasingly popular lately is to put short animation from around the world together for a festival. In that context, these short films are more popular than ever."

Also on the show, Gary Graff will host pop quartet Dog's Eye View in the Detroit Public Television studio, and local favorite and internationally acclaimed flautist Alexander Zonjic will get us in the holiday spirit with variations on "Greensleeves." That's all on Backstage Pass, tonight at 9:30 (repeated at 1:30 a.m.) on Detroit Public Television, Channel 56.

ture film as well. The lines really have blurred between live action and animation. Many feature films have a sort of invisible animation in them. When computer animation started people said it wasn't really drawing, so it wasn't really animation, and it wasn't true at all. It's just another tool. It's always a kind of revolutionary process." Tonight, Elliot will give us a peek at the next revolution in art animation for film.

Children's show has a few lively moments

Wild Swan Theater Company is presenting "The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse" - 2:30 p.m. Saturdays Dec. 20 and Dec. 27; 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 21, and 28; and 2:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2-Sunday, Jan. 4 at Henry Ford Museum's Anderson Center Theater, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn. Tickets \$6, (313) 271-1620.

BY SUE SUCHYTA
SPECIAL WRITER

The annual holiday children's play at Henry Ford Museum, a favorite tradition with area families, took a disappointing turn this year.

The Wild Swan Theater's rendition of "The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse," is poorly sung, moves slowly, and fails to hold the interest of either children or adults.

Last year's Wild Swan Theater presentation of "Charlotte's Web" was delightful and professionally done. This year, however, the group has slipped. Even the enthusiasm and energy of the cast was not enough to bring an incredibly dull script and slow paced story to life.

The museum should send this swan south for the winter. The

show got off to a rocky start when it became evident that the Country Mouse, despite her upbeat facade, was in eminent danger of losing her voice. Unfortunately, the rest of the cast didn't sing much better, and the piano tended to drown out the lyrics. The audience didn't even applaud at the end of "The Chorus Song."

The entire show is signed for the deaf by two mice who shadow the main characters. It's fascinating to watch the signing.

The cast took advantage of the opportunities thrown its way to liven up the dismal script with some physical comedy. During one of the interminable scenes about food, the country mice eat corn on the cob in comic staccato precision while accompanied by the sound of an old manual typewriter, snapping their heads at the sound of the carriage return bell.

Tim Campos' scene as the butler ballet teacher was one of the few funny moments. Campos lit-



On the road: Sandy Ryder (left to right), Dan McDougall, and Michelle Trame Lanzi in a scene from the Wild Swan Theater presentation of "The Town Mouse & The Country Mouse."

erally threw himself into the role as he pirouetted across the stage with unfettered enthusiasm.

It's a shame there weren't

more opportunities for the cast to liven up the show.

Special features Chenilles

WDIV-TV is celebrating the spirit of the holidays with a special Walk on the Wild Side program featuring the Chenille Sisters and local actors.

"The Chenille Sisters and the Secret of the Box" airs 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22 and at noon on Thursday, Dec. 25.

The story transports the Chenille sisters and a cast of local actors including Jackie Marns of Canton as Uncle Avarice, Marlee Green, 9 of Birmingham and Nathan Keen, 9 of Beverly Hills, all over the world in search of the true meaning of the holiday season.

From the Detroit Zoo to an African jungle where the story characters meet elephants, zebras and lions; to the frozen Arctic for an encounter with a polar bear.

"The Secret of the Box" features eight favorite Chenille songs including "Out of Africa," and "Polar Bear Stomp." A ninth song was composed for the special. Portions of the special were taped at the Detroit Zoo and on a

specially-created set at WDIV.

Walk on the Wild Side is WDIV's year-long project with the Detroit Zoo. The project has included a series of prime time specials, news stories and vignettes which have encouraged the public to explore and enjoy the natural resources around us.

The story was conceived and written by Rose Morand, in collaboration with the Chenille Sisters - Cheryl Dawdy, Connie Huber and Grace Morand.

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THEATER

AVENUE PRODUCTIONS/ATTIC THEATRE

"A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline," featuring Susan Arnold as "Patsy" singing 20 of Cline's most memorable songs with a five-piece band. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, and Sunday, Dec. 28; 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through January; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5-Saturday, Feb. 7, 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12-Saturday, Feb. 14, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Group rates available. \$22 Thursdays and Sundays, \$27 Fridays and Saturdays. Colangelo's Sunday brunch package \$33; Baci Abbracci dinner packages \$35 and \$39. (248) 335-8101

CAPITOL THEATRE

"A Christmas Carol - The Musical," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Sunday, Dec. 21, at the theater, 121 University Ave. West., Windsor, Ontario, Canada. \$12, buy 10 and get one free. Group rates available. "Holiday Nights on the Town," \$25-\$42, includes tax, tip and theater tickets and pre-theater lunch or dinner at one of 10 downtown Windsor restaurants. (All prices Canadian) (519) 253-8065 or capital@mnsi.net or http://www.mnsi.net/~capitol

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE

"In the Sweet Bye and Bye," a comedy by Donald Driver, through Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the theater, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. \$15, \$40 for season subscription. (313) 868-1347

FISHER THEATRE

"Les Misérables," through Sunday, Jan. 4, Fisher Theatre in the Fisher Building, Detroit. 8 p.m. Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and special holiday performance 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. No performances Wednesday, Dec. 24, or Thursday, Jan. 1. \$15-\$58. (248) 645-6666/(313) 871-1132

JEWISH ENSEMBLE THEATRE

"Shiva Queen," by Rebecca Ritchie, through Dec. 31 in the Aaron DeRoy Studio Theatre, Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, and Sunday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. \$13-\$23, discounts available for seniors ages 65 and older, and students. New Year's Eve performances 7 p.m. (\$35 includes champagne and hors d'oeuvres) and 10 p.m. (\$50 includes champagne, hors d'oeuvres and breakfast). (248) 788-2900

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE

"A Christmas Carol," 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursday and 2 p.m. Wednesdays (23), 8 p.m. Fridays (\$27.50), 2 p.m. Saturdays (\$23), 6 p.m. Saturdays and 8 p.m. Saturdays (\$33.50), 2 p.m. Sundays (\$23), and 6:30 p.m. Sundays (\$27.50) through Sunday, Dec. 28, at the theater, Wilson Hall at Oakland University (Walton Boulevard and Adams Road), Rochester. Student, senior and group discounts available. (248) 377-3300

THE PURPLE ROSE THEATRE COMPANY

"Escanaba in da Moonlight," a comedy about a family's deer hunting trip by Jeff Daniels, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Garage Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. \$20-\$25. (734) 475-7902

COMMUNITY THEATER

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

An evening of holiday one acts including "The Long Christmas Dinner" and "The Sheep Thief," 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18-Saturday, Dec. 20, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the playhouse, 38840 W. Six Mile Road (and I-275), Livonia. \$8, not including bread bowl with soup and cider; group rates available. Seating limited to 50. (734) 464-6302

VILLAGE PLAYERS

"Sweet and Hot," a musical review of music by Harold Arlen, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, at the theater, 752 Chestnut St. (at Woodward Avenue, south of Maple Road), Birmingham. \$14, \$12 students. (248) 644-9667

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

CLARENCEVILLE YOUTH THEATRE

A group of 50 actors and singers, formerly known as the Redford Youth Theatre, presents "The Christmas Wish," a mini-musical and two one-acts (including the Hanukkah scene from the "Diary of Anne Frank"), 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Clarenceville High School Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt Road (between Seven and Eight Mile roads), Livonia. \$5. (313) 535-8962

MARQUIS THEATRE

"Aladdin," 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 20-21, 27-28, and Jan. 3-4, and 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Monday, Dec. 29, Tuesday, Dec. 30-Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 2, at the theater, 135 E. Main St., Northville. \$6.50. (248) 349-8110

WILD SWAN THEATRE COMPANY

"The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse," Saturday, Dec. 20-Sunday,



You Beautiful Doll: The Holiday Doll Show 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 at Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St., Plymouth features dealers, collectors, doll artists and hobbyists showing and selling new, used, antique and collectible dolls of all kinds. There will also be doll making supplies, doll clothes and furniture. In addition to dolls there were be Teddy Bears and stuffed animals along with dollhouse supplies and miniatures. Admission is \$4 adults, children ages 4-12, \$1, call (313) 455-2110, or its website <http://www.ameritech.net/users/rpromo/doll-show.html>

Dec. 21, Saturday, Dec. 27-Sunday, Dec. 28, and Friday, Jan. 2-Sunday, Jan. 4, Henry Ford Museum's Anderson Center Theater, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn. (313) 271-1620

SPECIAL EVENTS

"SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS"

With entertainment by the Rising Star Singers, 6:30-10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Domino's Farms, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright, Ann Arbor. (734) 930-3957

SPORTS CARD, COMIC AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW

10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Roseville Towne Center, 12 Mile and Gratiot, Roseville. Free. (248) 557-1529

"STRANGLEMANIA LIVE!"

Wrestling featuring a match between rappers Insane Clown Posse (ICP) and The Chicken Boys (Confederate Fred and Al Labama) inside a 15-foot-high steel cage of horrors, a Ladies Thumbtack Death Match between Angel and Lady Vendetta, a "Three-Way" King of the Hardcores Death Match" with Ian Rotten versus Mad Man Pondo versus Ox Harley, a "Double Tables Death Match" with Skull Ganz and "Dirty" Don Montoya, and a 20-man "Over the Top" battle royal, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$15. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

TOYS FOR TOTS BENEFIT PARTY

Hosted by WPTV-FM's Johnny and the Morning Crew, "name that holiday tune," and a seafood and roast beef buffet, 4-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Tremors, Holiday Inn-Livonia, 17123 Laurel Park Dr., Livonia. Everyone who donated a new, ungrift-wrapped toy will receive free admission to Tremors, complimentary VIP passes to the club, and entrance into the Holiday Inn's Holiday room giveaway. 21 and older. (734) 462-2196

TRADITIONAL POLISH CHRISTMAS TREE

On display 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, through Thursday, Jan. 1, American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Road (at Dequindre Road), Troy. (248) 689-3636

"WDRO HOLIDAY BALL"

8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Palladium, 17580 Frazho, Roseville. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door, benefits The Rainbow Connection. 18 and older. (810) 778-6404

FAMILY EVENTS

DETROIT ZOO'S "WILD LIGHTS"

Light show featuring more than 50 animated animal displays along a half-mile trail, 5:30-8 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 30 (except Christmas and Christmas Eve), at the zoo, I-696 and Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak. \$3 adults, \$2 children 2-12, free for children younger than 2. DZS members' admission, \$2 adults, \$1.50 children 2-12. (248) 541-5835/(248) 541-5717

LIGHTFEST

Walk-through winter wonderland features 26 animated light displays, the more than one million lights are presented by the Henry Ford Health System, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sundays-Thursday, until 10:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, through Sunday, Dec. 28, in B.A.S.F. Waterfront Park, 3625 Biddle Ave. (south of Eureka), Wyandotte. \$2.50, \$2 seniors, \$1 for children ages four to 15. Area service organizations and nonprofits staff the event as volunteers and will receive a portion of the proceeds. (734) 246-4505/282-6233 or its website <http://www.wyandotte.net/lightfest>

MEALS WITH SANTA

Lunch with Santa, and special guest Ken Dumm, comedian/magician, 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Mr. B's Roadhouse, 595 N. Lapeer Road (M-24), Oxford. Kids will visit with Santa then he'll judge the coloring contest. \$5.95 children, \$7.95 adults; Breakfast with Santa, Sunday, Dec. 21, at the roadhouse. Kids will have breakfast, visit with Santa and participate in a caroling session with Santa. \$4.95 children, \$47.95 adults. (248) 628-6500

YPSILANTI FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Featuring miniature train rides and horse-drawn wagon rides, 6-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Sunday, Dec. 21, Wednesday, Dec. 24-Thursday, Dec. 25, 6 p.m.-midnight Wednesday, Dec. 31, Riverside Park along the Huron River, Ypsilanti's Historic Depot Town. Donations accepted. (734) 483-4444 or <http://www.ypsi.org>

CLASSICAL

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Performing J. Strauss Jr.'s "Clear Track Galop (Bahn Frei)," Bernstein's "Tonight," and Webber's "All I Ask of You," with the Keith Saxton Sextet performing for dancing onstage after the concert, as part of "A Singing, Dancing Gala for 1998," 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$25-\$85 includes party hats and noisemakers. (313) 833-3700

TERRY FARMER

Formerly of the pop/rock bands Let's Talk About Girls and The Bad Band, performs a concert of classical guitar music, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland, Farmington. Free. All ages. (248) 474-6880

WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

"Family Holiday Spectacular," 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Chrysler Theatre, Cleary International Centre, 201 Riverside Dr. W., Ontario, Canada. (800) 387-9181

RENAISSANCE

OWAIN PHYFE 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

POPSWING

ATOMIC FIREBALLS 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (swing) (248)

335-8100. **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** With Roberta Flack, Al Jarreau, Melissa Manchester, Jeffrey Osborne, and Perfected Praise Choir of Perfecting Church conducted by Marvin Winans, as part of "The Colors of Christmas" concert, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$21-\$75. (313) 833-3700



Melissa Manchester

THE IMPERIAL SWING ORCHESTRA

9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$10. 19 and older. (swing) (734) 996-8555

VELVET

With Gino and the Lone Valleyboys and St. Ashley, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$5. 18 and older. (swing/lounge/pop) (313) 833-POOL

CHORAL

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS

"Holidays Revisited," 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18-Friday, Dec. 19, Farmington High School, 32000 Shiawassee (west of Orchard Lake Road), Farmington. \$8, \$5 seniors and students. (248) 788-5322

INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR

From the Jewish Community Center performs Russian and Hebrew ethnic and holiday music, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at the Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward (at Kirby), Detroit's Cultural Center. \$3 adults, \$1.50 seniors/children ages 12-18. (313) 833-1805

LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS

"Making Spirits Bright," a holiday musical pick-me-up directed by Jim Whitten with guest artists the Tinderbox Children's Choir (under the direction of Ray Schmidt), 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 at the Clarenceville High School Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt Road (between Seven and Eight Mile roads), Livonia. Free. (734) 525-1447

OAKLAND SINGERS ENCORE

Holiday concert featuring high school students from Oakland County, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19, St. Fabian Church, 32200 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington. Free. All ages. (248) 681-1483

RENAISSANCE VOICES

Holiday concert features "Festival of Lessons and Carols" service which is performed annually at King's College in Cambridge, England, as well as "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten, 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Christ Episcopal Church, 120 N. Military (at Cherry Hill Road), Dearborn. \$8, \$5 for students and seniors. (313) 317-6566

THE SALVATION ARMY

"1997 Festival of Carols," 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Chrysler Theatre, Cleary International Centre, 201 Riverside Dr. W., Windsor, Ontario. (800) 387-9181

HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

The Wonders of His Love, Highland Park Baptist Church Chancel Choir and guest concert pianist Michael Faircloth, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20; 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, 28600 Lahser Road, Southfield. Tickets complimentary, but recommended, call (248) 357-5464.

JAZZ

SEAN BLACKMAN AND JOHN ARNOLD

10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, Tuscan Grill, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 652-1600

RANDY BRECKER

9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. \$10. 21 and older. (734) 662-8310

GROOVE COLLECTIVE

With JWQ, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$20 in advance, \$25 day of show. 18 and older. (acid jazz) (313) 833-9700

KO'S KATS

7-11 p.m. Saturdays in December, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Free. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

KATHY KOSINS

7:30-10:30 p.m. Wednesdays (except Dec. 24) through Dec. 30, beginning at 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 at the Oakland Grill, 32832 Woodward Ave. (south of 14 Mile Road), Royal Oak. With her vocal, piano, bass trio, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 549-7700/(248) 645-2150

SHEILA LANDIS

With Rick Matile, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Tuscan Grill, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. With Rick Matile, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 652-1600/(313) 886-8101

LARVAL

With Poignant Plecostemus, 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (avant jazz) (734) 996-8555

PHIL LASLEY TRIO

9 p.m.-1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (saxophone, piano, bass trio) (248) 645-2150

M.A.S. (MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY)

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, D.L. Harrington's Chop House, 2086 Crooks Road (at M-59), Rochester Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (jazz) (248) 852-0550

SHAHIDA NURALLAH AND FRIENDS

9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. \$40, \$75 per couple. (734) 662-8310

JOHNNY O'NEAL

9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. \$10. 21 and older. (734) 662-8310

ROBERT PIPHO TRIO

7-11 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (piano, bass, drums trio) (248) 645-2150

SAX APPEAL

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, Peabody's, 154 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 644-5222

STEVE WOOD TRIO

8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (sax, piano, bass trio) (248) 645-2150

JIM WYSE'S JAZZ QUINTET

8-11 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Sunrise Sunset Saloon, 15222 Charlevoix, Grosse Pointe Park. Free. 21 and older. (313) 822-6080

ALEXANDER ZONJIC

9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, and Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, Thai-Chi Express, 630 Woodward Ave. (two blocks north of Jefferson Avenue), Detroit. \$7.50. 21 and older; 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, J.D.'s Club 2001, 31 N. Walnut, Mount Clemens. Cover charge. All ages. (313) 963-8424/(810) 465-5154

BLACK MARKET

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (reggae) (248) 543-4300

IMMUNITY

10 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Woody's Diner, 208 Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (reggae)

(248) 543-6911

MICHAEL O'BRIEN AND FRIENDS

9:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (Acoustic Irish) (248) 642-1135

ODD ENOUGH

With The Lash as part of customer appreciation day, 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (Irish) (248) 642-1135

STONE CIRCLE

9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (Irish) (248) 642-1135

JOHN L. SULLIVAN BAND

9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (Irish) (248) 642-1135

FOLK

CHRIS BUHALIS AND JO SERRAPERRE

Celebrate the releases of their respective CDs, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$12.50. \$9, \$8 members, students, seniors. (734) 761-1451

RON CODEN

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

ORIN ROSSE FINESSE

9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

CHARLES GREENE

5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

LISA HUNTER

1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Borders Books and Music, 34300 Woodward Ave. (south of Maple Road), Birmingham. Free. All ages. (acoustic folk/pop) (248) 203-0005

JAN KRIST

10:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Tuscan Grill, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 651-1600

JOEL MABUS

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$1

8 days a week

Making contact: Please submit popular music items for publication to Christina Fuoco; all others to Linda Chomin, two weeks in advance to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150 or by fax (313) 591-7279

Continued from previous page COMEDY

BIG RED'S COMEDY CLUB

Kirk Noland and David Luther Glover, Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20; Jim Hoke and Steve Sabo, Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27; Bill Hildebrandt and J.R. Remick, Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$65 includes tax and gratuity, four-course meal, comedy, dancing), at Mr. B's Roadhouse, 595 N. Lapeer Road (M-24), Oxford, (248) 628-6500

HOLLY HOTEL

Norm Stulz, Seth Buchwald and Chrissy Burns, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$15 in advance only), and 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$20 in advance only), at the hotel, 110 Battle Alley, Holly, (248) 634-0000

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

Lowell Sanders, Jody Weiner and Joey Bielaska, Thursday, Dec. 18-Saturday, Dec. 20; "Kid's Christmas Show" featuring magician Hobson and special guest Santa Claus, 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 (\$15 for one adult and two children, includes lunch); Joe Delion and Joey Bielaska, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27; Steve McGrew, Hector Rezzano and Joey Bielaska, 6:15 p.m. and 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31. Dinner/show packages available; all shows at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays unless otherwise noted. (734) 261-0555

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PAISANO'S

Wayne Cotter, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18 (\$10, \$21.95 dinner/show package), 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20 (\$12, \$24.95 dinner/show package); Bill Hildebrandt, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27 (\$8, \$18.95 dinner/show package); Mike Green, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$15 includes 5:30 p.m. appetizers, and 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$55 includes buffet served from 8-9 p.m.), 5070 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. (313) 584-8885

MAINSTREET COMEDY SHOWCASE

Kirkland Teeple, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18 (\$7); Judy Tenuta, 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20 (\$17.50); Claudia Sherman, 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27 (\$12); Jackie Flynn, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$22.50), and 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$27.50 includes party favors and a split of champagne), at the club, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 996-9080

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Tom McGue with Bob Phillips, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18 (\$6), 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20 (\$12), and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 (\$6); Ken Brown of WJR's "Album in the Afternoon," with Derrick Richards, 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28 (\$6), at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. (248) 542-9900 or <http://www.comedycastle.com>

SECOND CITY

"Generation X-Files" through January at the club, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The cast performs a free improvisational comedy set after Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday shows, and the late shows on Fridays and Saturdays. \$14 Thursdays, \$17.50 Fridays, \$19.50 Saturdays, and \$12 Sundays and Wednesdays. New Year's Eve performances: 5:15 p.m. dinner and 7:30 p.m. show (\$70 includes dinner at Risata and a complimentary glass of champagne, \$25 show only), or 8:15 p.m. dinner and 10:15 p.m. show (\$90 includes dinner, complimentary champagne, dessert buffet and afterglow party, \$40 show, dessert afterglow and champagne) The show's title is reflective of current cultural trends, not necessarily the show's content. (313) 965-2222

MUSEUMS AND TOURS

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

After an August fire, the New Glancy Trains exhibit is open in the museum's Wrigley Hall Gallery with a 25 percent larger layout and additional interactive elements for visitors, upcoming events include the Glancy Trains Show with toy train appraisal for nominal fee 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27; "Remembering Downtown Hudson's" exhibit, a nostalgic look at what made the Hudson's downtown Detroit store an icon of the city's prosperous era, runs through December 1998, at the museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby), Detroit. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Free admission Wednesdays; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 seniors and children aged 12-18, free for children ages 11 and younger Thursdays-Sundays. (313) 833-1805

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER

"Special Effects," an IMAX film about special effects and how movies like "Star Wars" and "Independence Day" were done, hourly 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, hourly 11 a.m.-3

p.m., and 5 p.m. Saturdays, 1 p.m. 2 p.m. 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sundays; "Titanica," an IMAX film about the Canadian-American-Russian expedition team set out to explore the Titanic, 4 p.m. Saturdays; "Destiny in Space," another IMAX film, 10 a.m. Saturdays, and 4 p.m. Sundays, Detroit Science Center in the University Circuit Center, 5020 John R St., Detroit. Museum admission \$6.75 adults; \$4.75 for students and senior citizens. (313) 577-8400

HENRY FORD ESTATE

Featuring rooms decorated for the holidays by area florists, open for public tours, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Mondays-Fridays in December, hourly from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays in December, and every half hour from 1-4:30 p.m. Sundays. \$7, \$5 for groups of 20 or more by reservation; "Santa's Workshop," 5-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. \$5. Reservations required for groups of 10 or more; Candlelight tours, 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27. \$7; all at the estate, 4901 Evergreen Road, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn. (313) 593-5590

HENRY FORD MUSEUM AND GREENFIELD VILLAGE

"1850s Holiday Evenings at Eagle Tavern," featuring a holiday dinner with a 19th Century twist, through Tuesday, Dec. 23, Friday, Dec. 26-Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Saturday, Jan. 3-Sunday, Jan. 4; "Traditions of the Season," featuring holiday trees and decorations from various eras, through Sunday, Jan. 4, at the museum and village, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn. \$12.50 adults, \$11.50 seniors ages 62 and older, \$6.25 for children ages 5-12, and free for children ages 5 and younger. Group rates available. (313) 271-1620

MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

"Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou," the first comprehensive exhibition to explore the arts produced within this religion, runs from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays through Sunday, Dec. 28, at The Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave. (at Brush St.), Detroit. "Sacred Arts" features a wide spectrum of art objects including sequined flags, sacred bottles, pots, painted calabashes, beaded rattles, bound medicine packets, dolls, cosmographs, musical instruments, multi-media assemblages and contemporary paintings. The exhibit is rated PG-13 as some of the images in Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou may not be suitable for children ages 13 and under, or individuals sensitive to graphic images. Adult supervision is suggested. \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. (313) 494-5800.

POPULAR MUSIC

THE ALLIGATORS

10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Kodiak Grill, 45660 Mound Road, Utica. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (810) 731-1750/(313) 581-3650

AMERICAN MARS

10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Woodward Avenue Brewers, 22646 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Free. 21 and older. (pop) (248) 546-3696

JOHNNY BASSETT AND THE BLUES INSURGENTS

9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 642-1135

BENNY AND THE JETS

With Dead Professor, Cary Coogian Band, and the Sane Alendoff Band, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, as part of the Christmas party at Wine Cask Inn, 22100 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 730-1627

BIG DAVE AND THE ULTRASONICS

9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (jump blues) (734) 996-8555

BIG JACK JOHNSON AND THE OILERS

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 542-9922

BLESSID UNION OF SOULS

With InDruma, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, The Palladium, 17580 Frazho Road, Roseville. \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door, 18 and older. (pop) (810) 778-6404

BLUE CAT

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800

BLUE EYED SOUL

7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Yellow Durban, 33317 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Free. All ages. (rock) (248) 442-8828

BLUE MOON BOYS

8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Mill Street Lounge below Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. \$5. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 333-2362

BLUE SUIT BLUES BAND

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18-Friday, Dec.

19, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800

BUGS BEDDOW BAND

9 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Bachelor's One, 1967 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor. Cover charge. 21 and older; 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Kingsley Inn, 1475 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 682-2295/(248) 644-1400

BUSTER'S BLUES BAND

10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Mount Chalet, 4715 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 549-2929

SCOTT CAMPBELL GROUP

With Gut and Irreverent Smile, 8-11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Wired Rock Coffeehouse (Eastwood Theater), 21145 Gratiot Ave., (three blocks north of Eight Mile Road), Eastpointe. \$3, benefits Harbor Light Mission, a shelter for the homeless and for substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation. All ages. (rock) (810) 498-9500

CIRCUS MCGIRKIS

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (rock) (734) 485-5050

CITY LIMITS BLUES BAND

With Barbara Scott, Paul "Big Rufus" Clayton, and comedian Tim Costello, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Knights of Columbus hall, 2430 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (734) 284-2709

THE CIVILIANS

10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Kodiak Grill, 45660 Mound Road, Utica. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (810) 731-1750

C.M.F.

With Circle of Konfusion, 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, Palladium, 17580 Frazho, Roseville. \$5. 18 and older. (hard rock) (810) 778-6404

THE CONTOURS

2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Lord and Taylor court, Fairlane Town Center, 18900 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Free. All ages. (Motown) (313) 593-1370

ALICE COOPER

10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$45. All ages. (rock) (313) 961-5451

DANNY COX

10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cover charge. 21 and older. (funk) (313) 861-8101

TOMMY D BAND

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, Hennessey's, 49110 Grand River, Wixom. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 344-4404

DAVE DALE AND THE BLUES CONTROL

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (blues) (734) 485-5050

DEMOLITION DOLLRODS

With Detroit Cobras and Two Star Tabernacle, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Magic Slick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$10. 18 and older. (punk) (313) 833-POOL

DOKKEN

With Devil's Night and Illegal, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, The Palladium, 17580 Frazho, Roseville. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. 18 and older. (rock) (810) 778-6404

DRIVIN' SIDEWAYS

8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, as part of the Blind Pig's Christmas party at the club, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (roots rock) (734) 996-8555

ENEMY SQUAD

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, Motor Lounge, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. \$5. 18 and older. (funk) (313) 369-0090 or motor3515@aol.com

FATHERS OF THE ID

10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Rivertown Saloon, 1977 Woodbridge, Detroit. Cover charge. 18 and older. (rock) (313) 567-6020

FOOLISH MORTALS

10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Union Lake Grill and Bar, 2280 Union Lake Road, Commerce Township. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 349-9110/(248) 360-7450

STEWART FRANCKE

With Jill Jack and Susan Calloway, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, moved from 7th House to Mill Street Entry below Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Cover charge. 18 and older; 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Borders Books and Music, 1122 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 333-2362/(248) 652-0558

FRANKLIN STREET WITH TOM GONZALEZ

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 259-2643

"FULL BLAST" SOUNDTRACK SHOWCASE

With Speedball, Five Horse Johnson, Morsel, Perplexa, Walk on Water, Wiggles and Ebeling Hughes, Big Black Bug Engine Death Squad, Kob and Rocket 455, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Magic Stick in the Majestic

complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$6. 18 and older. (alternative rock) (313) 833-POOL

ROBBIE FULKS

With Gravel Train, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. \$8 in advance. All ages. (roots rock) (248) 535-8100

JERRY GARCIA BAND

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$16 in advance, 18 and older. (Deadhead) (313) 833-9700

GARFIELD BLUES BAND

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 259-2643

AMY GRANT CHRISTMAS SHOW

With Michael W. Smith and CeCe Winans featuring the Nashville Symphony, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. \$24.50-\$34.50 with Superfan seating available. Groups of 10 or more receive \$3 off regular ticket price. (pop) (248) 377-0100

HOWLING DIABLOS

With Parka Kings, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$20 in advance. 18 and older. (funk rock/ska) (248) 544-3030

JIMMIE JACKSON AND THE BLUES CONNECTION

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800

NIKKI JAMES AND THE FLAMETHROWERS

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Union Lake Grill and Bar, 2280 Union Lake Road, Commerce Township. Free. 21 and older; 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Kodiak Grill, 45660 Mound Road, Utica. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 360-7450/(810) 731-1750

KEOKI

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, as part of "Maximum Overload" at the Motor Lounge, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. \$12.50 in advance. 18 and older. (techno) (313) 369-0090 or motor3515@aol.com

KING SWEAT

10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 349-9110

KNEE DEEP SHAG

With Jazodity, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (funk) (734) 996-8555

JOHN D. LAMB BAND

9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Mr. B's Farm, 24555 Novi Road, Novi. Free. 21 and older; 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River, Novi. Free. 21 and older. (singer/songwriter) (248) 349-7038/(248) 349-9110

THE LOOK

10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Mr. Sport's, 13090 Inkster Road, Redford Township. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 534-7420

JIM MCCARTY AND MYSTERY TRAIN

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 581-3650

MERGE

With Daddy Longlegs and Viery Peel, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. \$6 in advance. All ages. (rock/reggae) (248) 335-8100

MR. FREEDOM X

9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Bo's Bistro, 51 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 338-6200

MONKEYCHUCK

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (pop) (734) 485-5050

MOTOR CITY JOSH AND THE BIG 3

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 259-2643/(248) 543-4300

"MOTOR CITY SANTA JAM"

With Domestic Problems, Purple Fly, Immortal Winos of Soul, and Park, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$6, \$5 with canned food donation. 18 and older. (rock/funk) (248) 544-3030

MOTOR JAM

With Jody Raffoul, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Union Lake Grill and Bar, 2280 Union Lake Road, Commerce Township. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Tuesdays, Karl's Country Cabin, 9779 Goffredson Road, Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 360-7450/(734) 455-8450

MUDPUDDY

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older; 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Wednesday, Dec. 31, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older; With Twistin' Tarantulas and Nobody's Business, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, upstairs at Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal

Oak. \$35 includes complimentary glass of champagne, \$60 per couple includes complimentary bottle of champagne, and light buffet and party favors for both. 21 and older. (blues/rockabilly) (248) 543-4300/(248) 542-9922

MUSTARD PLUG

With Big Rude Jake and Aks Momma, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$8 in advance. 18 and older. (ska/swing) (313) 961-MELT

ROBERT NOLL

9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Goose Island Brewery, 1538 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor. Cover charge. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Sisko's on the Boulevard,

MOVIES

Director Cameron steers 'Titanic' clear of disaster



JOHN MONAGHAN

Let's call it the "wall of flame" shot, the 1990s action movie staple in which a corridor of fire threatens our sprinting hero and heroine, always in slow motion. In "Titanic," James Cameron's epic take on the 1912 ocean disaster, a literal wall of water will swamp a pair of young lovers unless they can stay a few steps ahead. And damned if it doesn't work. Despite the corny romantic dialogue. Despite the cheap framing device. Despite some one-dimensional villains. "Titanic" is everything it promises and more: a true epic spectacle with jaw-dropping special effects and genuine tragedy; in short the mother of all disaster movies.

I've been fascinated by the Titanic story ever since discovering that one of the survivors (a child at the time of the sinking) lived down the street I grew up on. In 1985, when the world's most famous shipwreck was finally discovered at the bottom of icy Atlantic waters, I was riveted by the haunting pictures sent back.

It's this same sense of wonder that launches the film, as robot submarines explore the Titanic's deepest crevices. Bill Paxton plays a modern-day treasure hunter on the trail of a priceless diamond, "The Heart of the Ocean," that supposedly went down with the ship.

Enter Rose Dewitt Bukater (Gloria Stuart), who, at 101, may be the ship's last living survivor. She not only knows where that diamond is, but has a romantic yarn to tell that keeps the high-tech treasure hunters glued. Her flashback comprises most of the

film.

Now played by Kate Winslet, Rose is a classic spoiled rich girl who travels in the company of her domineering mother. Her fiancé (Billy Zane) has all the pomposity of the upper class, all the better to place him in contrast to the handsome young Bohemian Jack Dawson (Leonardo DiCaprio) who she hooks up with by chance.

Watching the romantic intrigue, I couldn't help but remember "Somewhere in Time," the similar vintage romance starring Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour. If, like me, you were charmed by that unabashedly romantic fluff, you'll love Rose and Jack's improbable relationship, foiled at every turn by disapproving elders.

Of course, the real test of any epic is how the personal story comes across through all the spectacle. Thanks to winning,

warm performances by DiCaprio and Winslet, "Titanic" keeps you hooked throughout its over three-hour running time.

With his most ambitious project yet, director Cameron has been compared to the late David Lean. But where the English director of "Lawrence of Arabia" and "Doctor Zhivago" would camp out a week to shoot his perfect sunset, director James Cameron has only to tweak with his computer to achieve the look he wants.

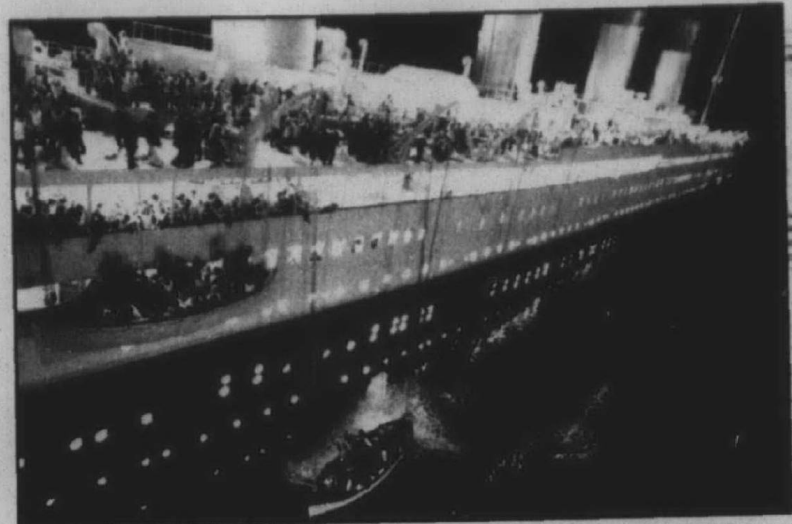
And that's not a criticism. Equally obsessive about his epic visions and possessing Lean's hit-and-miss track record ("The Abyss" and "True Lies," which both failed for me overall, still have their share of memorable moments), Cameron has set himself up as one of the modern screen's true visionaries, an artist whose palette just happens to be big-budget Hollywood blockbusters.

And as anyone who follows Hollywood knows, "Titanic" was produced for a whopping \$200 million, making it the most expensive in movie history. Many thought that the same hubris that launched the "unsinkable" Titanic had infected the director, who has been tweaking with the movie ever since it was held back from summer release.

Not surprisingly, "Titanic" is a visual tour de force. Cameron and Company have painstakingly recreated the look and feel of the ship itself, from the cramped quarters of the third class to the polished banisters in the elegant ballroom. You need the movie's hefty running time to take it all in.

Cameron almost undermines his own efforts early in the film, where a technician, employing a computer-generated replica on a TV monitor, illustrates just how the ship sank. You're forced to recall these video game-quality images as Cameron uses the same computer technology to create the ship on screen.

I thought the "Titanic" had



MERIE W. WALLACE

Sinking ship: Lifeboats are lowered from the ship in "Titanic," an epic, action-packed romance set against the ill-fated voyage of the R.M.S. Titanic.

been done every which way, from the ship as metaphor for the foundering relationship between Barbara Stanwyck and Clifton Webb in the 1953 edition to the superior British version ("A Night to Remember") five years later. But this one delivers some haunting images not seen before and hardly likely to be forgotten.

One of the most haunting happens after the passengers have gone into the icy drink. A lifeboat, guided by a single flashlight, trolls for survivors but only finds frozen corpses bobbing atop the water.

Cameron, true to his action movie background, packs the film's final hour with well-

orchestrated action. Here's where the movie comes together as the lovers, along with over half of the ship's 2,200 passengers, fight their way to the stern as the ocean liner quickly takes a nose dive.

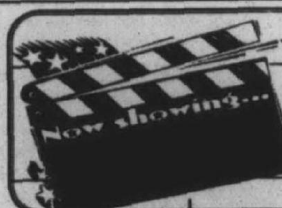
As in his last great movie, "Terminator 2," Cameron uses the soundtrack to brilliant effect. Listen closely in the film's early scenes, as the camera pans across the portholes, and you

will hear the faint voices of the 1,500 souls that went down with it.

Later, when one of the smokestacks crashes on deck, the sound moving from the front to back of the auditorium makes you feel right beneath it. When that iceberg hit and those speakers rumbled, I could have sworn I was back in the days of Sensurround.

"Titanic" is the year's (maybe the decade's) truest big screen experience. As a result, it's important to plan just where you want to see it. The Star Southfield's largest auditorium may be the venue of choice, with its superior sound and stadium seating, which puts you on deck for one of the year's richest movie experiences.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. You can listen to him on Dave Dixon's Radio Show AM 1270, 8 p.m. to midnight Saturdays. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.

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ANNIHILATION (PG13)

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STREET SCENE

Blessid Union of Souls not afraid to put God first



CHRISTINA FUOCO

"God" is one of those words that some musicians are too scared to use in songs. But with Christian groups like the punk band MXPX and the pop act Jars of Clay popping into the mainstream, it soon may become the norm.

Speaking from his Cincinnati-area home, Blessid Union of Souls singer Eliot Sloan explained his band doesn't care what people think. God is the focus in its life and its music. Following that belief, Blessid Union of Souls, Sloan said, tries to inject positivity into all its songs while subtly mentioning God.

"Not every song has a happy ending but there's always optimism in our songs. We speak about God and everybody thinks that God is all about happy endings. We don't care about what people think (about mentioning God)," Sloan said.

Artists who shy away from their religion, he added, are "afraid. Ultimately people are



Coming to town: The Cincinnati pop band Blessid Union of Souls (above) and the local rock band InDrama perform Saturday, Dec. 20, at The Palladium, 17580 Frazho Road, Roseville.

afraid that it's going to hinder them from making money. Money is the No. 1 focus in society today. (They think) ultimately people will not buy the record if you speak too much about God. They don't want it to affect their dollar which is hilarious to me. It's not like you can take it with you."

The follow-up to its successful debut "Home" (EMI), "Blessid Union of Souls" (Capitol), the band's sophomore effort, expands on its theme — "The way a love relationship ignites and evolves is just as unpredictable, just as wonderful." Songs such as the harmonica-led "I Wanna Be There" ("And

if I had my way I'd hold you in my arms/And leave this madness all behind"), the psychedelic "It's Your Day" ("Gotta learn to keep those ghosts away/ Buy 'em all a one-way ticket on a flight to Neverland"), the effervescent "Scenes From a Coffee House" ("We got to show each other/That we were fine just being friends"), and the graceful "Hold Her Closer" ("There's no reason to be scared/to open up/Cause love may be blind/But all of us don't see it") backed by strings, all carry that mood.

The next single, "Light In Your Eyes," was co-written with Tommy Sims, who wrote "Change the World," the Grammy Award winner for 1996's Song of the Year, for Eric Clapton.

Because of Blessid Union of Souls' positivity, Sloan sees a lot of families at his shows.

"It's pretty much a wide age range. We see a lot of kids at our shows. We see a lot of teenagers with their parents. It's just that we sing about life and everybody can relate to it. That's just the main emotion we tap into."

Blessid Union of Souls and InDrama perform at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at The Palladium,

17580 Frazho Road, Roseville. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door for the 18 and older show. For more information, call (810) 778-6404.

The Detroit-area punk band The Suicide Machines have contributed two songs — "S.O.S." and "No Face" — to the Sony PlayStation game "Vs.," and another song, "Break the Glass," to the movie "American Werewolf in Paris" which opens Christmas Day. It's a busy December for the band. The Suicide Machines, who recently completed a tour of 12 European countries, is in Los Angeles working on its second album for Hollywood Records. It will also perform with En Kindel at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, and with Bumpin' Uglies, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$8 in advance for the all-ages shows. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT. The shows are going to be recorded for a possible live album, EP or B-sides.

At its show Monday, Nov. 24, the '80s super group Duran Duran expressed its sorrow over the hanging death of INXS lead singer Michael Hutchence. Singer Simon LeBon dedicated the song "Save a Prayer" to Hutchence whom he called a dear friend. According to the Internet, Duran Duran had performed the songs "So Long Suicide" and "Michael You've Got a Lot to Answer For," both from its latest album "Medazzaland," at previous shows, but both were left out of its set list in Detroit.

If you have a question or comment for Christina Fuoco, you may leave a message for her at (313) 963-2047, ext. 2130, or by writing to her at The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150, or via e-mail at CFuoco@aol.com. Listen to Christina Fuoco's rock music report every Friday at 5 p.m. with Millen during the "K-Rock Report" on WKRR-FM (97.1).

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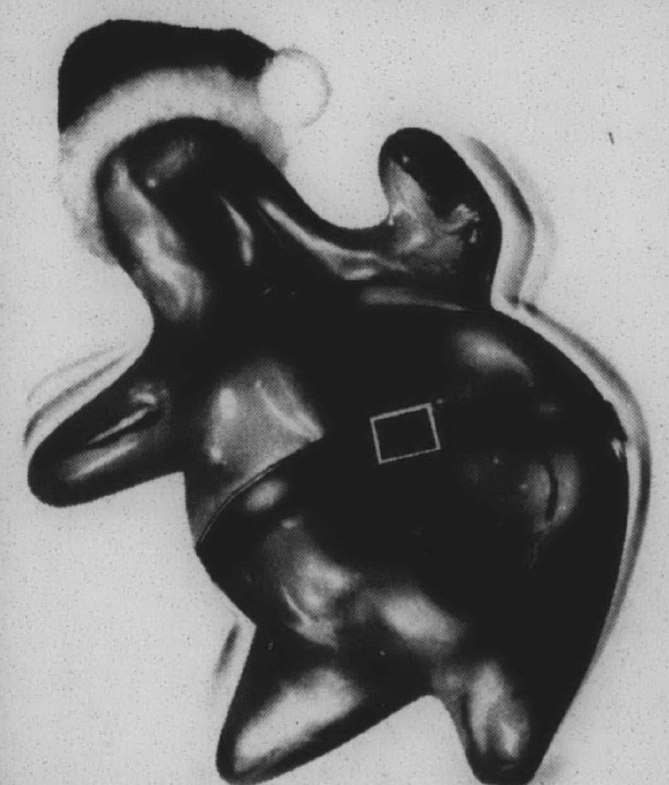


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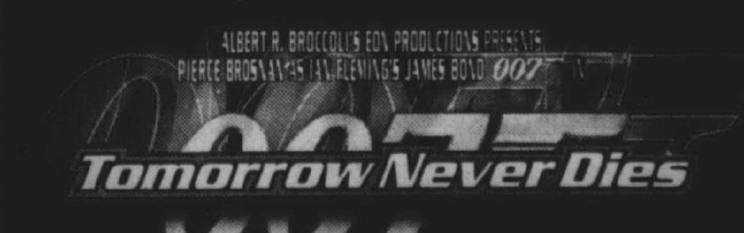
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AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC SOUTHLAND
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SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	RENAISSANCE 4
SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE PONTIAC
SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI.
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Featuring "The Heart Will Go On" Performed by Celine Dion
Read the book by JAMES CAMERON. Screenplay by JAMES CAMERON AND JON LANDAU. Directed by JAMES CAMERON

STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH	AMC AMERICANA WEST	AMC BEL AIR 10
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AMC SOUTHLAND	AMC STERLING CTR. 10	AMC WONDERLAND
BIRMINGHAM 8	QUO VADIS	SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS
SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
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STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR TAYLOR	STAR SOUTHFIELD
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No. VI in Novi raises hotel dining to new heights

BY ELEANOR & RAY HEALD
SPECIAL WRITERS

Opened late last month, the sleek and stylish transformation of the former Trattoria Bruschetta to No. VI Chophouse & Lobster Bar is bound to be a hit, both with The Hotel Baronette guests and others seeking a fine dining steakhouse atmosphere.

Designed by Ron Rea to give the impression of a 1920s Havana Hotel, No. VI is inviting and instantly sets an upscale comfort level. Styled in warm dark woods, terra cotta tile floors, black and copper-toned fabrics set off white tablecloths, shimmering table settings, bamboo window coverings and accent chairs. The bamboo room, raised several feet above the main dining level, offers a power dining spot.

It is just this breakup of the floor plan plus others created by distinctive wood and glass cabinets that form private, cozy dining areas, tempering the overall noise level of a busy chophouse.

No. VI is one of 13 dining venues in the portfolio of the Unique Restaurant Corporation, masterfully orchestrated by 39-year-old restaurateur Matt Prentice and his partners. At this Novi location, Keith Schofield is

managing partner who after 22 years in the restaurant business, 13 with URC, is still in love with it. "I truly enjoy dealing with guests," he said. "The variety of people add energy, and unlike a corporate desk job, it is different every day."

The menu at No. VI bears the artful signature of URC's Corporate Chef Jim Barnett. "It's a steakhouse menu, but with greater variety," Barnett noted. "We believe that lobster is more popular than oysters, so we've focused on it as the seafood specialty. We've also trained wait-staff to prepare dishes tableside. By reservation, diners can have Steak au Poivre prepared tableside for two."

Executive Chef John "Chili" Rees likes the "fast pace and kicking out pristine product" at No. VI. Rees, who has worked in URC restaurant kitchens for nearly five years, learned the tools of the trade in the Oakland Community College culinary program. He cites Chef Kevin Enright for teaching him integrity and the fact that there are no short cuts in the preparation of great food. General Manager David Munro adds to this by saying "It's easy to satisfy diners with a great product."

No. VI Chophouse and Lobster Bar

Where: Hotel Baronette, 27790 Novi Road (in The Hotel Baronette), Novi (248) 305-5210.

Hours: Dinner only. Monday-Thursday 5:00-10:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 5:00-11:00 p.m. Sunday 4:00-9:00 p.m.

Menu: Upscale steakhouse with lobster as principal seafood focus set in atmosphere reminiscent of a 1920s Havana hotel.

Cost: Starters and lobster bar specialties \$7-17; prime rib, chops and steaks \$20-30; seafood and surf/turf combos \$20-33; desserts average \$5.

Reservations: Recommended.

Credit cards: all majors accepted.

And the great product is emphasized on the menu: "It is our goal to be Michigan's Finest Steakhouse. We are the only Steakhouse in the Detroit Metropolitan Area to serve exclusively PRIME meat. Less than 2 percent of all beef meets the grade of Prime which makes

it not only the best, but also the most expensive. Prime may be costly, but we believe that you'll notice the difference."

Steak au Poivre adds a note of variety, Barnett spoke about. This house specialty, 14-ounce New York strip is rubbed with cracked Telicherry black pepper and pan roasted with Martell Cognac and porcini mushrooms. At \$32.95, it is an ideal size for two people. For an additional \$1.95 per person, No. VI Steak Soup (prime steak morsels, garden veggies and Yukon Gold potatoes), The Wedge (iceburg lettuce, egg, tomatoes, croutons with choice of dressing) or house salad (assorted greens, tomatoes, chick peas, cucumber, Bermuda onions, ricotta cheese and choice of dressing) can be added.

Billed as Perfect Prime Rib, rubbed with garlic, herbs, cracked black pepper and salt, then slow-roasted at low temperature for five hours, served with housemade onion rings, horseradish sour cream and natural pan au jus, is well sized. Ten ounce \$20, 14-ounce \$24 and 18-ounce \$28. In the chop department, two hand-cut Colorado Lamb T-Bones with Paloise Sauce \$27 top the list, but the number one seller on the



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

At your service: Executive Chef John "Chili" Rees (left) and General Manager David Munro at No. VI Chophouse & Lobster Bar.

former Trattoria menu, Veal Scallopini Marsala \$22, remains. If you like veal, don't play monopoly, head straight for Veal Chop Milanese \$25.

Steamed or broiled live Maine lobsters sized from 1-1/2 to 5 pounds are \$19.97 per pound.

Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon has created a stellar wine list including a broad selec-

tion of champagnes and chardonnays. A cigar-friendly full bar, completely separated from the main non-smoking dining areas, has a handsome selection of fine cigars including the excellent Robusto and Corona Hamilton Reserve. There's dining for 12 in the bar. Hey, why not, the ambiance is Havana!

Local restaurants offer special New Year's Eve menus

BY ELEANOR & RAY HEALD
SPECIAL WRITERS

If you're planning to usher in the New Year with a celebratory dinner, most area restaurants are open New Year's Eve. The following have special menus, seatings and/or entertainment.

■ **Big Rock Chop & Brew House** - 245 S. Eton, Birmingham (248) 647-7774. Specials and favorite items from the regular menu plus crab legs and prime rib. A \$50 per person deposit is required. Got Rocks is limited to the first 50 guests and features a prix fixe, \$250 per person, menu including champagne and caviar.

■ **Clawson Steak House** - 56 S. Rochester Road (south of 14 Mile Road), Clawson, (248) 588-5788. Three seatings at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. will feature the same appetizers (\$7) and entree selections (\$16-35). Price ranges will be bumped somewhat higher at the last seating that includes party favors and live music.

■ **Excalibur** - 28875 Franklin Road, Southfield (corner of 12 Mile Road and Northwestern Highway), (248) 358-3355. Reserve a table early and receive service from the winter menu and daily special selections or start the evening at 9:30 p.m. for a four-course meal with five different entree selections. The \$75 (excluding beverage, tax and gratuity) per person dinner package also includes live entertainment with the Billy Rose Quartet, dancing and party favors. Advanced reservations required. If you'd like to extend festive moments to the first day of the new year, you can pick up a complete New Year's Day Dinner to Go. For \$110 the package feeds 6-8 and includes your choice of turkey, spiral-sliced honey-glazed ham or a standing bone-in prime rib roast and all the trimmings for a complete meal.

■ **Fox & Hounds** - 1560 North Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, (248) 644-4800 will continue its tradition of offering a number of choices for your New Year's Eve celebration. In the main dining room and Pub, you can enjoy favorite dishes from the traditional dinner menu from 5 p.m. to midnight. In the Pub, it will be a party atmosphere with Randy Volin and The Sonic Blues playing their own style of classic and original blues beginning at 9 p.m. For a quieter venue, in the newly-renovated and refurbished banquet rooms, an intimate dinner for two or a party of 20 can enjoy the smooth swing, jazz and ballads performed by the Del Kauffman Trio from 9-11 p.m. while feasting on New Year's Eve Prime Rib and Shrimp Extravaganza \$34 per person.

■ **The Lark** - 6430 Farmington Road, West Bloomfield (248) 661-4466. Seatings are 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. All offerings are four-course prix-fixe ranging \$55 to \$62.50, dessert, tax and gratuity not included.

■ **Morton's of Chicago** - One Town Square, Southfield (248) 354-6006. Seatings at 5:30, 7:30 and 10 p.m. The regular menu includes every-known cut of steak as well as chops and lobster. A \$25 per person deposit required.

■ **Oakland Grill** - 32832 Woodward Avenue (just south of 14

Mile Road), Royal Oak (248) 549-7700. Count on chef/owner Louai Sharkas for a special dinner menu at seatings from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Seating for a six-course degustation menu at \$125

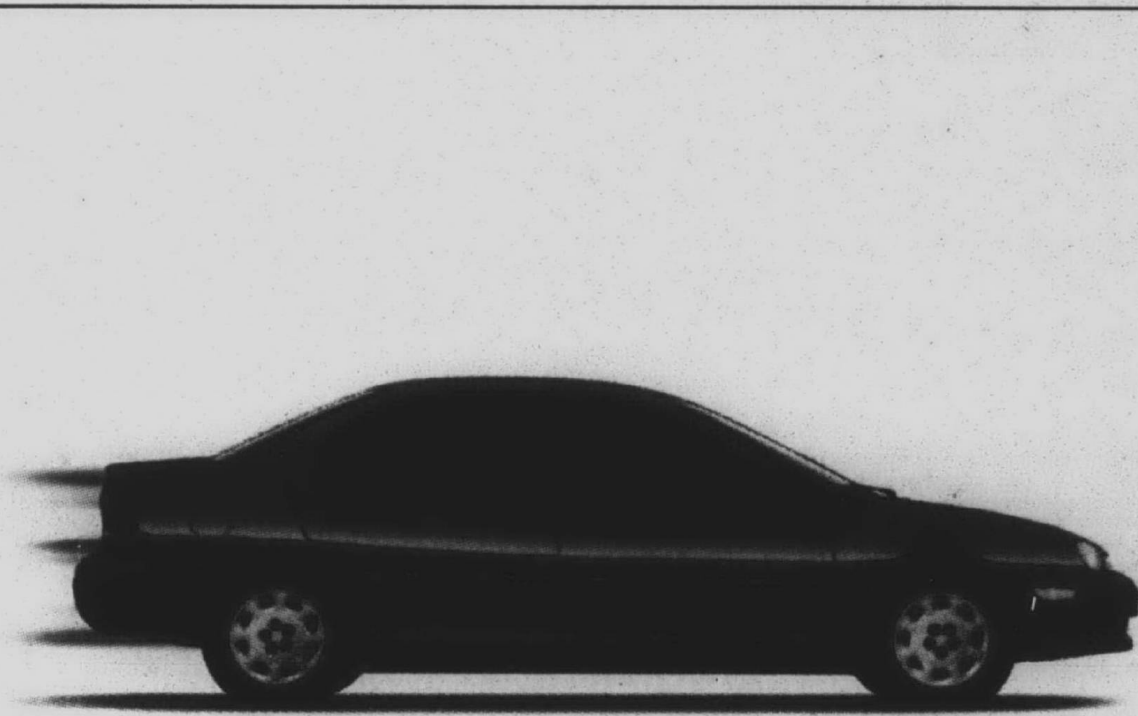
per person is 9:30 p.m. You can choose from among six appetizers and eight entrees. From 10 p.m. until 2 a.m., vocalist Kathy Kosins accompanied by string bass and piano, will perform.

■ **Cafe Cortina** - 30175 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 474-3033. Christmas Eve enchanted evening of music and warmth with a special menu, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24;

\$58 per person; New Year's Eve - special menu, party favors, dancing, \$95 per person.

■ **Corsi's** - 27910 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia, (313) 531-4960, New Year's Eve Family


Buffet, 5-9 p.m., adults \$7.75, senior citizens, \$7.50; children under 10, \$4.75. Includes two homemade soups, salad and dessert bar, homemade lasagna and other surprises.



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